



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



Commandant

Russ Miller

rcmllr@msn.com

719-235-1058

Hello Marines, FMF Corpsmen, associate members, and guests.

Now that things have slowed down from the business of the holidays, I am certain that some of you woke up with a little feeling of buyer's remorse. Maybe not so much because of the gifts you purchased, but because you realized that it wasn't just a bad dream, you truly allowed me to become your next Commandant. Please know that I will work tirelessly to do all I can to assist you in continuing the



December Meeting and a Free Breakfast!

legacy of the Pikes Peak Detachment in our city, state and division. Our December meeting was very well attended and I want to say thank you to all who were present. Thank you also for your patience while the kitchen staff "scrambled" to throw together more chow for the large number of you that showed up to witness our little change of command ceremony and celebrate with us the accomplishments of all the leaguers that make our detachment the great one that it is. There were far too many awards given for me to list here,



Commandant Garry Gibson Passes the Colors to Commandant Russ Miller

(they are listed in the minutes) which is a testament to the willingness of so many of our membership to be involved in forwarding our detachment's place in our community. Thank you everyone!! To our 2014 slate of

officers, on behalf of all of the members of Marine Corps League, Pikes Peak Detachment #29, a heartfelt thanks and job-well-done. Garry Gibson ("Gunny Who?"), Joe V. Martinez Jr., Pat Carty, and Michael Monaghan, enjoy the break; we'll find something for you to do soon enough. Thanks are in order for a couple officers who continued on in their duties, Terry Boston remains as our Jr Vice Commandant/Adjutant, and Roger Baty as Web-Sergeant/Jimmy Olsen cub-photographer extraordinaire. Congratulations to Terry Crum as our new Sr. Vice Commandant, Kaz Mueller who moved from Sgt-at-Arms to Judge Advocate, Denise Wickersheim as our newly appointed Paymaster, and Ronald Asmussen as our newly appointed Sgt-at-Arms. Thank you all for your service



Commandant Joe V. Martinez Jr. Administers the Oath of Office to the Incoming Officers

and willingness to serve the detachment in these crucial positions. I will continue on as Toys for Tots Coordinator, as well as Quartermaster during the coming year. The "busy season" of these two positions give way to each other just well enough to not make it too entirely unbearable to do both in addition to the duties of Commandant. Upon Pat Carty's resignation from Chaplain due to medical reasons, I was appointed to fulfill the balance of the year and will continue too for the time-being fill the post of Chaplain until a replacement raises their head above the parapet. (I am seeking a volunteer!) Pat Carty and Patricia "Pat" Thompson have been graciously covering my six in the paperwork and phone-tree duties while I have been occupied with Toys for Tots and for this I am extremely grateful. Thanks also to Pat Thompson and Paul Darrow for attending the Funeral of a local Marine this past week while I was pre-occupied with handing out toys to the needy families of our area. It has been an honor to serve our detachment this past year as Senior Vice. I have gained knowledge and appreciation of the League that I otherwise may not have had as the casual attendee that I was in years past. Thanks largely to the mentoring of three Marines in particular, Garry "Gunny" Gibson, in regards to the effective leadership and the organization of this great detachment. John Kowall, as he has gotten me started in the right direction with Toys for Tots, although I still

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say he lied about how "easy" it is. Last but not least, the person I want to thank the most however is our Marine of the Year, Chaplain James "Pat" Carty. Pat's attention to detail in his post as well as his willingness to look past his own discomfort while comforting those in anguish over their own illness or loss of a loved one has been an inspiration to me as well as a tremendous example to anyone that fills the post after him. The numerous accomplishments of these three Marines as well as the size and scope of the Pikes Peak Detachment have given me much to think about as I look ahead to 2015. In next month's newsletter I will begin to cover some ways that we might continue to build on the great foundation that we have currently. Until then..... Sorry, I'm still working on something cool to say like Gunnery did at the end of my article. Semper Fi!

Semper Fi, Russ



December Meeting



Senior Vice Commandant
Terry Crum
terry-crum@hotmail.com
 719-432-7340

Greetings Marines, Navy FMF Corpsman, Associate members! Let me start by saying thank you for the trust and confidence you have shown by allowing me to serve as the Pikes Peak Detachment Senior Vice Commandant. I have a lot to learn and I am grateful to have the support of so many outstanding individuals and motivators. My hope is to be a team player with the detachment members and help continue the good work that this detachment has accomplished. Together we will make 2015 an outstanding year. 2014 was indeed a good year and no one person made that happen; the year was good because so many members of the detachment gave of themselves in terms of time and talent. When the basic character of an organization centers on a glad "Can Do" spirit, great things happen. At the December meeting over 70 awards were presented as testament of the work of the detachment membership. Please don't forget that a big reason for

the Marine Corps League is to allow those of us that have served our beloved Corps the chance to rub elbows and share a bit of time together; slightly modifying the old Corps saying: every Marine Corps League meeting is a family reunion. Once a Marine - always a Marine! If anyone has any questions, concerns or bright ideas, please don't hesitate to contact me or see me at the monthly meeting. Your input is important and valued. In closing I pray that everyone had a blessed holiday season and that 2015 is prosperous. Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!

Semper Fi from the new guy at the front table

Terry Crum



December Meeting



Junior Vice Commandant
Terry Boston
bostoncolorado@peakinet.net
 719-393-3141



December Meeting



Judge Advocate
Kazimir "Kaz" Mueller
Kazmueller@gmail.com
 719-471-3102

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Chaplain's Corner
Russ Miller
rcmllr@msn.com
719-235-1058

Greetings Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Associates, and Friends; We are saddened at the recent passing of the widows of two great Marines and past

Pikes Peak Detachment members. Beth Waters (LtCol. William "Muddy" Waters) and Fujie Middleton (GySgt Robert C. Middleton). Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers as they pass through this time of grief and mourning. 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. **As I mentioned in the Commandant's article above, we are looking for someone to fill the post of Chaplain at this time, or at the very least to be a co-Chaplain or Chaplain's assistant if you will.** Please contact me (Russ Miller) if you are interested or would like to suggest someone for the post.

Semper Fi,
Pat Carty, Chaplain



December Meeting



Paymaster
Denise Wickersheim
Md1970@q.com
719-590-9109

Please send your membership dues (annual renewal) to the Pikes Peak Detachment address.

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



**Last Meeting as Commandant
 And Still Looking as Sharp as Ever!**



Adjutant
Terry Boston
bostoncolorado@peakinet.net
719-393-3141

Minutes of the 20 December 2014 Meeting of the Marine Corps League Pikes Peak Detachment (Note: Draft until accepted at the 17 January 2015

meeting).

- Commandant, Garry Gibson opened the 20 December 2014 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 with the exception of the Junior Vice/Adjutant who was excused.
- Guests/Application for Membership: There were no applications for membership. Guests attending the meeting included: Russ Miller's wife Carmella, Bob and Hellen Hill's daughter Cindy, Lon Luna, Commandant of Colorado Springs Young Marines Detachment and his son Reid, Terry Crum's wife Theresa, and Doris Purdy's friend Angela and her two sons Levi and Trevor
- **Pikes Peak Detachment Awards for 2014**
 - You will notice that several of our Elected, Appointed, and Associate members have been recognized and may have received several different awards *"for going above & beyond the call of duty"* as they participated in multiple activities/events throughout the year
 - Note: All awards & funds presented at today's "Awards Ceremonies" were approved and voted on by our Elected & Appointed officers. If anyone has been missed please bring the omission forward for review.

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- **Distinguished Citizen "Bronze" Award**

- This is the highest award that can be given to a member at the Detachment Level and can also be awarded to a non-member of the MCL.



Distinguished Citizen Bronze Award

- Russ Miller, Sr. Vice Commandant; for his additional duties serving as our Toys for Tots Coordinator, without his commitment and sacrifice of time & energy we would not have a Toys for Tots program in the Colorado Springs Area. If it wasn't for Russ hundreds if not thousands of needy children would not have gifts for Christmas.
- Roger L. Baty; Web Sgt; for his extraordinary efforts and hard work in producing the finest and most informative Newsletter in the state of Colorado, He has done more to promote our Detachment, the Department of Colorado and the Marine Corps League during the past 11 consecutive years.
- James "Pat" Carty, Chaplain; This award was presented for the outstanding job he has done leading our Bereavement Committee and memorial services for deceased Marines and Navy FMF Corpsman; he has made numerous hospital and home visits, even taking one family member to the base commissary to buy food on several occasions. (Presented at our November 15th monthly meeting due to health reasons.)
- Marianne Smith; for her extraordinary efforts in supporting and raising much needed Capital funds for our Detachment for 18 consecutive years.
- Garry D. Gibson, Commandant & Quarter Master; for his additional duties while serving as our Quarter Master during 2014; during this period he held a total of 22 cash sales events. Garry has served as our Quarter Master for (5) years during this period he has held over 116 cash sales events, he has helped raise

thousands of dollars for our many projects during this period.

- Steven L. Peterson, Joseph G. Martinez; for their tireless efforts in supporting the Toys for Tots program, sometimes spending 5 & 6 days a week helping sort & delivering toys to needy children in the Colorado Springs area.

- **Detachment Marine of the Year for 2014**

- This award was presented to Chaplain Pat Carty at our 15 November monthly meeting.



**Pikes Peak Detachment Marine of the Year
Pat Carty**

- **National Jr. Vice Commandant Recruiting Award
Citation for 2013/2014**

- Commandant; Garry D. Gibson was presented the "National Jr. Vice Commandant Citation" Recruiting Award Certificate for his efforts in recruiting 15 new members during 2013/2014. This is the (5th) straight year that Garry Gibson has been recognized by National for his recruiting efforts.



**Commandant Garry Gibson with his National MCL
and Detachment Recruiting Awards**

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- **Detachment Recruiter of the Year for 2014**
 - Is awarded to Garry Gibson for recruiting 15 new members during 2014, he is authorized to wear the Detachment Recruiting Ribbon (6th award). He earned this award in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014; he has recruited 145 members since 2009
- **Certificate of Participation – National MCL Newsletter Contest**
 - Presented to the Pike Peak Detachment #29 for participation in the National Newsletter Competition and National also recognized our editor Roger Baty for a job well done - Signed by National MCL Commandant



Roger Baty receives his Award from Commandant Garry Gibson

- **Distinguished Service “Bronze” Award**
 - “Is the (2nd) second highest award that can be awarded at the Detachment Level?”
 - This award is presented to all Elected & Appointed Officers for their hard work, their sacrifices of time, energy and monies in the support of this Detachment during 2014.
 - Garry D. Gibson, Russ Miller, Terry Boston, Joe V. Martinez Jr., Michael T. Monaghan, Kaz Mueller, and Roger Baty



Distinguish Service Bronze Award Presented to the 2014 Detachment Officers

- **Community Service Award**
 - Was presented to the following members who have participated in the annual Veterans Stand Down, monthly meetings, Funerals, Parades, Cash Sales events, & our Toys for Tots program. All individuals must have participated in at least three (3) or more of these events during 2014.
 - Garry D. Gibson, Bob Berndt, Steve L. Peterson, Ronald Asmussen, Russell O. Miller, Del Duval, Paul Reifke, Terry Boston, Steven Schwartz, Glen McMullan, Joe V. Martinez Jr., James “Doc” Evans, Jay Bennett, James P. Carty, Veronica Hoard, Charles G. Jackson, Michael Monaghan, Arden Rivers, Antonio “Bear” Barrera Jr., Kaz Mueller, Mark F. Davis, Richard Archuleta, Roger L. Baty, Charles O. (Osa) Tuck, Paul Darrow, Joseph G. Martinez, John A. Minjarez, Denise Wickersheim, Hank Hanks, Orlando Rodriguez, Gary George, Paul Hinojosa, Melvin Postlewait, Bob Hill, Helen Hill, Richard Inhoffer, John E. Kowall, Doris Purdy, Roland B. Durden, Marianne Smith, Pat Thompson, Patrick P. Mesa, Iris Rudesill, Terrance Crum, John E. Kowall



Community Service Award
Lots of Participation from Detachment Members throughout the Year!!!

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- **Meritorious Commendation "Individual" Award**

- This award is presented to the following members for their support of the monthly WWII & Korean Luncheon during 2014. All individuals have participated in at least (3) or more of these events during 2014 to earn this award.
- Garry D. Gibson, Russ Miller, Joe V. Martinez Jr., Joseph G. Martinez, Del Duvall, Steve Peterson, Paul Darrow



Meritorious Commendation Individual Award

- **Meritorious Commendation "Individual" Award**

- Detachment "Dress Blue" Color Guard Detail; this award is presented to the following dedicated members for their support of the many parades held during the year, the Marine Corps Ball and other events during 2014. All of these individuals have participated in at least (3) or more of these events during 2014 to earn this award.
- Charles O. (Osa) Tuck, Terry Crum, Kaz Mueller, Antonio "Bear" Barrera



Meritorious Commendation Individual Award

- **Presentation of Checks**

- Paul Hinojosa: Pikes Peak Young Marines Detachment (\$500.00)
- Lon Luna: Colorado Springs Young Marines Detachment (\$500.00)
- Marianne Smith assisted by Commandant Garry Gibson presented \$150.00 dollar checks to Care & Share and Christmas Unlimited on 18 December 2014



Commandant Garry Gibson Presents Checks to Young Marine Detachment Leaders Paul Hinojosa (L) - Pikes Peak Young Marines Detachment and Lon Luna (C) - Colorado Springs Young Marines Detachment



Marianne Smith Presents Check to Care and Share



Marianne Smith Presents Check to Christmas Unlimited

- Officer Swearing in Ceremony
 - Performed by Commandant Joe V. Martinez Jr.
 - Elected and Appointed Officers participating were: Russ Miller (Commandant), Terry Crum (Senior Vice Commandant), Kaz Mueller

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(Judge Advocate), Denise Wickersheim (Paymaster), Ron Asmussen (Sgt at Arms); Roger Baty (Web Sgt) took pictures. Junior Vice Commandant/Adjutant Terry Boston was excused to attend a personal event.

- Commandant Gibson thanked all the members for their support over the years
 - Asked all past detachment Commandants to stand and be recognized
 - Asked all past detachment officers to stand and be recognized



Ok Russ, the Gavel is Yours!!!

- Good of the League
 - Bob Berndt provided an update on Matt Dominguez (past member) – Matt is now in a social work internship in Trinidad CO and hopes to one day work for the Veterans Administration
 - Melvin Postlewait recognized Commandant Garry Gibson for his efforts – standing ovation followed
 - Bear Barrera announced that he and his fiancée are expecting
- 50/50 Raffle was won by Reid Luna (\$80.00)



Young Marine Reid Luna with his Winnings!

- 4 Day Handgun Training Course – Las Vegas NV
 - Donated by Wayne Reynolds
 - Won by Roger Baty

- There being no further discussion/business, Commandant Garry Gibson and Commandant Russ Miller closed the meeting at 0958

**Submitted by Roger Baty for Terry P. Boston,
Adjutant Marine Corps League, Pikes Peak
Detachment**



Sergeant-at-Arms
Ron Asmussen
rasmussen@msn.com
 719-648-0071

Next Meeting

17 January 2015 0800 at TREA – Come early (0730), drink coffee and tell stories

Upcoming Events

Standby



Toys for Tots
Russ Miller
rcmllr@msn.com
 719-235-1058

Well we are about to start wrapping up the 2014 Campaign. We were able to fill all of the requests for toys that we received this Christmas in spite of the days biting our nails as I am told it was the first time we had seen the warehouse so empty during the campaign. Now begins the joy of mountains of paperwork, counting of toys to carry over for next year, after-action-reports, a toy valuation audit by the Toys for Tots foundation and putting the donated new "skin" on our semitrailer. I will pass along all the facts and figures in next month's article. Please keep your eyes peeled for a couple emails regarding the work to be done on the semi and when we will need help loading everything up for storage till next year. Until then.....I still got nothin'!

Semper Fi, Russ



Quarter Master
Russ Miller
rcmllr@msn.com
 719-235-1058

I would like to start off by thanking everyone for your dedicated purchases throughout the year. Cash Sales will be open at the January Monthly meeting. Who among us is willing to man the table and

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help liberate the hard-earned money from the pockets of our members in exchange for more covers, pins and patches to stuff their closets with? **I am looking for a volunteer to help out during the meetings.** Also, the green t-shirts for the St. Patrick's Day Parade are available once again. The vendor that used to carry them has brought them back due to popular demand. If you are in need of a red vest, please email or call me and let me know what size you need. If we don't have your size, we can order it. The price on the



Cash Sales at the December Meeting

vests is still just \$25 for all sizes. Act quickly, so you have these in time for the St. Patty's Day Parade. I am also working on printed Red t-shirts and embroidered golf shirts. No, you don't have to play golf to wear one. I will have more info on these at the January meeting.

Semper Fi....Russ

This Month in History

Dates of Marine Corps Historical Significance

10 January 1995: The Pentagon announced that 2,600 U.S. Marines would be deployed to Somalia for Operation United Shield to assist in the final withdrawal of UN peacekeeping troops from Somalia. The decision came in response to a UN request for American protection of its peacekeeping forces serving in the war-torn African nation.

11 January 1945: The first elements of Marine Aircraft Group 24, commanded by Colonel Lyle H. Meyer, landed at Lingayen, Luzon, Philippine Islands, to provide close air support for Army forces. Over the next three months, MAG-24 and MAG-32 would fly a total of 8,842 combat sorties and drop more than 19,000 bombs as part of the Fifth Air Force in support of the Sixth Army.

16 January 1991: Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm as forces of the allied coalition launched an all-out air campaign against targets in Iraq and occupied Kuwait in an effort to liberate Kuwait and enforce the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. Overall, in the theater of operations, the coalition forces included more than 415,000 U.S. troops.

18 January 1951: Marines of the 1st Marine Division began mopping-up operations against guerrillas in the Pohang area, South Korea, following the Division's return from its epic battle with Communist Chinese troops at the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir.

20 January 1968: The second battle for Khe Sanh began when Marines from the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines attacked a North Vietnamese battalion between Hill 881 South and Hill 881 North. More than 100 of the enemy were killed.

21 January 1918: The 1st Aeronautical Company arrived at Ponta Delgada, Azores, for anti-submarine duty. That unit was one of the first completely equipped American aviation units to serve overseas in World War I.

22 January 1969: Operation Dewey Canyon, perhaps the most successful high-mobility regimental-size action of the Vietnam War, began in the A Shau/Da Krong Valleys when the 9th Marines, commanded by Colonel Robert H. Barrow, and supporting artillery were lifted from Quang Tri. By 18 March the enemy's base area had been cleared out, 1617 enemy dead had been counted, and more than 500 tons of weapons and ammunition unearthed.

25 January 1856: Marines and seamen from the U.S. sloop DECATUR went ashore at the village of Seattle, Washington, to protect settlers from Indian raids. The Indians launched a seven-hour attack but were driven off later that day after suffering severe losses. Incredibly, only two civilian volunteers were killed and no Marines or sailors were lost.

27 January 1988: About 400 Marines and sailors from the 2d Marine Division, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, and 2d Force Service Support Group deployed for the Persian Gulf. The Contingency Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) CM 2-88 would relieve Contingency MAGTF 1-88 in the volatile Persian Gulf and provide the effective landing force capability to Joint Task Force Middle East.

29 January 1991: The first serious ground fighting of Operation Desert Storm broke out when Iraqi troops mounted an attack into Saudi Arabia along a 40-mile front. Iraqi units centered their efforts on Khafji, a port city six miles south of the border. Saudi and Quatari troops, supported by artillery from the 1st Marine Division and attack helicopters and other allied coalition aircraft, recaptured the town two days later.



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