







DECEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Our next monthly meeting is **16 December 2026.**



My favorite artist, besides USMC Artist Charles Waterhouse, is Terry Redlin. Terry was a South Dakota boy, who lost a leg in a motorcycle accident at age 15. Attended the St. Paul School of Associated Arts. Went on to become a wildlife artist. There is a Terry Redlin museum in Watertown, South Dakota.

Amy & I would like to wish each and every one of you Peace, Love, Joy, Happiness and Good Health. Today and for the Coming Year.

From the Senior Vice Commandant



Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future

As we approach the end of 2026 and prepare to welcome a new year, I find myself reflecting on what it means to be a member of the Marine Corps League and, more specifically, a member of Emerald Empire Detachment #917.

This past year has given us opportunities to come together, celebrate our shared heritage, and continue serving our community. From celebrating the 251st birthday of our beloved Corps to renewing our involvement with Toys for Tots and continuing our support of the Young Marines, we are reminded that our commitment to service did not end when we took off the uniform.

I would like to express my appreciation to all of our members, associate members, and families who give their time, energy, and talents to support our detachment. Much of what keeps our organization going happens behind the scenes, and those efforts deserve our recognition and gratitude.

As we look toward 2027, I believe we have an opportunity to build upon the foundation laid by those who have served our detachment over the years. We must honor our traditions while remaining open to new ideas, new opportunities, and new ways of connecting with our fellow Marines.

Somewhere in our community, there is a Marine who misses the camaraderie of the Corps and may not even know that we are here. Finding that Marine, welcoming them, and giving them a reason to stay should be something in which we all take pride. Our detachment should be more than a place to attend a monthly business meeting. It should be a place where Marines of all generations can find fellowship, friendship, support, and a renewed sense of purpose.

With our upcoming officer elections, I encourage each of you to consider how you might contribute to the future of our detachment. Whether that means stepping

forward for an officer position, serving on a committee, helping with an event, or simply sharing your experience and ideas, every contribution matters. A strong detachment is built not by its officers alone, but by an engaged membership working toward a common purpose.

I would also like to hear from you. What are we doing well? What could we do better? Are there activities you would like to see us pursue, traditions you would like us to preserve, or new ways we could better serve our fellow Marines and our community? Please feel free to share your thoughts with me. No one person has all the answers, and I believe our collective experience is one of our greatest strengths. Our goal should not simply be to ensure that Emerald Empire Detachment #917 is still here next year, but to ensure that it remains a vibrant and meaningful home for Marines for generations to come. That is a responsibility we all share, and one I look forward to pursuing alongside each of you.

As we enter the holiday season, let us also remember those Marines who may be spending the holidays alone or facing difficult circumstances. Sometimes, something as simple as a phone call or an invitation to share a cup of coffee can make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

Susannah and I wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the coming year bring good health, happiness, renewed friendships, and new opportunities to serve together.

Semper Fidelis,
Chris Wade
Senior Vice Commandant
Emerald Empire Detachment #917
Marine Corps League

Madison Middle School, Inaugural Veterans Day Celebration, 9 November 2026

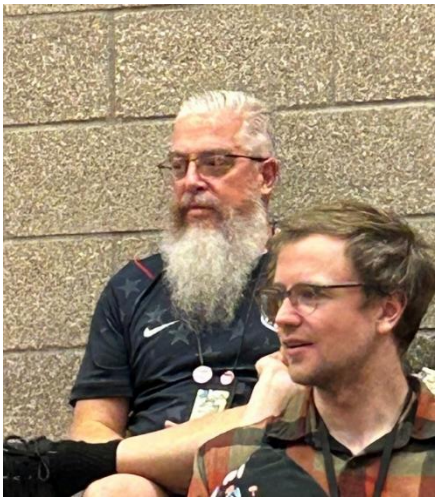


Left -Right: Ray Miller, Stephen Price, Chris Wade, Paul Grinde, Lois Price, and Robert (Bob) MacDonald (Ray's Knights of Columbus council Air Force Friend).

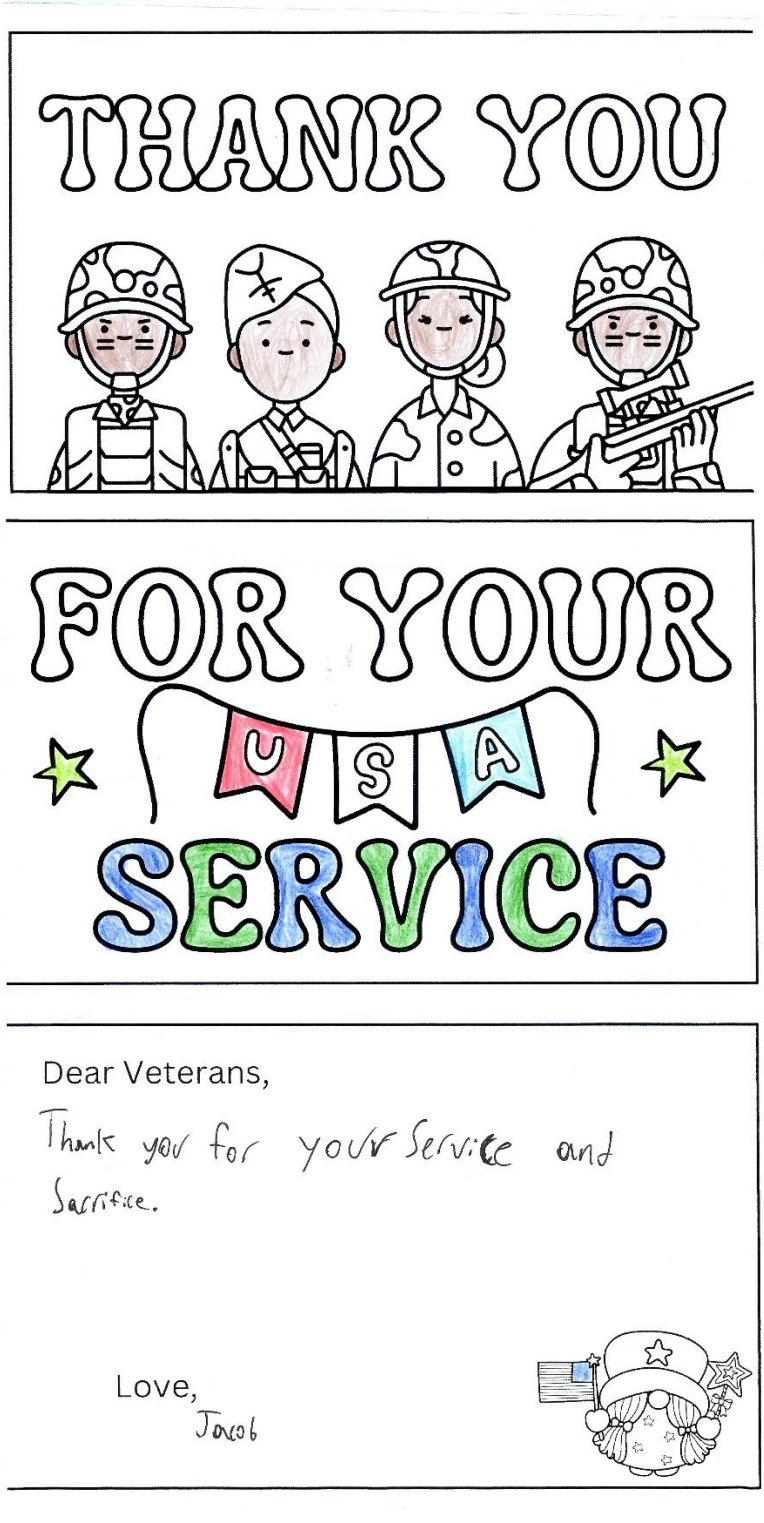
Madison Middle School is where Ray's boy Jason Miller teaches Social Studies.



Chris Wade, Bob MacDonald, Stephen Price, Lois Price, Linda Miller, Ray Miller.



Ray's son Jason Miller (the bearded one).



Each attending Veteran received a personal Thank You from a student (each one was personalized by that student so all were completely different for each veteran) along with a Thank You pin.





The narrators of the program provided a history of Veterans Day. The Band played each branches' hymn. The veterans present from that branch stood when their music was played. And the choir sang the National Anthem.





Veterans Tribute displayed in the hall near the office.

On 12 November 2026, Emerald Empire Detachment #917 Adjutant Ray Miller presented Gina Wilde, (Secondary Assist Principal, Madison Middle School) with a Certificate of Appreciation and letter for the promulgation of the history of Veterans Day and the recognition of veterans. There was also an accompanying letter. Both of these items were subsequently displayed publicly in the main hall for viewing.





William (Bill) Hale Carter, III Celebration of Life

The family of Bill Carter, USMC, Vietnam Vet requested assistance with the Celebration of Life for Bill.
Detachment Junior Vice-Commandant Paul Grinde assisted the family in contacting Headquarters Marine Corps to request Funeral Honors for Bill.

On 10 November 2026, Marines from the United States Marine Corps I & I Staff, Springfield, Oregon, conducted the Funeral Honors. Presenting the flag, the folding of the flag, and the presentation to Bill's wife Pam. In honoring Bill's wishes, NO TAPS were played. This required an approval from Headquarters Marine Corps Casualty Company.
The Marine Corps Birthday a day that Bill Carter always observed seemed to be the date most fitting to conduct his celebration of life.



Paul also partook of the ceremony by leading a toast "to Bill Carter, the Vietnam Marines, the Marines who are currently deployed on the forward edge of our nation's defense, and to all of our Marine brothers, sisters, family and friends who have gone before us."

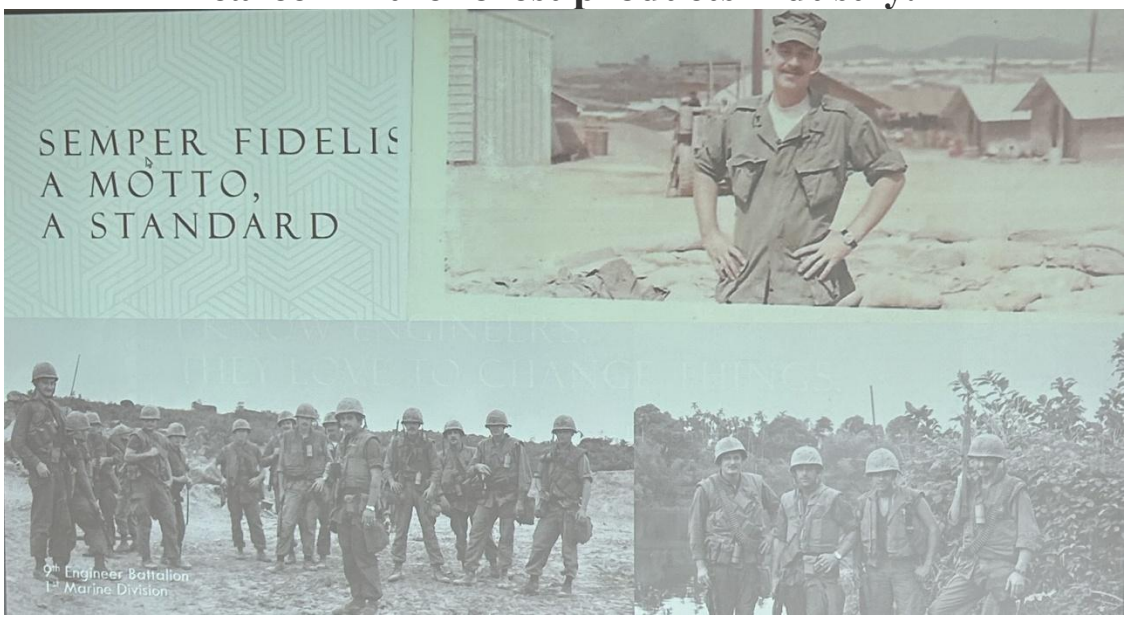
Paul also conducted the readings of the traditional birthday message from Major General John LeJeune, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and the current birthday message from General Eric M. Smith, Commandant of the Marine Corps. This was followed by the cutting of a Memorial Piece of Cake for Bill Carter.

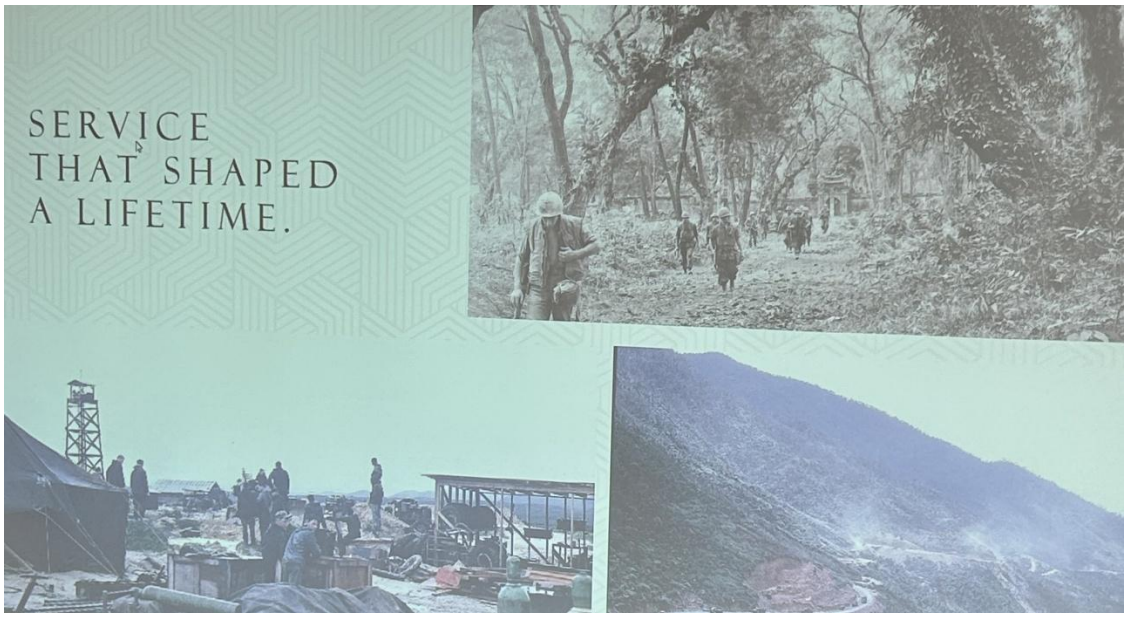


Bill enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, choosing to serve rather than be drafted, and choose the Marines because some people simply know where they belong. He served in Vietnam with the United States Marine Corps, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Division. Building bridges, clearing mines, or leading a squad for a long-range patrol. What the war gave him and what it cost him he largely kept to himself, in the manner of men and women who came home from that particular conflict. He served at a place called "The Rockpile."

He never lost himself even in the most serious work: writing decades later, a fellow Marine remembered Carter, the welder from Oregon, singing songs from the musical Camelot while walking through the tents at reveille.

After military service, he brought his singular mechanical imagination, extraordinary gift for invention, and restless work ethic to a long engineering career in the forest products industry.





Semper Fi Bill, Another Marine Has Reported for Duty on Heaven's Scene

251st United States Marine Corps Birthday Ball

On 7 November 2026, the Soaring by the Sea Foundation conducted a 251st United States Marine Corps Birthday Ball.



Stephen & Lois Price attended. The I & I Staff, Springfield, Oregon conducted the Color Guard.



Graham Hilson attended, and Chris Wade participated in the reading of the Original Birthday Order.







The Emerald Empire Young Marines conducted the Cake Escort Detail.





Chris & Susannah Wade


RM
MARINE
VMC-I




UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
251
FIDELIS



Photos courtesy of Chris Wade.

To view a short video clip of the firing of the P-40 Warhawk machine guns click on the video link below. (Courtesy of Joseph Lamm – Movie available in Word document; see attachment if in PDF form) So, Joseph Lamm was also in attendance.

SEE ATTACHED MOVIE TO THIS PDF NEWSLETTER

I see Graham Hilson & his wife (sorry I don't know her name), and also Craig & Kelli Myers.

Emerald Empire Detachment #917, Informal 251st USMC Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony



Oldest Marine – Robert (Bobby) Graves at 89 years young.



Youngest Marine – Joseph Lamm at 51 years old.

Bobby took at piece of cake to his Marine buddy in Hebo. Paul Grinde took pieces of cake to Robert (Bob) & Carol Johnson (between Sutherlin and Elkton). The Johnson's said it was great cake (moist and rich).

Emerald Empire Detachment #917 NEWEST MEMBER



Taggard Hecker has completed his application for membership in the Emerald Empire Detachment #917, Marine Corps League. At the 18 November 2026 meeting Taggard was accepted by vote as our Newest Member.
Taggard has served as a Tow Gunner (0352), Tanker, and Marksmanship instructor. He served from 1993 – 1999 with 1st Bn 4th Marines, 3rd Bn 1st Marines, Headquarters and 4th Tanks.
Taggard visited our group back in about 2016. He also runs his own pest company, Fidelis Pest Control, LLC.

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 Rudy, Peter, Norman, and Jim McKee on the "Anniversary-of-the-Day-They-Were-Born."

Correction: AJ Lonberg was inadvertently left off the birthday list for November. Sorry about that AJ. He was reimbursed his cost of dinner.

REMEMBER: IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS DURING THE MONTH OF THE MEETING – AND YOU ATTEND THE DINNER BEFORE THE MEETING - THEN YOUR DINNER IS PAID FOR THROUGH THE DAN STOMBAUGH MEMORIAL DINNER FUND!!!!!



57th Wedding Anniversary

Stephen & Lois Price will celebrate their 57th Anniversary on the 29th of November 2026.

Congratulations and here is to many more years!!!





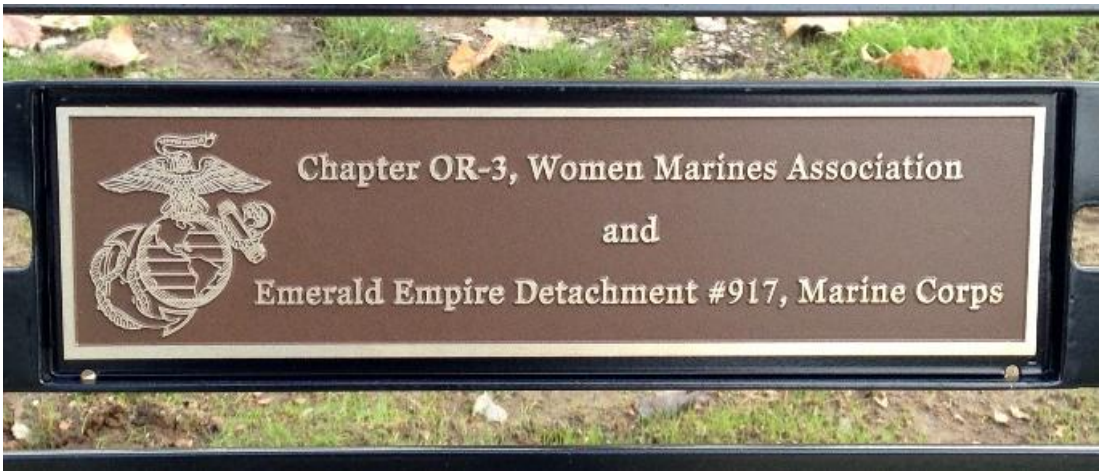
Member Craig Myers reported that the Toys for Tots Marines had a morale building event with Team Dirt (from Corvallis, Benton County), at Alsea Falls. There is a Mountain Bike dirt track, they also have recently completed and had certified an ADA compliant Track for ADA Off Road Biking.

PROPAIN (Vancouver, Washington) donated bikes and helmets. Appears it was a wet day and riders enjoyed some Oregon rain and mud.

4 December 2026 – The University of Oregon Hockey Team will have a game against San Diego State University at The Rink Exchange (control and click the link to the left for a map) at 7:30 PM. Toys will be thrown onto the ice and collected after the 1st goal of the game.

There is

Emerald Empire Detachment #917
Memorial Bench for the
Springfield Veterans Memorial Park



(This is an archive photo of a bench that the detachment and the WMA collaborated on.)

Still pending the receipt of information / cost to do it ourselves.

When the details are gathered there will be information forwarded seeking donations to help cover the cost, along with detachment funds, and perhaps a donation request from the Moose Lodge.



Fund-Raising Breakfast Service for Sunday, 15 November 2026



During the 15 November 2026 fund-raising breakfast service, we had 11 paid orders, for a total of $132.00. We also received $11.00 in tips. This came to a total of $143.00.

About 12 of the regulars were attending a memorial service at the Elks in Springfield.



74TH 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.

Information available at: https://www.oregonriderssociety.org/event-details/springfield-christmas-parade-2

Application & RULES at: https://www.oregonriderssociety.org/springfield-application
(Control click to see information and full application)

Craig Myers has already registered us in the parade.

Float Preparation:

Date: 4 Dec 2026 (Friday)
Time: 3 PM-Completed (Abt 5-7 PM)
Location: My-Comm, 1860 N. 42nd Street, Springfield, Oregon

Parade:

Theme: Yet to be Determined
Date: 5 Dec 2026 (1st Saturday in December)
Staging time: 1000 AM (1000 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 9:30AM). ENTRY NUMBER will be disseminated at Float Prep & Email. This will help in finding the float location.

Time: 1 PM PROMPT Start Time – 3 PM (approx.) End Time

The Emeral Empire Young Marines will be riding the float with us this year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, OR CHANGES MAY RESULT IN ADDITIONAL EMAILS BEING FORWARDED OUT.

CORPSMAN



<u>Kim Lonberg</u> – Kim's granddaughter was originally going to have surgery on 26 October 2026; however, "the date of last Monday was postponed because she has mono. They decided to do the surgery anyway because of the severity of the tumor. Aaliyah had brain surgery today (4 Nov 2026). They only removed the bone to get to the tumor and it took 11 hours. She will be in hospital now and they will go back in on Monday (9 Nov 2026) again to remove the tumor which is on both sides of the corotated artery and on the stem of her pituitary stem. It will take about 11-12 hours to hopefully remove it. Not sure what they will do if they cannot get all of the tumor.

This has not been a very fun venture. Please keep her in your prayers. I will be coming back up again Sunday. I have to be home right away because I have eye surgery next Thursday (12 Nov 2026). Thank you, Paul. Kim

Kim and AJ attended the November meeting. Kim was still recovering from her eye surgery (both eyes) on the Thursday previous to the meeting. Eyes red and puffy. AJ had been back to Seattle where they adjusted his implant, and switched up his medications. Kim reported he has had less seizures.

Kim's granddaughter underwent the 11-hour surgery to remove the tumor. They got 98% of it. They also had to do a bone graft from a thigh.

<u>Rudy Grein</u> – Rudy underwent knee replacement surgery, left knee on 24 September 2026.
He is still working at convalescing at home, and working on trips around the neighborhood to keep things functioning.
He did tweak it on Wednesday at home, then was able to make it to the meeting, but also tweaked it a little early on in the meeting. At the recess, he headed for home to "put it up."



Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.



Happy Holidays from the Chaplain's Corner of the Emerald Empire Marine Corps League!

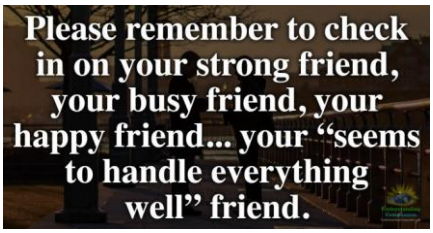






My hope and prayer for each of us is to enjoy the camaraderie of our Marine Corps League, the love of friends and family and the knowledge that God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to provide forgiveness to anyone who calls on His name. While not all share in that belief, it is my belief anyone can enjoy the beautiful lights, favorite foods and festive music of the season if they choose to.





Be sure to reach out to those whom you haven't heard from in a while and let them know they were in your thoughts. Try not to second guess yourself – people WILL be happy to hear from you and it only takes a minute or two to brighten their day by taking the time to give them a call or drop them a note.

Have a safe and healthy holiday season; look for and enjoy the blessings that come your way. As always, if you have a need or know of someone who does, let us know. We will address needs as we are able.

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

Emerald Empire Young Marines

The Young Marines performed the Cake Escort at the Soaring by the Sea Foundation 251st Marine Corps Birthday Ball on 7 November 2026. (See picture in that portion of this newsletter).

They also performed a Color Guard at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Eugene, Oregon; and Retired the Colors of the local Vietnam Veterans Association.

New Born Care Package

During the Pizza Feed we became aware that Benson (Sergeant; USMC) & Laura Lyman, of the I & I Staff are expecting their 1st child around 12 December 2026.



Here is a short list from them: Crib-light wash wood, Post Partum hygiene care items – Diapers size 1 – 2, and wipes. Expecting dad Benson (left photo), and mom Laura (middle of right photo). I don't have a good one of her.

Amazon registry: Benson Lyman & Laura Lyman
Dec 12, 2026, Springfield, OR

BRING ITEMS TO THE 4 Dec 2026 Float Prep at MyComm. Items will be delivered to them on 6 Dec 2026. I promise better photos.





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 NEW pens, with detachment website, are available to detachment members for $2.00 each pen. This covers the cost of the pens, and the detachment earns about 50 cents per pen toward the next order of pens.

The pens are for handing out to Marines, Corpsmen, Chaplains, and persons we want to try and recruit for membership. The new version has the detachment website on the pen also.

HATS



The Black Marine Corps League hats – all gone!!!

DETACHMENT COINS / CHIPS

Available for $1.50 each. They are available for purchase in-person during the monthly meetings and from the detachment paymaster.

EMERALD EMPIRE DETACHMENT # 917
OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION:

Commandant Joseph Lamm

Senior Vice-Commandant Chris Wade

Junior-Vice Commandant Paul Grinde

Judge Advocate – Debbie Barker

Adjutant Raymond J. Miller

Paymaster Lois J. Price

Chaplain Joy Cavin

Web-Master Paul Grinde

Sgt-at-Arms: Matt Scott

Junior Past-Commandant Dave Huber

To Contact Detachment Officers – use the detachment Email address shown below. Communications will be forwarded to the appropriate detachment officer.

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:

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**

2026 Meeting Dates

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

16 December 2026 – POTLUCK – Bring something for potluck - ~~(Ham with glaze, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, and apple pie with vanilla bean ice cream)~~

2027 Meeting Dates

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

20 January 2027 - (Ham with glaze, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, and apple pie with vanilla bean ice cream)

17 February 2027

17 March 2027

21 April 2027

19 May 2027

16 June 2027

21 July 2027

18 August 2027

15 September 2027

20 October 2027

17 November 2027

15 December 2027

2026 Fund-Raising Breakfast Dates

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