



## Calendar of Events

**1 Nov** – Veterans honor booth @ SEMO tailgate party

**8 Nov** – MC Ball  
Drury Plaza CG, MO

**10 Nov**– Cake Cutting Ceremony; MO State Capital Rotunda

**11 Nov**– Veterans Day

**18 Nov** – SEMO  
Pound 330 Growl

**13 Dec** – Wreaths Across America

**13 Jan** – SEMO  
Pound 330 Growl

**Coffee Friday's 0700 @ The Barracks**



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# The Scuttlebutt

**Monthly Newsletter of the**  
**Corporal Mason O. Yarbrough Detachment 1081**  
**Commandant: Michael Woods**

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

**NOVEMBER 2025**

## Message from Detachment 1081 Commandant, Mike Woods

SEMPER FI and greetings Fellow Marines. Our 250th Marine Corps Ball will be at the Drury Conference Center on Nov 8, 2025. Past Commandant Rae Munoz will be committee chairperson for this event. Future planning meeting for the ball will be posted on the Members Only Facebook page.

Our Veterans Day ceremony we will be held Nov 11<sup>th</sup> at Freedom Corner, Capaha Park at 11 a.m.

As a reminder, the Toys-For-Tots campaign began 1 October. As usual, we will have our two-day drive in support of Toys-For-Tots at Schnucks in December.

If you have a smart phone, I encourage you to download the MCL app, and make sure you are a member of our Facebook page where we post timely updates on upcoming events, short fuse announcements and opportunities.

One of the many things that make our League so successful is the interaction and involvement with other detachments especially through the attendance at events. I encourage everyone to attend as many events as their circumstances will allow, and if possible, attend a meeting and/or Growl with Detachments 1473 in Poplar Bluff or Detachment 707 in Arnold.

I am proud to be a member of this organization and look forward to serving with you and continuing the tradition of making our MCL Mason O. Yarbrough Detachment 1081 an ever-positive evolving organization always proud of our traditions and works.

Thank you for your continued service.

SEMPER FI

Marine Mike Woods  
Commandant  
Marine Corps League Detachment 1081



# Senior Vice Commandant: Bob Fisher

The 250th Marine Corps Birthday holds deep personal meaning for me. It is far more than a date we celebrate—it is a reflection of history, honor, and identity. This milestone represents two and a half centuries of courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to duty. For me, it's also a time to look back on my own journey as a Marine and to appreciate the lasting impact the Corps has had on my life.

When I think about the Marine Corps reaching its 250th year, I can't help but feel a profound sense of pride. Few institutions in history have stood the test of time the way the Corps has. From the battles of old to the modern missions of today, Marines have remained true to the same values—honor, courage, and commitment. Those words aren't just etched into our minds during training; they become part of who we are. They shape how we live, how we lead, and how we face life long after we've hung up the uniform.



For me personally, the Marine Corps was where I learned the meaning of discipline, loyalty, and brotherhood. It's where I discovered my own strength and learned that real leadership means putting others before yourself. I think back to the long days, the tough moments, and the bonds formed through shared struggle. Those experiences are what define the spirit of the Corps—never giving up, no matter the odds, and always standing shoulder to shoulder with your fellow Marines.

The 250th birthday is also a time of remembrance. I think of the Marines who came before us—those who gave their lives in service to our nation and those who carried the torch of freedom so we could continue it. Their sacrifices built the foundation we stand on today. Honoring them reminds me that being a Marine is not just about wearing the uniform; it's about living with purpose, integrity, and faithfulness in everything we do.

Even after leaving active service, the Marine Corps remains a part of me. The lessons, the values, and the pride continue to guide my life every day. Whether it's facing challenges, helping others, or simply striving to do what's right, the Marine Corps spirit never fades. That's what makes this 250th birthday so meaningful—it's a celebration of a legacy that still lives in each of us.

As I reflect on this historic milestone, I feel grateful to be part of something greater than myself. The Marine Corps has shaped not only my character but also my understanding of duty, sacrifice, and love of country. The 250th birthday reminds me that our legacy continues—not just in battlefields or history books, but also in the lives and hearts of every Marine that's ever served.

So, when I say Semper Fidelis, I say it with pride, respect, and gratitude—for the Corps, for my fellow Marines, and for the unbreakable bond that time will never erase. The Marine Corps isn't just part of America's history—it's part of who I am.

Once a Marine, always a Marine. Semper Fi,

Marine Bob Fisher  
Senior Vice Commandant  
Marine Corps League Detachment 1081

# Chaplains Corner: Jim Stroman

Philippians 3:14 (KJV)

*"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

## LEADERSHIP

To the fainthearted and uncertain, this message is for you: if you're afraid of the future, then get out of the way, stand aside. The people of this country are ready to move again. History is a river that could take us as it will. But, we have the power to navigate, to change direction, and make our passage together.



*"With our eyes fixed on the future, but recognizing the realities of today...we will achieve our destiny to be a shining city on a hill for all mankind to see."* ~ President Ronald Reagan

We are in a time of thanksgiving, both for 250 years of our Marine Corps and our nation. Do not forget the Veterans that we will celebrate on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. As I pray for you, I ask that you pray for our nation's First Responders, that God will keep them safe. Our military, that servicemembers may remember their training and be ready and "on the alert." And also, our Marine Corps league members and families. Pray for good health and safety in all they do. Pray that God will continue to bless America.

Marine Jim Stroman  
Chaplain  
Marine Corps League Detachment 1081

# Auxiliary News: NeTasha Loyd

## *November Already!*

Toys-For-Tots is in full swing! If you'd like to help or know someone who would, please contact Darlene MacCubbin. She will need help from time to time and will appreciate the volunteers.

Keep those volunteer hours coming into Darlene MacCubbin. Everyone has a few floating around!

The 250<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball is Nov 8<sup>th</sup> at the Drury Plaza Hotel. The ladies auxiliary will meet that morning at 9 a.m. to decorate tables. All auxiliary members available are welcome to lend a hand.

If you have any ideas for fundraising for the future, we ask that you please bring them and share them for discussion and possible action and the same with service projects. Let's keep moving and let the community know we are here!

Please keep our military and their families near and far in your thoughts and prayers as well as our Marine Corps League and Auxiliary members.



## ~~November Birthdays~~

Angel Guthrie \* Samantha Fox \* Dale Humphries \* NeTasha Loyd

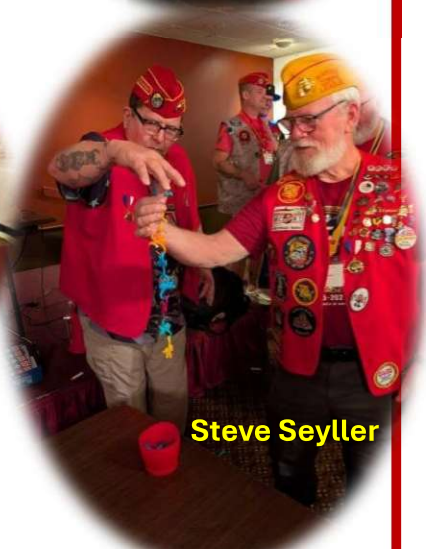
November Meal: Food – Angie Bollwerk  
Dessert – Joy Rubi

Respectfully Submitted,

NeTasha Loyd  
Secretary/Treasurer, Unit 426

# Activities & Events

Raised 10s of 1000s for the  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Games Night





The Military Order of the Devil Dogs  
"St. Charles County Dogs"  
Pound 086 Growl  
Missouri Pack  
Wentzville, Missouri  
25 October 2025



Steve Seytler



Mystery Animal



Cindy Langness

Mike Francesc



Steve Seytler



Group Photo



Steve Seytler

# Scuttlebutt Editor: Mitch Cassell

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANTHONY GALE, USMC: The Only Marine Corps Commandant Ever Court Martialed, Fired and Dismissed From Service



Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Gale, fourth Commandant of the Marine Corps and the only one ever fired, was born in Dublin, Ireland, on 17 September 1782. His tenure as Commandant lasted just 19 months, from March 1819 until October 1820. He is seldom-mentioned in the annals of USMC history because the events surrounding his dismissal were said to have brought “*embarrassment*” upon himself and the United States Marine Corps.

Fewer records survive concerning Gale, but it is known that he arrived in the nascent United States in 1793. When President John Adams rebooted the Marine Corps (which had been disbanded after the American Revolution), Gale was among the first to sign up as an officer, receiving his Second Lieutenant commission on 2 September 1798. Thereafter, and in fairly-quick succession, he fought the French, the Barbary pirates, the British navy, and a US Navy officer aboard the *USS Ganges*. The last encounter, involving an affront to the Corps, brought about the naval officer’s sudden demise. When Navy Lieutenant Allan MacKensie arrested one of Gale’s Marines aboard ship, Gale slapped the officer and challenged him to a duel that killed MacKensie. Superiors in Washington believed the duel would force Navy officers to treat Marines with respect. Commandant LtCol William Ward Burrows approved of Gale defending the honor of his Corps.

By 1804, Gale was brevet Major responsible for the recruitment and training of Marines. And new Commandant LtCol Franklin Wharton had a very different view of Gale than Burrows. In 1815, while commanding Marine Barracks at Philadelphia, Gale fell out with Wharton over allegations of alcoholism, sloppy management of Barracks construction, and misappropriating funds to renovate his personal home. Wharton took Gale to trial, but a court of inquiry cleared him of any wrongdoing. Nonetheless, Wharton “banished” Gale to the then-backwater of New Orleans – perhaps not the best place for a potential alcoholic in the early 19th Century.

When Wharton died in late 1818, Anthony Gale was the most senior Marine Corps officer. As a consequence of his many alleged shortcomings, Capt Gale had to battle for the job of Commandant. Capt Archibald Henderson, second most senior officer, was characteristically blunt in assessing Gale’s qualifications, or lack thereof, to Secretary of the Navy Smith Thompson. Though exonerated of all charges at a court of inquiry, no one forgot about them. While others wanted him removed from consideration to become Commandant, Gale himself was less concerned with that promotion and more concerned with keeping his head down and not being fired. Even though he was not trying to become Commandant, that’s exactly what happened. Captain Anthony Gale was promoted to LtCol and Commandant of the Marine

Corps on March 3, 1819. By then, the Marine Corps had been without a leader for six months, becoming disorganized and undisciplined in the months since Wharton's death.

True to form, Gale had trouble with the position immediately, finding himself in Secretary Thompson's gunsights. Thompson frequently countermanded Gale's orders in a humiliating manner, sometimes at the request of Gale's own subordinates. Failing in his attempts to reorganize the Corps, LtCol Gale "courageously" submitted a letter analyzing the proper division of function between himself and the Secretary, respectfully pointing out the impossibility of his position. Overwhelmed and frustrated by infringements on his authority, Gale again retreated to alcohol.

Gale's mental state deteriorated as he became a drunkard, a womanizer, and verbally abusive toward his subordinates, which all led to Secretary Thompson ordering him to remain in his quarters, which Gale violated on at least one occasion. Eventually, he was charged with Drunkenness, Conduct Unbecoming an Officer, Signing False Documents, and Leaving His Quarters Without Permission. On 18 September 1820, he was placed under house arrest and court-martialed soon thereafter. He pleaded not guilty due to mental instability, but the court still found him guilty of all charges. He was removed as Commandant on 16 October 1820, and dismissed from the Marine Corps – less than two years into his tenure.

After being "helped" out of the service, Gale went first to Philadelphia where he spent several months in hospitals. Finding no peace in Philadelphia, he moved his family to a log cabin in Kentucky where he found that being a farmer was not in his blood. So, he turned back to his old friend – alcohol. He fought to be granted a pension for his mental instability, earning one 15 years later in what might be one of the earliest veteran disability claim suits. In 1835, the government partially cleared him of his court-martial charges and awarded him a stipend of \$25 a month. Gale died of lung cancer in 1843 in Stanford, Kentucky.

Several of his sons also joined the Marine Corps, and some of them served in the Civil War. They apparently had no idea their father had once served as Commandant of the Marine Corps, believing he had been a quartermaster. As a result of being dismissed and the lack of surviving records, Gale's final resting place is unknown. There is no official portrait of him, and no one knows what he looked like – which is why he is considered "**missing**" from official historical accounts. His sons are also lost to history.

#### Sources:

- Marine Corps University
- We Are the Mighty – Online

