

Message from Commandant November 2009

Marines, Associate Members and Friends,

First off, let me wish you all a Happy 234th Marine Corps Birthday!

As you probably know by now, this detachment will be hosting its first ever Marine Corps Birthday Ball. This would be a huge undertaking for any Marine Corps League detachment, and especially one only three years old. Please help make it a success. The Ball will be held on the evening of 7 November in Raleigh, and I encourage all of you who are able to attend. You can contact Frank Williams, the editor of this fine newsletter, for more info.

You will have another chance to recognize the Birthday on 10 November at a potluck dinner that we are holding prior to our normally scheduled Marine Corps League meeting that night. The dinner will commence at 6:00 PM, and there will be no charge... We only ask that everyone bring a dish to share. The detachment will provide a Birthday Cake. A short business meeting will follow.

Veterans Day is also this month, as we all know. This is a day of great importance for all of us, veterans and civilians alike. A day that we should all take time to reflect upon what it truly means to be an American, and to show our appreciation for those of ALL branches of America's armed forces, active duty and veteran alike, that have paid the price for our freedom.

At 11:00 AM on Veterans Day, our detachment will assemble at Heritage Park in Wake Forest for a ceremony there. The uniform will be Red Blazers (Marine Corps League Casual Uniform) for the Marines and Sunday-go-to-meeting casual for everyone else. I will be speaking on behalf of the Marine Corps League, and there will be other speakers from various other veteran related organizations. There will be a posting of the colors by an American Legion, Marine Corps League and VFW joint color guard. If you need directions to the park or have other questions, please do not hesitate to ask either me or the newsletter editor for help.

I am very pleased to announce that recently the Paymaster and I were able to send another donation to Wounded Warrior Battalion in the amount of \$1,500. What a great cause and wonderful way for us to accomplish our mission to help Marines! I would like to thank everyone that helped collect or donated this money. To date, we have contributed over \$4,000.00 to help our fellow Marines just this year. I would also like to thank our two brother organizations of Wake Forest, the American Legion and VFW, who have recently given us even more money to send to Wounded Warriors that they collected at the Italian Fest and Irish Fest back in September.

Those of you who attended our last detachment meeting know that I have decided not to seek reelection as Commandant. I will assure you that this was not an easy decision for me. I shall always treasure the time that I served as your Commandant and my two-plus years as Adjutant before that. To those of you that supported me, I say thanks!

I am encouraged by the list of officer nominees that we have. Each of the candidates is an excellent choice, and I am sure that they will do a first class job if elected. The election will be conducted at our detachment's meeting on 10 November, and the installation of the new officers the following month. I have invited Jerry Dangler, the detachment's first commandant, to do the honors of installing these new officers. All for now!

Semper Fidelis,

Mark Byrd
Commandant