



December 2025 NEWSLETTER

Our next monthly meeting is: **17 December 2025**



From

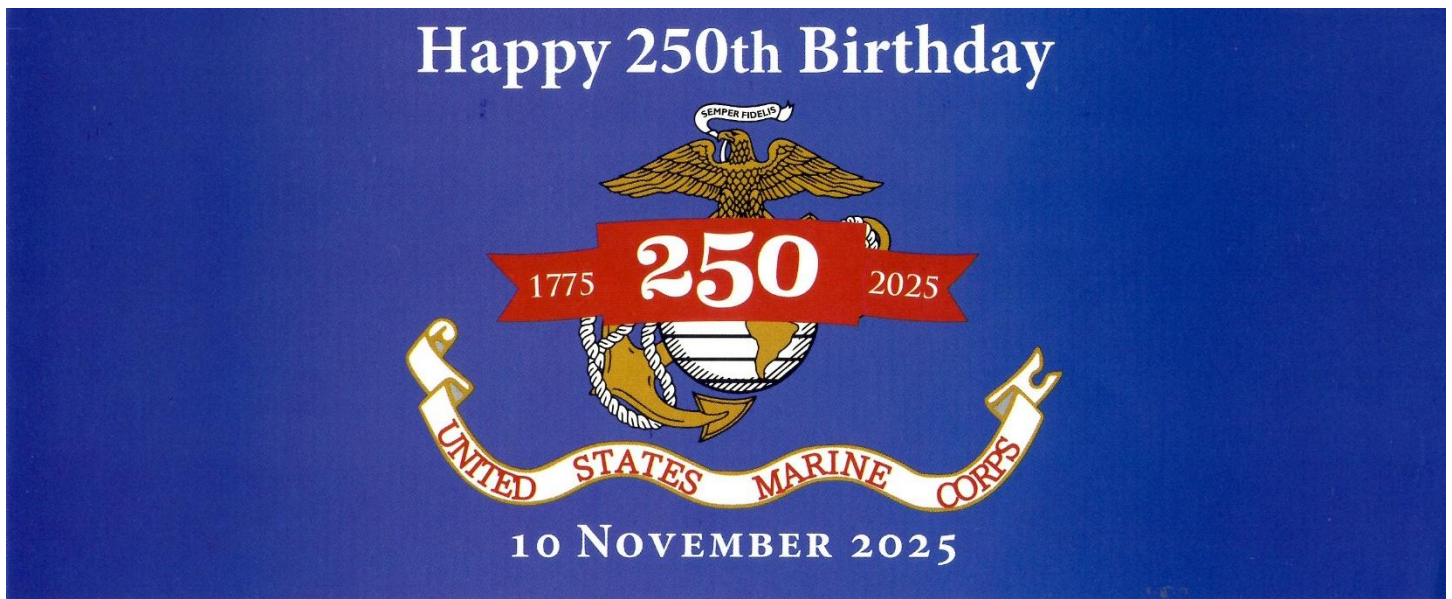
Paul & Amy Grinde

Peace, Love, Comfort, and Joy came down to earth on Christmas Day.

We wish that Peace, Love, Comfort, and Joy touch every one of you on this Christmas Day, and that those feelings continue throughout the coming New Year.

Paul & Amy Grinde





On 10 November 2025, Emerald Empire Detachment #917, Marine Corps League, conducted an informal cake cutting ceremony to celebrate the 250th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps.



The tables were decorated, the cake was ready, and the toasting Whiskey was ready to go.

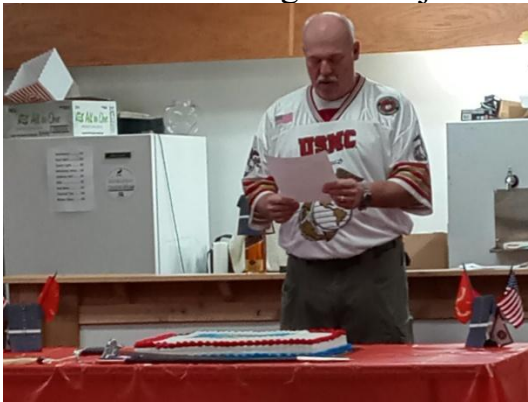
The first part of the program was the arrival and social visting.





This was followed by the sounding of Attention, and the playing of the National Anthem.

The first step in the cake cutting ceremony was the reading of Order 47 from General John A. Lejeune, followed by the video message from the current Marine Corps Commandant Eric M. Smith and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Carlos A. Ruiz.



Then it was time to present the Oldest and the Youngest Marines present.



The **Oldest Marine** was Bobby Graves. Bobby was born in August of 1937 (age 88).

Bobby Graves – August 1937 – Bobby started out joining the Oregon National Guard in 1954, then the United States Marine Corps on 10 September 1954, Pendleton January 1955, Japan 1957-59, Taiwan 1958 Combat Zone, Cherry Point 1959-1960, El Toro 1961-63. Discharged COG after the Cuban Missile deal. Served with 186 Inf Tank Co with the National Guard, and MAW in USMC. He is a Life Member of VFW Springfield and Marine Corps League. Bobby has also been a long time teacher of karate, and a member for 70 years of the Japan Karate Association and University of Oregon for 20 years.

The **Youngest Marine** was Anthony (AJ) Lonberg at age 26.

Anthony Lonberg – Enlisted in the Marines in 2017 and served until 2019. Anthony finished Marine Corps Boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California. He completed

Infantry Training Basic at Camp Pendleton, California, and then completed Security Force School in Virginia. He served in Security Forces at Bremerton, Washington.

AJ had brain surgery at the University of Washington Medical School to address ongoing seizures from Epilepsy. He has recovery and additional procedures (to fine tune implanted electrodes to address the epilepsy seizures) ahead of him.



The cake was cut by Paul Grinde. The presentation of cake was done by Debbie Barker. The first piece going to the Oldest Marine Bobby Graves and the second piece of cake going to the Youngest Marine AJ Lonberg.

Cake was then served to all those present. This was followed by the Memorial Toast to Jess M. Wise, Jr., who many years before had begun the Toast Making Event.



Following the toast was the reading of the Desceased Members of the Emerald Emprie Detachment #917, Marine Corps League. TAPS was then played.

The last event of the evening was the singing of the Marine's Hymn (all 3 verses). This concluded the ceremony.

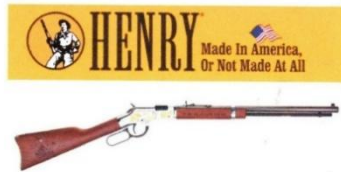
I would like to recognize those members, guests and vistoris who participated in this event.

Ray & Linda Miller; Kim Longberg; AJ Lonberg; Paul Grinde; Peter Bock; Bobby Graves and his daughter Peggie; Chris & Susannah Wade; Craig & Kelli Myers; Summer & Brian Martin; Matt Scott and his mother Peggy; Oz Hodges; James Anderson; Marcia Gutierrez; Karen Reeves; Debbie Barker; Stephanie & Aubrey Wilcox; Stephanie's friend Luke D'Avanzo; Paul Laird; Casey Bartlett; Steve & Lois Price; Seth & Destiny Yamada; Graham Hilson; Rudy Grein; Dave (Doc) Turner; Alex & Emily Wootan; and Dave Huber.

Special Thanks to:

**Ray Miller for Attention, National Anthem, The Marine's Hymn, and TAPS
Craig Myers for the Video playing of the Commandant and Sergeant Marjor message
Dave Huber for the use of his NCO Sword
Steven Price for Poviding the toasting Whiskey
The Moose Lodge # 1726 for the use of their facilities**





Spirit of the Corps 250th Anniversary Tribute Edition

22 S/L/LR

Department of Oregon Marine Corps League's 2025

Raffle

Nov
10

Nov 10

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

2025 Raffle of a Henry Spirit of the Corps 250th Anniversary Tribute Edition,
.22 S/L/LR.

A total of 2000 tickets are for sale at \$5 a ticket. The drawing will be on November 11, 2025, at the Bend Birthday Celebration. The winner will be notified by telephone, and must make pick up arrangements with Lincoln City Sporting Goods. Winner must be 18 years old and able to pass background.

Good luck Marine!

Happy Birthday and SEMPER FI

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Good luck Marine!

Happy Birthday and SEMPER FI

One chance of winning

\$5

Tickets are \$5 each. You must be 18 years old and able to pass background.

The Raffle for the 250th Anniversary Edition Henry rifle resulted in \$1,250.00 being raised toward the cost of the Department of Oregon Commandant being able to attend the next National Marine Corps League convention.

GUEST

Allen Truesdale – USMC Combat Vietnam Vet, Native American (Cherokee & Zuni), and VA Clinic volunteer.

Allen served from 1970 – 1976 (regular), 1982 – 1988 (reserve) at the USMC Unit when it was located on 13th Avenue in Eugene, Oregon. He was an 0361 Tank/Assault Guided Missile Man / 0321 Reconnaissance Marine/ 0300 Basic Infantry Marine.

It sounds like Allen is interested in joining the detachment/Marine Corps League.

Emerald Empire's Newest Member

Alex Wooten and his wife Emily attended the 250th USMC Birthday Cake Cutting. Alex submitted his application for membership following the ceremony.

At the November meeting, we voted on Alex's application for membership. He was unanimously voted into membership.



A welcome aboard email was sent to Alex. They are currently moving from Cottage Grove to Sweet Home. We look forward to them attending our detachment activities. Look for a better photo in the future.





73RD ANNUAL **CHRISTMAS PARADE**

(also known as Oregon's "Oldest and Coldest"
Parade)

The parade will be held in rain or shine. Dress **WARMLY & DRY** and prepare for any kind of weather. Bring extra blankets or warm clothing, especially for children.

Complete Information available at:

https://www.oregonriderssociety.org/files/ugd/e3d570_25320d183622439bb344946abe628861.pdf

(Control click to see full application)

Float Preparation:

Date: 5 Dec 2025 (Friday)

Time: 3 PM-5/6 PM

Location: My-Comm, 1860 N. 42nd Street, Springfield, Oregon

PIZZA FEED FOR THOSE DOING FLOAT PREPARATIONS (Bring Your Own Drink(s))

Parade:

Theme: Enchanted Snowman Forest

Date: 6 Dec 2025 (1st Saturday in December)

Staging time: 9 AM (0900 hours)

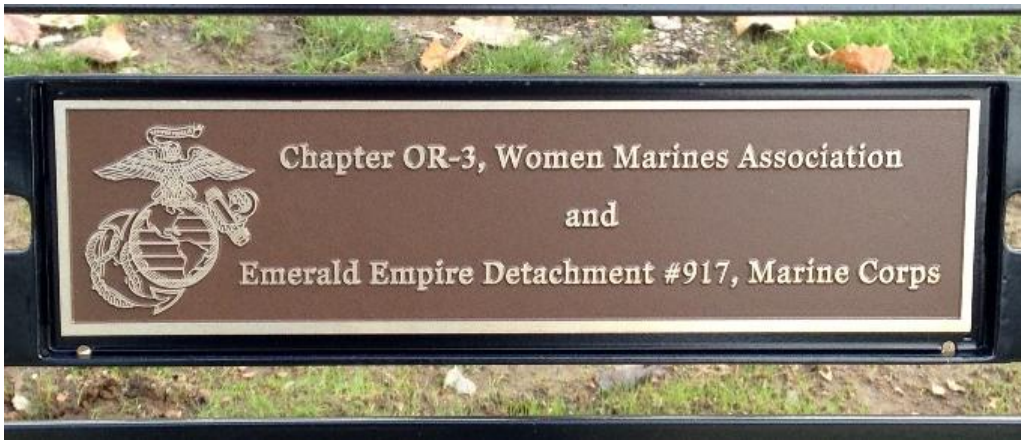
Staging Location: Entrance into the parade entry staging area is only through the Olympic and 28th checkpoint. (FOR FLOATS) You will not be permitted to enter any other point of the parade route.

Do not drop off participants or non-participating vehicles through this point. Please communicate this to anyone who is operating a vehicle and will be in need of accessing any of the staging area.

Participants will need to park, and walk to the float; or catch a ride on the float from My-Comm to staging (prior to 9 AM – will vary depending on our staging number). ENTRY NUMBER will be disseminated at Float Prep & Email. This will help in finding the float location.

[Parade Staging Area](#) (control click to see map)

Time: 1 PM PROMPT Start Time – 4 PM (approx.) End Time



Niel Laudati, Assistant City Manager for the City of Springfield, Oregon, has written up and submitted a request for a GRANT from the State of Oregon. This grant will be for the placement of another new bench in the Willamalane Parks and Recreation

Veterans' Park. This new bench will be placed in Memory of our Past Members of the Emerald Empire Detachment's. Stephen Price spoke with Neil on Veteran's Day. The governmental process of obtaining grants is proceeding at the normal governmental pace. When the final determination and details are available, they will be disseminated. Standby to Standby.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



11 December – Rudy Grein

18 December – Peter Bock

22 December – Norman Hart

23 December – James McKee **Deceased**

Please take a moment and remember each one of these Marines on the
“Anniversary-of-the-Day-They-Were-Born.”



From the Chaplain's Corner



"Deck the halls with boughs of holly, fa la la la la, la la la la..."



I am so thankful to live in a part of the land where you can either grow holly bushes or drive up the river 20 miles and purchase all you want from the Christmas tree farm! I can't imagine living in New York City or even in downtown Eugene where reliance on public transportation is key and where you have to pay higher prices for fresh boughs and trees! We are truly blessed to live in Oregon, where you can go play at the sea, in the mountains, along the river or enjoy the high desert with its abundant and diverse wildlife.

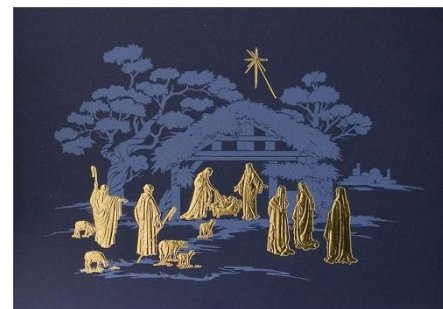


Sending Christmas cards is not as popular as it used to be, but it's a real joy to receive them. I have one girlfriend (since 7th grade!) who lives in Alaska and always sends a newsy letter in her card at Christmas, sharing the year her family just had, which is a great way to catch up with all her shenanigans. So, if you haven't started on your Christmas greetings, it's that time of year.



I enjoy all the lights on the houses where people who have more energy than I have get out the ladder and lights and go all out (I don't do ladders any more, either, lol). One of our family traditions on Christmas Eve is to drive around a little and see the lights. Springfield has some neighborhoods that really get into it, and I know Eugene does, too.

I think of those who have lost family in the recent past, or long ago, and hope for them to be able to enjoy the fact that "Jesus is the reason for the season". There is more to it than lights and tinsel, parties and presents, and my hope is the light and hope of the season reaches even hearts experiencing sadness and loss. If you are aware of someone in this place in their life, reaching out to them can be a blessing for you both.



May light and blessing be yours this and every month as we enter the new year, too.

**Semper Fi,
Joy Cavin
Chaplain
Emerald Empire Detachment #917
Marine Corps League**



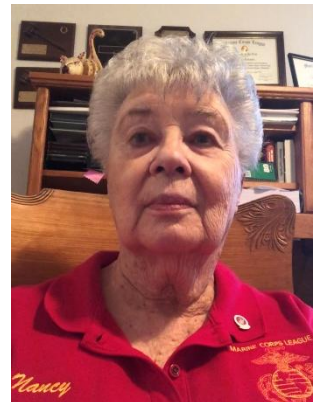
CORPSMAN



Raymond Miller – Ray’s test that was scheduled for Tuesday the 18th of November has been rescheduled due to the technician being out ill.

Nancy Lukasik – Nancy is using a wheelchair now to get around, and is limiting her outings. She said she is Okay, just greatly slowing down. She attends classes, and she said she is in a good place at her retirement home.

A “Thinking of You” card was signed by those at the November meeting and forwarded to Nancy.



Kim Lonberg – Kim was unable to attend the November meeting due to illness.

AJ Lonberg – The cerebral implanted device has been activated earlier than originally planned due to continued seizure activity. This will still require a period of adjustment to fine tune the settings in an attempt to cease or significantly decrease the seizures.



Fund-Raising Breakfast Service for Sunday, 16 November 2025



At the 16 November 2025 fund-raising breakfast 30 paid meals. This month we had 27 at regular price (\$10.00), 1 order at \$11.00, 1 order at \$12.00, and 1 order at \$5.00. The total for meals is: \$298.00. We also received \$51.00 in tips.

The GRAND TOTAL received was: \$349.00.



Emerald Empire Young Marines

Stephen Price will be going to the camp to shut down the water for the winter season.

The Emerald Empire Young Marines participated in a DARE run at Medford in southern Oregon.

They also conducted the Color Guard for the Soaring by the Sea, USMC 250th Birthday celebration.

Marine Corps League “Mission Statement”

Marine Corps League Mission Statement (As shown on our detachment website)

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, former Marines, FMF Navy Corpsmen, FMF Navy Chaplains, Associate Members, and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

The Mission of the Marine Corps League (as shown on national website)

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Chaplains who wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.



LEAGUE PATCHES

The detachment bought Marine Corps League patches (regular and associate). These are available for purchase for those persons wishing to buy new league shirts, or replace old league shirts.



Regular Patches are \$4.00 each

Associate Patches are \$7.00 each

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 - **\$1.00 each** – **What a Deal.** Hats/Visors are now available at the monthly meetings.



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:**

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Junior-Vice Commandant Paul Grinde
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Judge Advocate Debbie Barker
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GunnyB7@charter.net

Adjutant Raymond J. Miller
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ray.miller.usmc@gmail.com

Paymaster Lois J. Price
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Chaplain Joy Cavin
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Web-Master Paul Grinde
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beavers@epud.net

Sgt-at-Arms Matthew Scott
(541) 870-2703
Uneedmas4@gmail.com

Junior Past-Commandant Dave Huber
(541) 554-1894
dave_huber@outlook.com

Moose Lodge 1726
2011 Laura Street
Springfield, OR 97477-2100
Phone: (541) 746-3321
3rd 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

Detachment Facebook Page: [MCL Detachment 917](#)

Detachment Web Site: <https://marinecorpsleaguedet917.org>

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

National Website: www.mcleaguelibrary.org

2025 Meeting Dates

MARK YOUR 2025 CALENDARS NOW
(3rd Wednesday of the month)

17 December 2025 (~~Ham, Scalloped potatoes, tossed salad and roll~~)
MENU CHANGE – The detachment will be joining the Women of the
Moose in conducting a POTLUCK for the dinner on 17 December
2025 (bring your favorite potluck entrée).

2025 Fund-Raising Breakfast

Dates

MARK YOUR 2025 CALENDARS NOW
(3rd Sunday of the month)

21 December 2025