



# OORAH NEWSLETTER

*Granite State Detachment #542  
Marine Corps League*

December 31, 2021 Quarterly Issue: 004

## COMMANDANT'S CORNER



BJ Byers

Dear Detachment Members, Friends and Supporters,

I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas holiday and had a safe New Year's Day. We've done some great things over the last few months, many of which are highlighted in this month's issue. Please take some time to look it over and share any ideas you may have for future issues with Marge Romano.

I am excited about the impact our Detachment and its Members will have on our community this year. You really stepped up in 2021 and we were able to make some significant donations to organizations that support our military community. The year 2022, I predict, will be even more fruitful as the restrictions of COVID fade away. Please continue to support our fundraising events by volunteering for at least one shift this year .... You'll be glad you did!

I'd like to share that the participation at the Airport Diner on the last Saturday of the month is a big hit and I hope that if you have not been in a while (or never maybe) that you try to make one of them. It's a great time to socialize, share stories and enjoy being around our Marine Corps Family.

In closing, I wish you all good health and hope that you enjoy 2022 surrounded by family, friends and loved ones.

Semper Fidelis

## SR. VICE COMMANDANT



John Jenkins

## Fundraising for Veterans

### 2021 Veteran's Day Fundraiser

On Saturday, November 6 and Sunday, November 7, 2021, Granite State Detachment #542 conducted our Veterans Day Fundraiser at Bass Pro Shops in Hooksett, NH. GSD members were anxious to get on board to volunteer for this fine undertaking. No sooner had the announcement gone out, our members responded and picked a time slot that worked for each of them. Typically, we have a morning shift and an afternoon shift for a total of eight volunteers at this venue.

We had a beautiful display which we have developed over many seasons of fundraising. As soon as we setup for the day, the donations began and didn't stop until we finally decided to head home. Some donations are small, but we sometimes get an individual who is feeling particularly generous and will drop a hundred-dollar bill in the collection jar. Volunteers handed out small American flags to every child who came by and the children were thrilled. We also offered 'branch of service' flags and Detachment challenge coins. Occasionally, we have a Marine stop by, and we pay a little closer attention and attempt to get our message of recruitment past his defenses.

*(continued next page)*

What we have discovered through our fundraising efforts is that the American public has a strong desire to support the programs for our Veterans. Many of the donors are Veterans themselves and they love to stop by and chat for a bit. Whatever branch of service they were in, they feel a connection to the Marines and we are happy to spend some time with them talking about their experiences.

We had a very successful weekend and I want to be sure to say **“thank you”** to those members who **Stepped Up and volunteered to make it happen.**



*Kevin Brown at Bass Pro*



*John Jenkins and John Petralito at Bass Pro*

I especially would like to mention that GSD#542 appreciates the welcome and the cooperation that is extended from the folks at **Bass Pro** to the Detachment when we hold this fundraiser. **Bass Pro has been just wonderful and very supportive of our mission.**

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



*Chaplain Joe Duquette*

## POWER OF PRAYER

God calls on us to pray in order to develop a deeper relationship with him.

- Prayer can influence our state of mind, which then can have an effect on our body.
- Prayer can help with anxiety, sadness, blood pressure and sleep.
- Saying a healing prayer for someone close to you can provide comfort in a time of need for both you and them.
- Prayer is definitely a powerful instrument.
- Prayer is a mighty weapon at the disposal of everyone.
- Prayer can give our service men and women courage & strength to face challenges.

I hope everyone has a Happy and Healthy New Year.

God Bless You.

## Inspiring Quote

All the greatest things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom; justice; honor; duty; mercy; hope.

*- Winston Churchill*

**GRANITE STATE  
DETACHMENT #542**

**OFFICERS 2021**

**Commandant**  
BJ Byers  
**Sr. Vice Commandant**  
John Jenkins  
**Jr. Vice Commandant**  
Chris Peirce  
**Judge Advocate**  
Open Position  
**Adjutant**  
Open Position  
**Paymaster**  
Gary Gahan  
**Chaplain**  
Joe Duquette  
**Quartermaster**  
John Petralito  
**Sergeant at Arms**  
Greg Krill  
**Web Sergeant**  
Chris Alberding

**THIS MONTH IN  
MARINE CORPS HISTORY**

**October 6, 1945**

*On October 6, 1945, U. S. Marines under the command of Major General Keller E. Rockey accepted the surrender of 50,000 Japanese troops in North China on behalf of the Chinese Nationalist government.*

**November 10, 1921**

*The date of the **FIRST FORMAL** celebration of the Marine Corps' birthday as November 10.*

**December 7, 1941**

*On Sunday, 7 December 1941, there were approximately **4,500 Marines** Station at Pearl Harbor and its vicinity. Ashore, in addition to Marine Barracks, there were a variety of Marine units: 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Service Battalion, 1st Defense Battalion (rear echelon), 3rd Defense Battalion, 4th Defense Battalion and a token element from the 6th Defense Battalion. The Marine Corps Air Station at Ewa, Oahu was the first target of the sinking Japanese bomber and fighter jet planes.*

**Officers Meeting**

1800 – 1830

followed by the

**Membership Meeting**

1830 – 2000

on the

**2nd Tuesday of the month**

at the

Elks Lodge #146  
290 Granite Street  
Manchester, NH

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 3857

Manchester, NH 03105

Website:

[www.granitestatemarines.com](http://www.granitestatemarines.com)

**Marine Corps Breakfast**

**08:00 Last Saturday of the Month**

**Airport Diner, Brown Avenue**

**Manchester, NH**



**WELCOME NEW MEMBER  
4th QUARTER OF 2021**



*Marine Paul Coutu*

**Did you know ...?**

Marines often pin their next promotable rank onto their uniforms as motivation. They usually hide it in their cover, or under a pocket flap.

The Marines' first land battle on foreign soil was in Libya. During this battle, 600 Marines stormed the city of Dema to rescue the crew of the USS Philadelphia from pirates.

Male Marine recruits attend boot camp in one of two locations, depending on which side of the Mississippi they are from. Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego is for West Coast recruits (which is a separate facility from Camp Pendleton), and MCRD Parris Island is for East Coast recruits.

Female Marine Corps recruits only attend MCRD Parris Island.

Marine recruits must finish eating the moment their drill instructor is finished. This is why Marines eat so fast.

“Hurry up and wait” is what happens when each leader down the chain of command tell his or her Marines to be there in 15 minutes prior to the senior's directive. This is why Marines arrive early to their destinations.

Marines in uniform are not authorized to put their hands in their pockets.





### MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY FLAG RAISING CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

At 8 a.m. on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, the **Department of New Hampshire Marine Corps League** began its celebration of the **246<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday** with the raising of the **Marine Corps flag** over the State House in Concord, New Hampshire. Marines from all over the state attended this annual traditional flag raising birthday celebration - including many Granite State Detachment #542 members. After the ceremony, many Marines continued their celebration by gathering together for breakfast at a local restaurant.



### USMC 246<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT THE MANCHESTER EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE LUNCHEON

The **246<sup>th</sup> USMC Birthday Celebration** continued with a luncheon at the Derryfield Country Club in Manchester, NH sponsored by the **Manchester Expeditionary Brigade**. Guest speaker was Jeff Nelson, Executive Director of **Liberty House Veterans Transitional Living**, located in Manchester, NH. Attendees included folks from various NH communities with many GSD #542 members and their families participating in this well attended celebration.



*GSD #542 Marines and families enjoying lunch*



*Marines Paul Jane, Brian Westover and Mark Lindsay  
preparing to present the  
Marine Corps 246<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake*



*GSD #542 member Paul Sorensen receives birthday cake*

## VETERANS DAY

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

by John Petralito

That is what we say to the men and women of our military every year on Veterans Day.

However, we should be thanking them every day!

We are thankful for their time they spent in uniform, but it goes much further than that for me. I hold dear my freedoms and my rights that our military protected. I walk the streets of our land and know that I am safe to do so. I speak of my opinions without fear of being incarcerated. I choose to go where I want and when I want without facing challenges like in other countries. I am obligated to respect and honor those who put their lives in front of their own for all of us.

A simple "Thank you for your service" is not enough. They deserve so much more for the battles they fought. For the men and women that sacrificed their freedoms to protect ours. Those who were left with physical and mental scars that they deal with every day, deserve full care, understanding and support. And those veterans that never came home, housed in prisons away from our freedoms...how do we thank them?

**"THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE", but please know that my words go a lot deeper.**



### WREATHS FOR BOSCAWEN EVENT

New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery

Saturday, December 4, 2021

It was a beautiful crisp sunny day as over 500 volunteers reverently placed nearly 4,500 wreaths on NH Veterans graves. Thank you to the organization of the **Blue Star Mothers of NH** for raising the money, purchasing the wreaths and helping to run this event. Also, a thank you to all of the **GSD #542 members** who participated in this festive, spirit lifting dedication of honor to this beautiful peaceful resting place for our NH Veterans.



Chris Peirce, Paul Sorensen, Teresa Hamlin, Marge Romano



Gary Gahan placing a wreath for Marine Maurice Labbe

## 2021 JOINT INSTALLATION AND AWARDS BANQUET

by John Jenkins

On Sunday, December 5, 2021, the annual **New Hampshire Department of the Marine Corps League Luncheon** was held at the Common Man Restaurant in Concord, NH. The timing is such that it serves as one of the Department's Quarterly meetings and, of course, it is a great time of year to get everyone together for the Holiday Season.

Luncheon guests included: **Major Matthew Hobert, Marine for Life Representative; National Vice Commandant David Porter and Mrs. Mary Ann Diekmann** whose husband Frank Diekmann recently passed away. The event was dedicated in Frank's name, as he had a large impact on the Department and the Granite State Marines Detachment over many years.

The meal was terrific, the service outstanding, and the room was intimate and decorated in Christmas fashion.

The guest speaker, Major Matt Hobert, USMCR, worked the room prior to the meal and discussed his program with fellow Marines. When it was time for him to address the group, he was direct and succinct and transferred his message about the **Marine for Life Program**.

National Vice Commandant David Porter, conducted a swearing in ceremony for newly elected officers and provided an opportunity for others to 'renew their vows'.

The **Department Marine of the Year Award** was given to **Roland Morin**, an exceptional Marine who played a big role in our Honors Details and many volunteer activities with the Seacoast Detachment. Given Roland's impending move to Florida and all that it entails, he was unable to join us for the event. Roland's **Commandant, Geoff Corson**, was very pleased to accept the award on his behalf.

The event closed with a reading of '*The Marines Prayer*' and some well-wishing for a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.



GSD Members Paul Coutu, Chris Peirce, Jim Ambrose



Guest speaker - Major Matthew Hobert, USMCR



David Porter and Nancy Gero



Dave Dubey, John Jenkins and Geoff Corson



Guest Mary Ann Diekmann and Cherie Monnell

## VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

### GSD #542 DONATES \$1,000 TO NEW HAMPSHIRE VETERANS HOME

Representing the MCL Granite State Detachment #542, Chaplain Joe Duquette and Marge Romano, Associate Member made a visit to the NHVH in Tilton, NH to present Commandant Margaret LaBrecque a \$1,000 check to be added to the **NHVH Resident Benefit Fund**.



Margaret LaBrecque, Joe Duquette, Marge Romano

### GSD #542 MEMBERS DELIVER A \$700 DONATION OF GROCERIES TO THE MANCHESTER VA MEDICAL CENTER FOOD BANK



GSD #542 FOOD SHOPPING TEAM - 12 09 21  
John Bogdanowicz, Joe Duquette and Ellen Petralito

## A \$1,000 MATCHING DONATION CHALLENGE BY GSD #542!!

On behalf of the GSD #542, Paymaster, Gary Gahan delivered a **donation check in the amount of \$1,000** to Bill Zarakotas of Community Relations at **Liberty House Veterans Transitional Living** located in Manchester, NH.

Gary, is also on the Planning Committee of the **Manchester Expeditionary Brigade**, and he initiated a **matching donation challenge request** to Paul Pouliot, Chairman of the MEB committee. The **Manchester Expeditionary Brigade met the challenge with a \$2,500 donation** bringing the total donation of **\$3,500** for Liberty House.

Both of these organizations take pride in the important difference that these monetary donations make as they help funding and they generate a significant impact for the needs of Veterans in transition at Liberty House.



Gary Gahan and Bill Zarakotas

## MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

### OCTOBER

Derwood Haskell 10/13/13

Raymond Lemay 10/1/03

### NOVEMBER

BJ Byers 11/28/17

Charles Clough 11/1/03

Howard Cox 11/1/89

Mark Rivet 11/11/13

Lionel Rocheleau 11/1/01

### DECEMBER

Arthur Allison 12/1/93

David Larrabee 9/15/18

## MEMBERSHIP BIRTHDAYS



### OCTOBER

John C. Fallon  
Keith B. Gagne  
Wesley H. Lawrence  
Mark Rivet

### NOVEMBER

Dick Anagnost  
John Jenkins  
Ronald Jones

### DECEMBER

John Bogdanowicz

## BREAKFAST AND COMARADERIE AT THE AIRPORT DINER!



### COFFEE AND MORE!

The “Funday” breakfast was held on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> this year since Christmas Day fell on the last Saturday of the month which is the usual date for the social gathering of GSD Marines with their family and friends.

For attendees wishing to participate in the usual breakfast raffle and in the spirit of the holiday season, a “Yankee Gift Swap” added more joyalty to the morning.

**ALL MARINES, FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE  
INVITED TO ATTEND THE SOCIAL BREAKFAST**

## A MERRY GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON



The Granite State Detachment #542 social breakfast gathering is held at 0:800 Last Saturday of the Month, Airport Diner Brown Ave., Manchester, NH.

**POEM FOR THE NEW YEAR****Auld Lang Syne**

By Robert Burns

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,

And never brought to mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,

And auld lang syne!

For auld lang syne, my dear,

For auld lang syne.

We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,

For auld lang syne.

And surely ye'll be your pint stowp!

And surely I'll be mine!

And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,

For auld lang syne.

We twa hae run about the braes,

And pou'd the gowans fine;

But we've wander'd mony a weary fit,

Sin' auld lang syne.

We twa hae paidl'd in the burn,

Frae morning sun till dine;

But seas between us braid hae roar'd

Sin' auld lang syne.

And there's a hand, my trusty fere!

And gie's a hand o' thine!

And we'll tak a right gude-willie waught,

For auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear,

For auld lang syne.

We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,

For auld lang syne.

# TAPS

## MARINE FRANK A. DIEKMANN 1938 - 2021



GSD #542 member, Frank A. Diekmann, passed away on November 5, 2021.

Frank was active in the Marine Corps League (Commandant of the Granite State Detachment for 2 years and Department of New Hampshire for 4 years). He was recognized as Marine of the Year for the Department of New Hampshire in 2016. Frank also volunteered for a number of other organizations including SCORE, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Society for the Preservation of New Hampshire Forests, the Governor's State Veterans Advisory Committee, Toys for Tots, Building Dreams for Marines and Honor Flight of New England.



***REST IN PEACE FRANK – SEMPER PARATI***



**Attention  
Veterans,  
Veterans' Families,  
Caregivers and Survivors.**

## **VA News**

### **VETERAN RESOURCES INFORMATION**

Every week, VA sends a weekly newsletter called **#VetResources** that is filled with valuable content – including free resources, important updates and discounts for Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

If you do not receive the **#VetResources** weekly newsletter, sign up at [www.VA.gov/VetResources](http://www.VA.gov/VetResources). Past newsletters can be found here, and **all #VetResources blog posts** are online at <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/category/vets-experience/vetresources/>.

**A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 2022  
TO ALL MARINES AND THEIR FAMILIES!**



**“SEMPER PARATUS”**

*Editor-in-Chief, Marge Romano*