

Merry Christmas



*and
Corrah New Year*

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Commandants Year End Message

As we come to the end of 2020, we can look back with pride. Once again as Marines, we have faced many challenges and together we adapted and overcame in moving our Detachment forward. With what we have accomplished this year and our planning for the future I can see our Detachment growing stronger. As the door opens to a new year 2021, it also gives us the opportunity for a new beginning. I want to thank everyone for your hard work and support.

With the Holidays upon us Brinda and I want to wish everyone A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Semper Fi
Al McClymonds
Commandant



Merry Christmas, My Friend

By James M. Schmidt, a Marine Lance Corporal
stationed in Washington, D.C., in 1986

Tw'as the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one-bedroom house made of plaster & stone.

I had come down the chimney, with presents to give
and to see just who in this home did live

As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand.
On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind,
a sobering thought soon came to my mind.
For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen.
This was the home of a U.S. Marine.

I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more,
so, I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.
And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.

He seemed so gentle, his face so serene,
Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine.
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan.
I soon understood, this was more than a man.
For I realized the families that I saw that night,
owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.

Soon around the Nation, the children would play,
And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year,
because of Marines like this one lying here.

Poem continued:

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye.
I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice
I fight for freedom; I don't ask for more.
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I watched him for hours, so silent and still.
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.
So, I took off my jacket, the one made of red,
and covered this Marine from his toes to his head.

Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold,
with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.
And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,
and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.

I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure,
said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."

One look at my watch and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.



Officer's Reports

Senior Vice Commandant - TC Moyer

This has been one hell of a year. I appreciate and thank you for accepting me into our Detachment. 2021 I pray we'll be able to get together for our meetings, upcoming events, do more recruiting and getting our Name out there in the community. I and Joy wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Junior Vice Commandant - James Rodriquez

We will get our detachments name out into the community with recruiting events such as our 5K Run, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, on the square events and other Williamson County events.

I and Vanessa wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Judge Advocate - Charles Haight

Merry Christmas and have a great New Year

Adjutant -- Chris Buecker

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Pay Master - Gus Kawell

I and Desiree wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year

Chaplain - Charles Levy

I and Bernie wish all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year

Junior Past Commandant - Bill Hoch

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Sergeant at Arms - Bill Hoch

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Web Sergeant - Bobby Vasquez

I have been elected to serve as Commander of the Richard A. Oman American Legion Post 302 of Hutto. It has been my honor to serve as Webmaster. While I will remain an active Marine within our Detachment, I won't be seeking the office of Webmaster during the next election cycle, I would like to continue coordinating the Always Faithful Exhibit.

Committee's Reports

Always Faithful Exhibit – Chairperson Bobby Vasquez

The Jarrell Community Library is still hosting our exhibit. I will see if we can remove it the last week of December. If so, I will need 1-3 volunteers to help take it down and transport it back to the closet. We will need to have access to the VFW building. As of now, it will be returning to the Florence Library in February and Jarrell in May and November. I am still in the process of locking in other locations.

Gun and Knife Raffle - Chairperson Gus Kawell

We had a very successful raffle this year. Come to our January business meeting and find out how successful we were.

2021 5K Run- Chairperson James Rodriguez

I will connect with the Georgetown running club to get their input on how they execute their run as well. I'll share the closure plan with their runners and see when is a good time to hold our 5K Run..

Marine Corps Birthday Ball- Chairperson John "Doc" Weed

I'll be checking on the availability of the hall. I developed a closure plan for our MCBB and will be asking for help to accomplish the needed tasks.





Good for the League



New Positions and/or Chairpersons for 2021

To be voted on at our January business meeting:

- Public Relations/Information Officer
- Historian/Member History Officer
- Social Organizer/Outside Guest Speakers Officer
- MCL Rifle and Pistol Matches Chairperson (Team and Individual)

Volunteer your services to fill these positions in our January business meeting. Vote on them at our February business meeting.

If you are interested contact TC Moyer at usmc.topcat@gmail.com I will make a motion in our January business meeting on your behalf.

Recruiting Materials Needed:

- A tent with our Marine Corps League and detachment logo banner
- Six-foot folding table
- 4 folding chairs
- Provide gifts (pens with our logo contact information, Decals, lanyard's, etc) to those who fill out a membership application

Young Marines



Gus Kawell has been checking on having Detachment 1022 start up a Young Marines Unit.

It takes 3 adult dedicated volunteers to start a unit (Military Vets, Law Enforcement, EMS, School Teachers, Parents, etc.)

- They must register with headquarters and have an NCSISafe.com (National Center for Safety Initiatives) background check completed
- The four main billets in a unit are:
 - Unit Commander (UC) – elected position, 25 years old or older, Marine Corps (Active, Reserve, Vet). Waiver can be requested. Sets the example, plans ahead, stays involved
 - Executive Officer (XO) – elected position, good execution skills, motivated, dedicated, good planning skills
 - Adjutant – Appointed by the UC, good paperwork and V computer skills
 - Paymaster – Appointed by the UC, not living with or related to the UC, good with numbers

Announcements

- **Jesse Galvan** : Jesse will take over from Gus Kawell as Raffle Chairperson. Gus wants to pursue starting up a Young Marines Unit and needs volunteers to assist him. Give Gus a call if you're interested in helping him.

- **Bobby Vasquez**: Bobby has been elected to serve as Commander of the Richard A. Oman American Legion Post 302 of Hutto. He won't be seeking the office of Webmaster during the next election year; therefore, we need a computer savvy person to step up and take over as our Webmaster next year.
A huge thank you goes out to Bobby for his dedication in maintaining our web site.
If you're interested in being our Webmaster. Contact TC Moyer.

- **MODD members** It's time to pay your dues. Make your \$30 check out to: MODD, Wilco Pack 311
Send check to Bill Hoch or give it to him at the March Growl. Date, time and place forth coming.

- Who's up for 50/50 drawings at our meetings and events to help generate monies for our Detachment and yourself?



Announcements

MID-WINTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Date: February 25 – 27, 2021

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel

777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510

Phone: (757) 622-6664

\$129.00 per night (Includes Breakfast) ALL DEADLINES ARE FEBRUARY 5, 2021.



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2021 National Convention

Date: Monday, August 9th through Friday, August 13, 2021

Wyndham Springfield City Centre

700 E. Adams St., Springfield, Illinois 62701

Room blocks open August 17, 2020.

Reservation Link: <https://bit.ly/mcl2021>

Reservations: (217) 789-1530

When making reservations, please identify as “MARINE CORPS LEAGUE CONVENTION” to receive special group rate.

\$115 per night plus tax. Individuals are responsible for room, tax, and incidentals.

Rates include 1 complimentary parking pass per occupied guest room. Rate includes two complimentary breakfasts per room per night.

➤ <https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/convention/>

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year