Gung Ho Gazette

Editor: T.Coleman

Issue 007
October 2026

Unicoi Detachment #783

The Commandant Speaks:



Over the next few issues, I would like to write a little about the origin of the Marine Corps League.

The MCL is the only congressionally chartered U.S. Marine Corps-related veterans service organization. It was founded in 1923 and received its federal charter in 1937. Its purpose is to perpetuate the traditions and spirit of all Marines (and qualified Navy FMF Personnel) who have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; promote the interests of the Marine Corps; foster camaraderie; assist Marines and their families; and support Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

In the years after World War I, various local Marine veterans' clubs and associations formed across the country to maintain esprit de corps and fellowship among those who had served. In 1922, retired Major Sidney W. Brewster envisioned uniting these groups and on November 10, a gathering at the Hotel McAlpin in New York City led to the creation of the Marine Corps Veterans Association (MCVA). Brewster was elected temporary chairman (later commandant). Posts/detachments began forming, including early ones in New York City and Houston.

The organization was formally established as the Marine Corps League at the All-Marine Caucus held June 3–6, 1923, at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City. The MCVA changed its name to the Marine Corps League and Major General John A. Lejeune (then Commandant of the Marine Corps) was unanimously elected the first National Commandant. Brewster became the first Past National Commandant. Lejeune is widely credited as a key founder, though the organizational groundwork came from Brewster and the earlier veterans' efforts. The New York Detachment No. 1 became the oldest continuous unit.

Your Commandant,

Pat Seals

October Birthdays



Melanie Reed (10/06)
Andy Turner (10/18)
Michael Maixner (10/22)
John Howard (10/22)
Alton Coleman (10/23)
Pat Seals (10/26)
Barry Herold (10/28)

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Sick and Distressed

Roger Pilcher
Mark Medina
David Haag
Richard Hoibraten
PTSD Group
Gerald Faulkner (1280)
Renee Capo's Daughter

Links

Just click on the link!

Marine Corps League - Unicoi Detachment #783

Department of Georgia
mcldeptofga.org

National Marine Corps League
mcleaguelibrary.org

SouthEast Division
sediv.org

Try it!

Our Linktree.

Blairsville VA Clinic:
Main#: (706) 835-3980

VA Crisis Line:
Dial 988, then press 1
or Text 838255

9/11 Memorial



G. Fisher, SVC and P. Seals, COM

Friday, Sept. 11, marked the 25th anniversary of the terrorists' attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. A memorial service was held at the Union County High School Fine Arts Building. Unicoi Detachment 783 was represented by Senior Vice Commandant Greg Fisher and Commandant Pat Seals. Other members of the detachment were also in attendance.

Membership Update

We gained several members recently: Alicia Best, Shawn Peters, William Knapp, Bob Stapleton, and Ralph McClure. That brings our total membership to 68 members in good standing. Our goal is to have 70 members by Annual.

Veterans Memorial



C. Andrews, S. Drummond, B. Creel

The Towns County Memorial Wall Committee in Hiawassee is led by chairman Scott Drummond and organizes the annual addition and presentation of names to the veterans' memorial wall. Both Scott and Brandy Creel are members of 783.

Upcoming Dates:

Oct. 1 Veterans' Social at Brasstown Manor
Oct. 10, 11, 17, 18 Sorghum Festival at Meeks Park
Oct. 22 Celebration Dinner 5pm Place TBD

For up to date event info, click here!

Detachment Staff

Commandant: Pat Seals
halcop162@gmail.com

SVC: Greg Fisher
jarhead4ever1975@gmail.com

JVC: Gunny Triplett
coldbear55@yahoo.com

Judge Advocate: Chuck Frisk
msgt1973@gmail.com

Adjutant: Claudia Entwisle
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JPC: John Entwisle
jent1948@gmail.com

Paymaster: Tammy Coleman
tcoleman0419@gmail.com

Chaplain: Richard Hoibraten
cj_20207947@outlook.com

SAA: JR Fowler
deepindac3@aol.com

Need an Application?

ATTENTION

Click below for fillable applications for MCLA or MCL.



Meeting Date Changed!!!

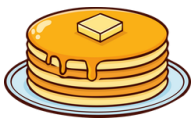




The Rifle Raffle sponsored jointly by Veterans Cooperative, Inc and Unicoi Detachment 783 continues until October 19. If you haven't bought tickets yet, what are you waiting for? Don't forget to ask friends, family, neighbors if they want to buy some in support of our veteran relief program. We will be selling tickets both weekends of the Sorghum Festival. Speaking of the festival, we will need volunteers to work at our table during those weekends: Oct. 10, 11, 17 and 18. Let Claudia know if you can help.

Coffee & Camaraderie

Don't forget our Monday morning Coffee & Camaraderie! We meet *every* Monday at 10am at The Sundance Grill on the 1st Monday or the Blairsville Restaurant on all other Mondays. The public is welcome to attend so bring a friend.







*Subject to change due to holidays or weather.

A Wink from Walt



1935-2023

One of the many “covers” that Walt Scott wore was that of Pound Leader. Pound 206 is the local Military Order of the Devil Dogs (MODD) unit. I felt it only fitting that I use “A Wink from Walt” to explain what the MODD is and what they do.

The Military Order of the Devil Dogs (MODD) is the official "fun and honor" society of the Marine Corps League. While it might sound like a tough group, this organization is all about friendship, high spirits, and helping others. The group was started in 1939 in Boston, Massachusetts. Members of the Marine Corps League wanted a fun way to "blow off steam" and enjoy each other's company outside of serious business meetings.

The MODD loves to use fun, dog-themed words to organize its members. Instead of normal clubs or chapters, they use a canine hierarchy across local, state, and national levels:

- The Pound: This is the local club. It is led by a leader called the Pound Keeper.
- The Pack: This is the state-wide level. It is led by the Pack Leader.
- The Kennel: This is the national headquarters. It is led by the top dog, the Chief Devil Dog.

Members can also earn three different degrees as they grow in the organization. You start as a Pup wearing a black ribbon. With time and service, you can advance to a Devil Dog with a red ribbon, and finally become a Pedigreed Devil Dog wearing a gold ribbon.

Only regular members may join the pound and must be recommended for membership by a Pound member who is in good standing.

Luau Veterans’ Social



JoAnn and Bob Haas

We had a Luau at Brasstown Manor Assisted Living during the monthly Veterans’ Social. On Thursday, Sept. 3, the Ukulele Club of the Mountains entertained all those gathered with some Hawaiian songs while we enjoyed fruit juice, fruit and cheese skewers and assorted cookies. As always, Brandy did a great job putting together the program and snacks.



Brandy Creel



Gunny Triplett, Doc Coleman





Alicia Best , Jody Federico



Brandy Creel, JR Fowler, John and Claudia Entwisle





Ash Todd

Mark your calendars!

The dates for next years conferences are below along with locations. Midwinter and National are already open for hotel reservations. Final plans are being made for the other two.



Midwinter Conference, Virginia Beach VA, Feb. 24-28 Click here for info
SouthEast Division Conference, Chattanooga TN, Mar. 11-14
Department of Georgia Annual, Cartersville GA, May 13-16
National Convention, Buffalo NY, Aug. 8-15 Click here for info

THE COINS UNICOI MARINES CARRY — AND THE STORIES THAT GO WITH THEM

Most Marines in Detachment 783 have a few. A unit coin. One from a commanding officer or a first sergeant. One from the League, a deployment, or a Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Some have been in a pocket or a drawer since Korea or Vietnam.

Each one was given for a reason, and the reason is the part that matters. It is also the part that gets lost. The coin outlasts the memory, and when the Marine passes, it goes to a son or a granddaughter who can read the eagle, globe, and anchor but not the story.
AllCoin exists to write it down. A veteran, or a family member helping, photographs both sides of a coin they already own, adds a few lines about how it was earned, and it lives in a searchable Coin Library a grandchild can find decades from now. Uploading existing coins is always free for veterans.

To take part, go to allcoin.braav.co and create a free account; an email address is all that is required. Photograph the front and back of a coin in good light. Write the story: who gave it, when, where, and what it meant. Once your account is set up, you can also text a photo of a coin, with your account name, to (805) 395-6805. Then ask the Marine next to you at the next meeting about his.

Scan the QR code printed with this item to claim a free Braav Welcome Coin and see how it works.
Questions are welcome at ashley.q.reid@gmail.com.





Scan for 35th Ammiversary coin!

Braav Welcome Coin

Farmers' Market

Unicoi Detachment showed up in force at the Union County Farmers' Market on Saturday, Sept. 12. While there, they sold raffle tickets for a rifle, challenge coins, armed forces bracelets, and flag pins. They also handed out Marine Roses and literature on the MCL and how to become a member.



C. Entwisle, J. Entwisle, A. Todd



C. Entwisle, P. Seals, J. Entwisle, B. Herold



Our table display

The Peach Post

Tractor Supply's Harvest Fest





Saturday, Feb. 12, was the day for the Harvest Fest event at Tractor Supply. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate and within 30 minutes of the official opening time, the rain moved in to stay. Regardless, the Georgia Peaches came out with baked goods and information about our Auxiliary. Tammy Coleman, Nancy Kunz, Brandy Creel and Jody Federico manned the table in the rain. Thanks to our bakers Alicia Best, Nancy Kunz, Tammy Coleman and Ash Todd. And much appreciation to our MCL members Pat Seals, Alton Coleman, Jeff Lamm, JR Fowler, Gunny Triplett, and Derek Kunz.

Let's Celebrate!

It should be obvious by now, 783 loves to celebrate! Friday, Sept. 25, about 20 members, friends and family gathered at Hiawassee Brew for great food and even better company. John Entwisle, Teresa Fisher and Jeff Scott were our birthday honorees.



Doc, Jody, Jeff, JR, John, Claudia, Cheryl, Don, Teresa, Greg, Tammy



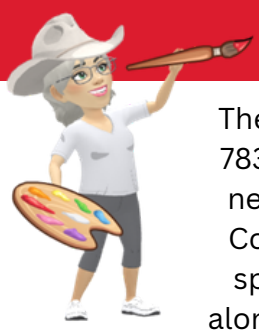
Brandy, Ash, Virgina, Gary, John, Claudia, Kathi, Pat

Happy Fall, Y'all!



Love, Freddie, Jax and Cricket

Paint Party!

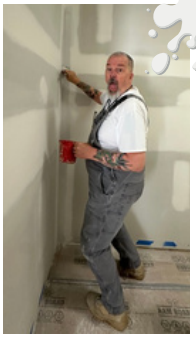


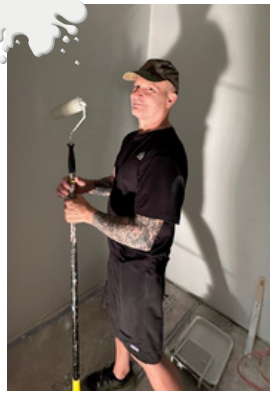
Jody

The first week of September, members of 783 could be found lending a hand at the new offices of Hope House. Alton "Doc" Coleman, Jeff Lamm and Jody Federico spent time prepping and painting walls alongside members of The Beacon Team, a senior adult volunteer ministry and outreach group affiliated with the First Baptist Church of Blairsville.

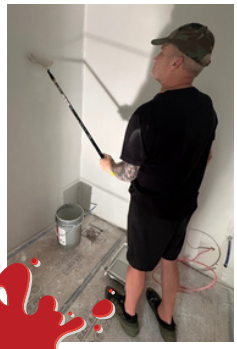


Doc



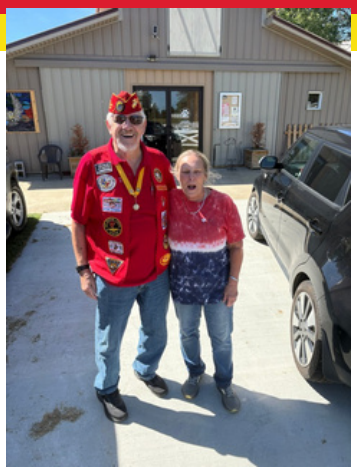


Jeff



Hope House is a faith-based organization that provides assistance with the basic necessities of life to Union County residents, transients, and homeless population who are in critical need. Funding is provided by individuals and participating churches. At Hope House, persons who are in need can receive assistance in one place negating the necessity of going from "church-to-church", "agency-to-agency." They provide financial assistance with, but not limited to: Rent, Utility Bills, Heating Assistance, Medical Treatments, Prescriptions, and Transportation Needs. Unicoi Detachment has partnered with both the Beacon Team and Hope House previously in our efforts to meet the needs of our community.

Unicoi Pound 206



Pound Leader Roshaven with Shannon from C.P.R.

Following their Growl on Saturday, Sept. 26, Pound members took a load of dog (and cat) food to Castoff Pet Rescue. They donated 317.5 pounds of food as well as several bags of towels, blankets, etc.

Castoff Pet Rescue is a nonprofit, no-kill organization serving Union and Towns Counties in Georgia, Clay and Cherokee Counties in North Carolina, and anywhere else their help is needed.



Some of the food donated by Pound and Detachment members

Putting With Patriots

Detachment members and Auxiliary members were in attendance at the American Legion Family golf tournament held Sept. 17 at Butternut Creek Golf Course. We sold raffle tickets as well as showed support for our members who are also part of the AL Family. Congratulations on another successful tournament!



C. Entwisle, J. Federico and T. Coleman



B. Creel handed out Marine Roses



Member Spotlight: *Gary Wimsett*



This is an excerpt from a 2016 newsletter, as Gary was taking office as Commandant. He served as Commandant for three years. He also served as Junior Vice Commandant, Senior VIce Commandant and Junior Past Commandant.

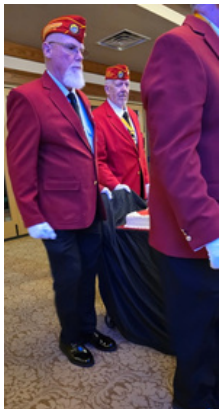
My name is Gary Wimsett. I served the Corps for 33 years, 16 as an enlisted man then commissioned a 2ndLt in the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) Program and finally retired as a Major. Most of my duty assignments were in the Pacific Region.

After serving our Corps, I joined and served the Hillsborough County Florida Sheriff's Office as a Community Service Officer for 9 years.

My wife, Virginia, was born in Chattanooga, TN and is a true "Southern Girl." She loves living in the Georgia mountains.



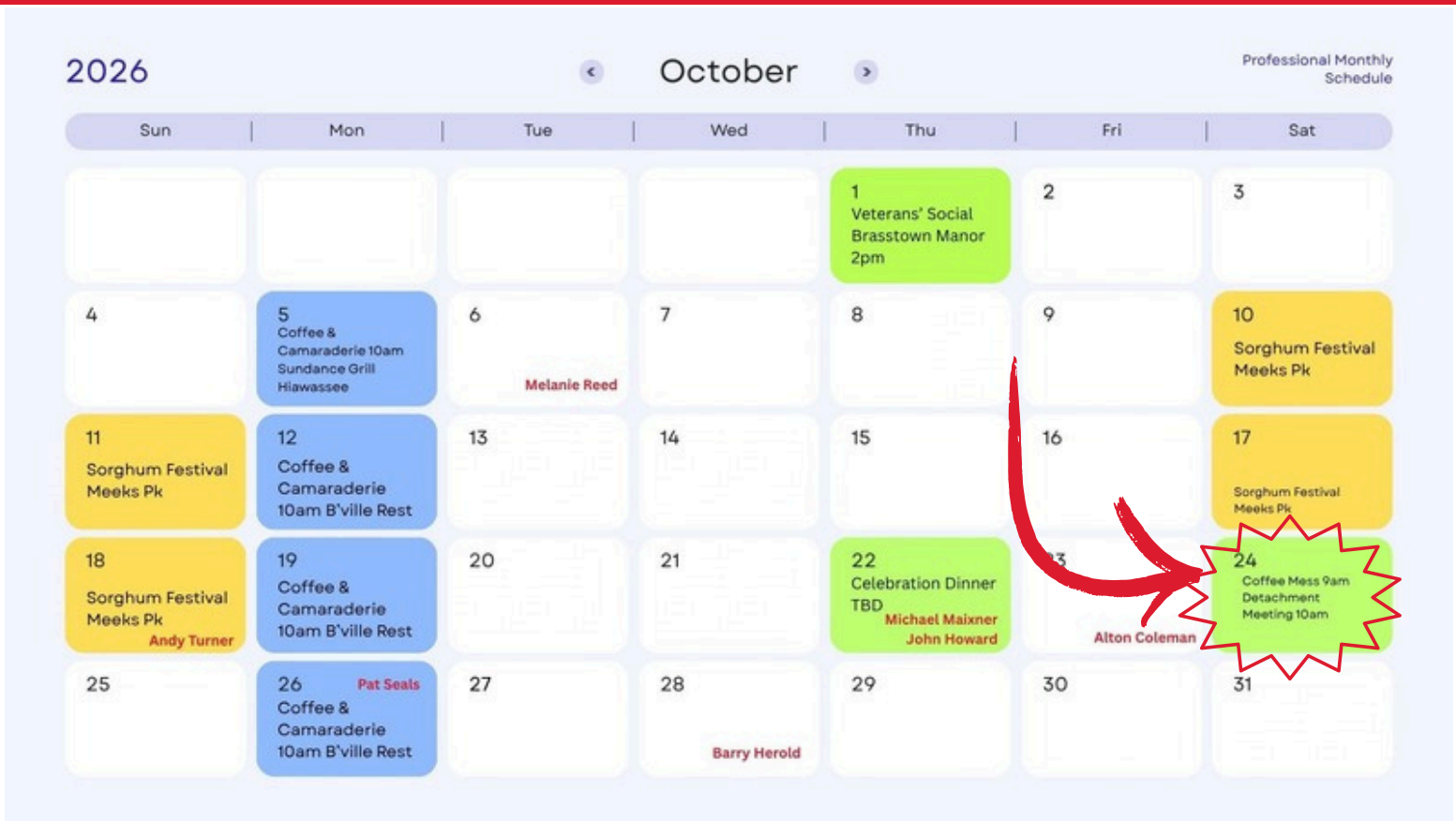








CALENDAR



Missed a newsletter?

Back issues available here!

Official MCL Department of Georgia Members Only Facebook Group

Sept/Oct Membership Anniversaries

Darrell Barrett (2002)
Sal Laratta (2004)
Alton “Doc” Coleman (2017)
Ashford Todd (2017)
Claudia Entwisle (2022)
Hollie Hollingsworth (2023)
Michael Miaixner (2025)
JR Fowler (2025)
Dale Robbins (2025)
Sal Ruugiero (2025)

Deacon Ordination





783 Members attended Jeff Lamm’s ordination as a deacon for McConnell Baptist Church in Hiawassee on Sept. 20. Congratulations, Jeff!

Meeting: New members, Special Guests





R. Delk, L. Delk, A. Coleman



C. Entwisle



L. Delk, S. Pieters, W. Knapp, R. McClure, B. Stapleton

Our September Detachment meeting saw the swearing in of Claudia Entwisle as adjutant, four new members who recently joined and an award presented to Alton “Doc” Coleman. We were honored to have Dept. of Georgia Commmandant Lisa Delk preside over the swearing in. Junior Past Commandant Rex Delk presented Doc with a Distinguished Citizen Award (Silver). Our new members were Shawn Pieters, William Knapp, Ralph McClure and Bob Stapleton. We had a full house at the meeting with 37 present. Among those was George Young who expressed an interest in transferring into our detachment.



3rd Annual Watch Party

This year’s Army - Navy game will be on December 12. The kick-off time is 3pm but we will open the doors at 1pm for the pregame festivities. We will have a taco/nacho bar with all the fixings. There will be raffle items with lots of opportunities to win some Christmas gifts so bring your dollars!

Our 1st Watch Party saw Navy beat Army 31 - 13. Last year, Navy eked out a 17 - 16 win. Who will take home bragging rights this year?



Celebrating 35 Years

Many thanks to all who joined us in celebrating the 35th Anniversary of Unicoi Detachment 783. From our chartering on Sept. 16, 1991 until today, our detachment has embodied all that the MCL stands for: preserving traditions, strengthening fraternity, supporting veterans and fostering the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

Thanks to Noah and Katie Howard, Melissa's Custom Cakes, Matt Leonard, Jubilee Photo Booths, Sal Ruggiero and Crystal Gaylord for helping make it all possible.



T. Coleman, A. Todd, A. Eagle, B. Creel, B. Howard





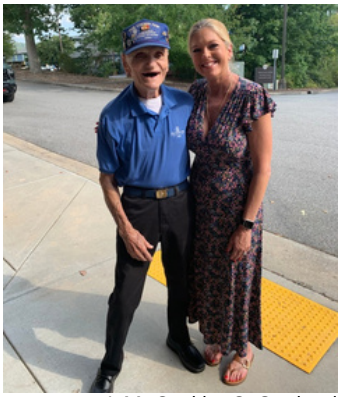
JR Fowler, G. Triplett, B. Stapleton, D. Kunz



E. Appling, BJ Roshaven



Balloons by Katie Howard



J. McCorkle, C. Gaylord

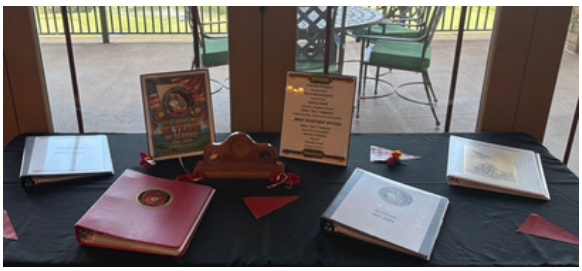


J. Howard, G. Cousins, P. Cousins



M. Herold, B. Herold







V. Wimsett, K. Seals, B. Nichols, J. Nichols









T. Coleman, D. Haag, A. Coleman



A. Todd, A. Eagle, B. Creel



D. Beck, C. Beck



E. Appling

1991-2026

35TH ANNIVERSARY



R. Brand, C. Brand, L. Delk, R. Delk



V. and G. Wimsett



B. and J. Howard



J. Lamm, J. Federico, JR Fowler, A. Best



J.and B. Nichols



P. and G. Cousins



B. Howard, N. Kunz, B. Creel



L. Delk, J. Federico, B. Howard, T. Coleman, K. Seals, B. Creel
P. Cousins, N. Kunz, C. Entwisle, C. Brand, A. Best



P. and K. Seals



J. Federico, W. Knapp, Lee



R. Capo

This month saw a landmark for our detachment - our 35th anniversary. We celebrated with a special dinner at The View. Guests included Dept. of Georgia officers Lisa Delk (COM), Rex Delk (JPC), Reggie Brand (JVC) and Candie Brand (Newsletter Editor) and a special appearance by our very own A. Eagle.



L. and R. Domenski



N. and D. Kunz



L. and D. Barrett



B. Creel



J. and C. Entwisle



C. Gaylord



R. Hoibraten



K. and B. Herold





Battle Buddies: JR Fowler, D. Kunz, G. Triplett, B. Herold



G. Triplett, J. Entwisle, JR Fowler, G. Fisher, R. Hoibraten, P. Seals



A. Best



C. Brand, T. Coleman, J. Federico



Entertainment by 783's Sal Ruggiero

Corpsman Up!



Autumn brings the month of October and with it the colors of fall, including the color pink. What? Pink? Yes, pink. If you're not already aware, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, originally founded as a partnership between the American Cancer Society and the pharmaceutical division of Imperial Chemical Industries (now part of AstraZeneca). The organizers strategically chose October because the month aligned with global medical research events and is positioned directly between the summer lull and the busy winter holiday season.

Over the years the month-long campaign has grown significantly due to several major milestones such as The Betty Ford Effect, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, and The Pink Ribbon. What started as a week-long initiative to promote mammograms has evolved into a massive global movement dedicated to raising research funds, supporting survivors, and saving lives through early detection.

The Betty Ford Effect: When breast cancer survivor and former First Lady Betty Ford kicked off the inaugural event, her courage in speaking openly about her diagnosis marked a turning point in dismantling the stigma around breast health.

The First Race for the Cure: Coincidentally, two years before the official month was founded, the first Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure was held in Dallas, TX in October 1983, which naturally tied the month to the cause.

The Pink Ribbon: The Pink Ribbon was developed in 1992 by SELF magazine and Estée Lauder as a corporate and editorial symbol for breast cancer awareness. It evolved from a grassroots peach ribbon created a year earlier. In 1991, Charlotte Haley, a 68-year-old activist whose family suffered from breast cancer, handmade peach-colored ribbons. She attached them to cards to protest the National Cancer Institute's minimal budget allocation for cancer prevention research. She distributed thousands of these ribbons locally, which gained national attention.

In 1992, magazine editor-in-chief Alexandra Penney and Estée Lauder senior executive Evelyn Lauder wanted to feature Haley's design for their upcoming second annual Breast Cancer Awareness Month issue. Haley declined the partnership because she felt the publication and cosmetics giant were too commercial. The color pink was chosen to bypass Haley while launching their massive 1992 national campaign. They distributed over 1.5 million pink ribbons at Estée Lauder makeup counters across major department stores alongside breast self-examination cards.

Today, nationally recognized companies across the country, and the world, participate in breast cancer awareness month. In 2005, Delta Air Lines famously took the campaign to the skies by painting an entire aircraft pink to raise global awareness. Since then, Delta Air Lines, in partnership with the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, has raised over $37 million dollars for life-saving research.

The National Football League participates in Breast Cancer Awareness Month through its Crucial Catch campaign. Throughout October, players, coaches, and referees wear specialized Crucial Catch sideline gear, including tie-dye or multi-colored accents on hats, cleats, hoodies and towels. The NFL now primarily features a multi-colored logo representing a variety of cancers, but Pink remains a core color on the shield to signify breast cancer awareness.

In the United States, an estimated 324,580 people (including about 321,910 women and 2,670 men) are diagnosed with invasive breast cancer each year, alongside tens of thousands of non-invasive cases. About 1 in 8 women (13%) in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. Early detection through routine screening significantly improves cancer survival rates by identifying cellular changes or tumors before symptoms emerge. Standard cancer screening guidelines include; Ages 40-44: Optional annual mammogram, Ages 45-54: Mandatory annual mammograms, and Ages 55+: Mammograms every 1 to 2 years continuing in good health with a 10+ year life expectancy.

---Alton "Doc" Coleman

Wanna be like Ash?



Ever wonder how Ash Todd knows so much about using his iPhone? He has taken courses from Justin Wetzel of Mountain Mac. Justin will be sharing his knowledge with detachment members October 24 at 9am at the Davenport Building. Come early, get a donut, and join us in learning how to use your iPhone. The class will last approximately 50 minutes so you will get out in time to attend the detachment meeting at 10am.

If you're interested, you can scan the QR code on the flyer to pay your $10 fee through Zeffy. If you don't know how to do that, then you definitely need to attend this class! You can let Tammy know you're coming and pay her at breakfast.

Calling all chefs/cooks!



We are once again planning a free Friendsgiving dinner open to all veterans. In order to do this, we need your help. We hope to get the turkey and/or ham donated - already cooked. But we will need sides and desserts. If you know of a business or individual who would like to donate food, let us know. If you would like to volunteer to provide a dish, paper goods or drinks, contact Tammy Coleman or Patti Cousins. We will also need help decorating tables and setting up/cleaning up, so if you can't cook we can still use your help.