



**The Pikes Peak Scuttlebutt
June 2026 Newsletter
Pikes Peak Detachment 29
Marine Corps League**

P.O. Box 10536 Colorado Springs, CO 80932-1536
Newsletter Editor Terry Crum
<https://www.pikespeakmcl.org>



2026 Pikes Peak Detachment Officers

Commandant / Quartermaster
Senior Vice Commandant
Junior Vice Commandant
Judge Advocate
Junior Past Commandant
Adjutant

Osa Tuck
Paul Reifke
John Alban
Brandy Bejarano
Jennifer Luckett
Mark Shuster

Paymaster
Chaplain/Web Sgt
Sgt-at-Arms
MCL Aux Pikes Peak Unit
MODD Pound Keeper

Dan Wood
Terry Crum
Scott Douglass
Donna Rae Smith
PDD Russ Miller

Pikes Peaks Det. 29 Monthly Meeting



Saturday, 20 June 2026

Breakfast \$10



Breakfast starts at 0800 Meeting Starts 0900

DAV Chapter 26 6800 Palmer Park Blvd

We meet the third Saturday of every month

Dept. of Colorado Staff Meeting

Hosted by the Home of Heroes Marines Det. 1376

Saturday July 25, 2026



American Legion Post #2

701 W 9th St Pueblo CO 81003

Meet n Greet 1100, Lunch 1200, Staff Meeting 1300

CO Pack Growl shortly after the staff meeting

**2026 Pikes Peak Region Marine Corps Ball at the Hotel Polaris
Tickets Now On Sale**



**Celebrating America's 250th Birthday with Pikes Peak Region's
251st Marine Corps Birthday Ball**

Saturday, November 7, 2026

<https://pikespeakmcl.org/2026-ball> for ball ticket purchases.

Guest of Honor: Sgt Maj Mario P. Fields, USMC (Ret)

Commandant Osa Tuck

Hi all, hope this finds you all well.

June starts tomorrow and what a hectic month we just completed. Second weekend in May was the Department Convention. I think everyone that went had a good time and learned a thing or two. The third weekend we had the Detachment meeting. The following weekend was Territory days all weekend. We had a good turnout and had fun doing it. At the same time we had the Wreath Laying Ceremony at Memorial Park. Starting to think of things we can do next year. The next event was cash sales at the Main Event for the Thunderbird Fly over. Unfortunately, the flyover was cancelled due to weather but we still had a good time.

I want to thank all of you that attended and helped with the setup, tear down, and visiting with everyone that came by. All of you are fantastic, and I am pretty sure the Quartermaster enjoyed the assistance you all provided.

Our next general meeting is June 20th. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Next major events coming up, July 4th Parade in Monument. Details will be announced when we get them. Then we have the MCL and MCLA National Convention, 8-10-26 through 8-14-26. It is being held at the Wyndham Indianapolis Airport Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241. Room reservations are available at the overflow hotel. Find that information on the National MCL website, under convention. Also in August, we have a cash sales event in Cripple Creek. Look for info from the Quartermaster. I want to thank each and every one of you. All of you are greatly appreciated.

Semper Fi,
Commandant Osa

May 2026 Pikes Peak Detachment Monthly meeting.



Quartermaster Osa Tuck

Cash Sales started out with Territory Days. All of you that helped, did an absolute fantastic job! Thank you very much for all the help. Next was The Thunderbirds at Main Event. You all did a great job on setting up and tearing down for a four hour event. Thanks for everything you all did. The next major event is The Salute to American Veterans Rally in Cripple Creek. This is a fun event. I will be spending the time up there. It will be a blast.

Keep up the good work all of you, you are greatly appreciated

Semper Fi,
Osa

Chaplain Terry Crum

Dear Marine Corps League family. Summertime is here, and I know I am not the only one with plenty of yard work to do.

My deepest thanks to the members of the honor guard and bereavement team who attended the memorial services that were held so far this year and gave comfort and encouragement to the families.

More members are always needed for the honor guard and the Bereavement Team. All members of the honor guard also perform the second duty of being at the ceremonies as bereavement team members. No special training is required to provide comfort to the family that has recently suffered the loss of a loved one. No special words of wisdom need be memorized. Just be there. The MCL uniform speaks volumes.

As I have stated before, we are all our brother's keepers. Therefore, I would also ask you to consider spending some time going and visiting some of our fellow Marines and FMF Corpsmen who are hospitalized, living in nursing care facilities, or just unable to get out and about on their own.

Maybe you are aware of one of our members or members' families who are sick or in distress. Let me know so that we might lift them up in our thoughts and prayers and see how we might be of assistance in their time of need. That somebody in need could be you. Let me know. Every member of our detachment is a potential recruiter of new MCL members and a potential chaplain. As I have said so often, you are your brothers and sisters keeper.

I talk about many of our members during the monthly meetings who are in need of prayers. Many of us are under a heavy load due to the cross that is placed on us. We would prefer not to bear the load. However, when during life we are handed a cross, it is for us to carry – not to ignore. If God gives you the burden, He will see you through it.

"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

May the Lord continue to bless you and your family,
Terry



No matter what you're going through,
help is just a click away.

Paymaster Dan Wood

I just want to remind everyone, EXCEPT Life members, that your annual dues will be due by July 31. PLEASE don't wait until the last minute, IF possible. There are only 7 members that are in danger of being dropped from the National and our Detachment Rosters. I will be sending out ONE invoice via PAYPAL to each of you so please open it and very conveniently pay your dues.

Semper Fi,
Dan



Reent Honor Bell Guest Tollers Dan Wood and Paul Ragan

Honor Guard Commander Terry Crum

Greetings motivated Marines, dedicated FMF Corpsmen, outstanding associate members, and excellent auxiliary members. There truly is no rest for the weary if you are a member of the Pikes Peak Detachment Honor Guard. A small but loyal band of brothers is performing the bulk of the rifle details for the detachment.

For many honorably discharged Veterans, when it is time for them to report to their final duty, if we do not perform the rifle volley, then it does not happen. If that is not reason enough to have the honor guard, the detachment makes money every time the honor guard provides the three-round volley for a Veteran's funeral.

The Honor Bell has provided the bell toll for hundreds of Veterans at their funeral ceremony. A number of Pikes Peak Detachment Veterans have served as guest tollers of the Honor Bell. The most recent have been Dan Wood and Paul Ragan.

Four members of the Pikes Peak Detachment family: Bill Bohn, Jack Eusey, Joe V. Martinez, and Hilton Sipp, were members of the Honor Flight Mission 22. All four had an incredible time in Washington D.C. It was an honor to be at the Colorado Springs Christian Church to welcome the heroes home. Hilton Sipp had issues with his oxygen equipment in Washington, D.C. and was unable to take the return flight to the Springs. Therefore, he was not at the return home ceremony. He did make it home safe and sound. Going forward if you are on an Honor Flight, please let us know so that we can share your joy and welcome you home at the end of your trip.

Semper Fi,
Terry

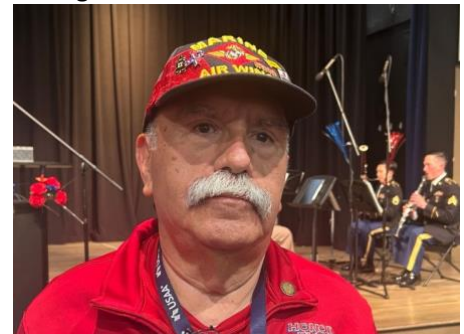
Pikes Peak Detachment members upon return from the Honor Flight Mission 22.



Bill Bohn



Jack Eusey and wife



Joe V. Martinez

VSO Dan Wood

MCL VSO Director has asked that we inform our Department/Detachments about a recent court ruling against a company that finally got caught illegally filing claims for veterans. Below is the brief statement about the case that was handled by our supporting Law Firm Bergman & Moore. If you would like to see the full description, let me know and I will forward the document to you.

The bottom line: The U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina has granted summary judgment in favor of the plaintiff Veterans on a key threshold question: Veterans Guardian VA Claim Consulting, LLC was acting as an unaccredited VA agent when it prepared and presented Veterans' disability claims for a fee, in violation of federal law. This is not a preliminary procedural ruling; it is an established finding of fact that will carry into the remaining proceedings. The court will decide the state law damages questions (North Carolina Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act and Debt Collection Act) for a later order.

This is just one of the fraudulent companies out there screwing our Veterans by misrepresentation and scamming them for large amounts of money. So, IF you or another Vet you know of has been scammed by this firm or another one like it, PLEASE reach out to me to see what can/will be done on their/your behalf.

Semper Fi,
Dan



Pikes Peak Det. Ladies Luncheon Monday June 15th at noon



The next Marine Corps League ladies luncheon will be held on Monday, June 15 at noon at The Olive Garden, 513 Academy Blvd. @ the Citadel Crossing.

Karen George will be there to greet you because I will be in South Dakota taking care of my mother.

Please text me or call me at 719-237-3034 to let me know if you are going to come!!
Thanks so much!
Theresa



2026 MCL National Convention August 10th-14th

WYNDHAM INDIANAPOLIS AIRPORT HOTEL. 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241
<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/convention/>

Pikes Peak MCL Auxiliary President Donna Rae Smith



Hello Everyone!

Welcome to June!! May was absolutely crazy busy for our Unit. We had Department Convention the second weekend, unit and detachment meeting the third weekend, Cash Sales the entire Memorial Day weekend, Wreath Laying Ceremony at Memorial Park on Memorial Day, then Cash Sales at Main Event for the Air Force Academy's graduation air show from the Thunderbirds on the 28th. You all did an amazing job showing up and volunteering for all these events – THANK YOU!!! Now that June is here, we can relax a bit and enjoy the beginning of summer.

The upcoming schedule is ...

- June 20, 2026 – Monthly meeting. Immediately following the Detachment meeting. Located at the DAV Bingo Hall on the corner of Palmer Park and Peterson
- July 4, 2026 – Monument 4th of July Parade in Monument, CO. Details TBA
- August 10 thru August 14, 2026 – MCL & MCLA National Convention
Wyndham Indianapolis Airport Hotel
2544 Executive Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46241
 - Room reservations are available at the overflow hotel
Delta Hotels Indianapolis Airport – reservation link can be found on the National Marine Corps League website under convention.
- August 21 & 22, 2026 – Salute to American Veterans Rally – Cripple Creek, CO

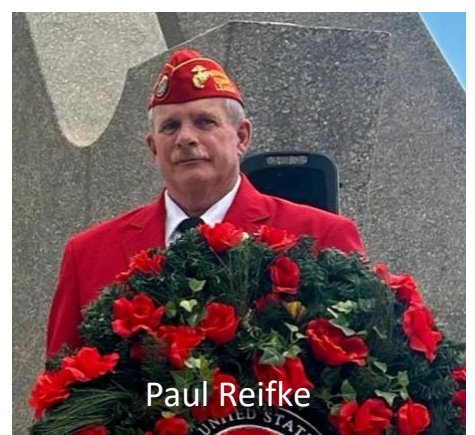
Thank you everyone for all that you do for our Marines, Veterans, their families and our community! I look forward to seeing you throughout the month.

Thank you,
Donna

2026 Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony at Memorial Park, Colorado Springs.



Nancy Reifke



Paul Reifke

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices - *President Harry S. Truman*



WWII/Korean War/Vietnam Luncheon

Monday, June 8, 2026 (the 2nd Monday of every month)

Veterans start arriving at 1030 Guest speaker starts at 1115

Guest Speaker: Col Mark Shuster USMC (Retired)

Stetson Hills I-HOP private dining room; 5749 Stetson Hills Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80917



End of an Era – the Last Harrier Retires

The Marine Corps held a Sundowning ceremony for the last AV-8B Harrier II. VMA-223 “Bulldogs” officially retired its last Harriers at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, June 3, 2026. The VMFA-223 Bulldogs will begin transition to the F-35B Lightning II in the near future.



Pikes Peak Detachment Monthly Minutes



Adjutant’s Report

TOPIC: Regular Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: DAV 26

Date: 16 May 2026



Mark Shuster
Retired US Marine
Detachment Adjutant
Life Member 59784 / MODD 04-351

Sgt At Arms Scott Douglass secured the room ensuring all present were qualified to be at the regular meeting.
 Sgt At Arms Scott Douglass posted the Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 Chaplain Terry Crum led the opening prayer.
 Commandant Osa Tuck opened the meeting at 0903.

Roll Call of Officers:

Pikes Peak MCL Det 29 Officers		
Commandant	Osa Tuck	Present
Sr. Vice Commandant	Paul Reifke	Present
Jr. Vice Commandant	John Alban	Present
Judge Advocate	Brandy Bejarano	Present
Adjutant	Mark Shuster	Present
Paymaster	Dan Wood	Present
Chaplain	Terry Crum	Present
Sgt At Arms	Scott Douglass	Present
Jr. Past Commandant	Jennifer Luckett	Present
Quartermaster	Osa Tuck	Present
Web Sergeant	Terry Crum	Present

Recognition of Dignitaries:

- National Sr. Vice Commandant Russ Miller Excused
- MCL Rocky Mt. Division Chaplain Milt “Doc” Whitaker - Excused
- MCL Department of Colorado Sr. Vice Commandant Terry Crum – Present
- MCL Home of Heroes Detachment 1376 Commandant, Vince Espinoza - Present

Guests:

- The lovely wife of Thomas Lippert, Angel Lippert, joined us for the meeting.

Guest Speaker

- Our next guest speaker will be the El Paso County Sheriff, Joe Roybal, at our meeting on Saturday, 18 July 2026. The Sheriff will speak from 0830-0900 and present us with a discussion about the current state of his office. Please remember to come early.

Applications for membership:

- None.

Previous meeting minutes:

- The Commandant entertained a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes for Pikes Peak MCL Det 29 as posted in the newsletter. A motion to accept was made by Scott Douglass and the motion was seconded by Paul Reifke. The motion carried and was passed.

Correspondence:

- NSTR

Report of the Paymaster:

- Copies of the Detachment financial accounts, membership roster and monthly newsletter were available.
- Membership cards are available for pickup at the meetings. These will not be mailed out due to costs of postage.
- The Commandant entertained a motion to accept the Paymaster report pending audit. A motion to accept was made by Thomas Lippert and the motion was seconded by Steve Lucks. The motion carried and was passed.

Report of the Chaplain:

- Sick and in distress. Physical and mental needs of our members is important to share with others for support. If you are struggling, please communicate so we can provide you with help.
- John Huntz is battling a lot of health issues from his service in Vietnam, police officer and other issues. He is at home healing and would love a call or visit.
- Ken Sanguinetti is in the Center at Centennial in room 312 – his condition is stable. He will remain there for some time. If you visit him, he will eat fresh baked cookies! Ken’s wife, Jean, passed away and her funeral was on Monday, 11 May 2026. Russ Miller was the chaplain at the funeral.
- Bonnie Rudolph is recovering from hip replacement surgery. She has also lost three of her sisters in the past six months.
- Denise Wickersheim’s hip replacement surgery is on 1 June 2026.
- Terry Farstad is having hip replacement surgery. This is his second hip replacement surgery!
- Mary Shuster will have surgery on 3 June 2026.
- Mark Young, 2 tours of Vietnam in the US Army and is an associate member. He suffered a stroke a short time ago and after talking with Terry he said he is doing well.
- Terry and Theresa Crum have been in South Dakota visiting Theresa’s mother as she continues to heal from her fall last year.
- Judy Carty is in assisted living at Brookdale and is doing well. She would love visitors.
- Continued prayers for Terry Baty, Vince Espinoza, Milt “Doc” Whitaker, Fred Smith and Lynn Douglass.
- RIP for Marine Craig Reeling – former National Toys for Tots liaison and member of multiple Detachments including our Det 29.
- Please be sure to send all of your thoughts, prayers and positive energy to everyone who needs our support!!

Report of Officers:

Commandant Osa Tuck:

- CO Department convention went well. Pikes Peak attendees were Paul & Nancy Reifke, Brandy Bejarano, Dan Wood, Scott Douglass, Jennifer Luckett, Russ & Carmela Miller, Katrina, Terry and Theresa Crum, Osa Tuck and Donna Rae Smith.

Sr. Vice Commandant Paul Reifke:

- Nothing significant to report.

Jr. Vice Commandant John Alban:

- Nothing significant to report.

Judge Advocate Brandy Bejarano:

- Nothing significant to report.

Jr. Past Commandant Jennifer Luckett:

- Nothing significant to report.

Sgt At Arms Scott Douglass:

- Nothing significant to report.

Adjutant Mark Shuster:

- 42 members were in attendance with 1 guest.

Quartermaster Osa Tuck:

- Thank you Brandy, Scott & Donna for helping with cash sales during the CO Department convention.
- Territory days over Memorial Day weekend. Signup sheet is up front.
- Territory Days in Colorado City – May 23, 24 and 25. Set up is early Saturday the 23rd and tear down is Monday afternoon. We have 1 hour to tear down and be off the street Monday. Signup sheet is at the front table. Please sign up if you have not yet done so.
- Cash sales will be set up on May 28, 2026, in the parking lot of the Main Event for the Air Force Academy graduation. Please come out and see the Thunderbirds annual fly over.
- Cripple Creek is August 21st and 22nd. Set up only is the morning of August 20. Sales are open to the public on the 21st and 22nd. If you plan on helping each day and want to stay in Cripple Creek rather than drive home each day, you might want to get your hotel room reservations now, or your camp site reservations if staying in your RV.

Honor Guard Captain Terry Crum:

- There have been 17 services executed in 2026.
- Rifle cleaning and lubrication continues to keep the unit equipment in working order.
- Terry now has a new flag designated specifically for honor guard ceremonies.

Web Sgt Terry Crum:

- Nothing significant to report.

Toys for Tots Donna Rae Smith:

- Still looking for a warehouse building for the 2026 campaign. Requirement is 10,000 square feet with bathrooms and heat. Please let Russ Miller or Donna Rae Smith know if you hear of any locations interested in helping.

MODD Osa Tuck for Russ Miller:

- Brandy Bejarano and Scott Douglass pass initiation and moved up.
- Osa was re-elected to Pack Leader.
- All regular members in good standing, who have been a member of the MCL for at least a year are welcome to join the 'fun and honor society' of the Marine Corps League – WOOF WOOF!

MCL Auxiliary

- The bowl-a-thon planning has kicked off with more to follow soon.

- Items are already being collected for the Marine Corps Ball silent auction. Everything raised from the silent auction goes to the annual Marine Corps Ball fund.

Report of Standing Committees

Budget Donna Rae Smith:

- Donna and Dan will sit down together in June to prepare the budget.

Scholarship Kittrrie Adams:

- Kittrrie met with Ms. Kylie Glenn who was very grateful to receive the scholarship.

Marine Corps Ball – Mark Shuster and Donna Rae Smith:

- Mark Shuster
 - Planning for a June and/or July event is taking place.
- Donna Rae Smith
 - Come to the Marine Corps Birthday ball at Hotel Polaris on Saturday, 7 November 2026. The prices have not changed, and the room rate remains the same per-diem rate. There are more rooms being added for Friday and Saturday.
 - Tickets for the ball and room reservations are available on the Pikes Peak Detachment website!!
 - The theme will be the ball is, “Celebrate the United States 250th Birthday and the Marine Corps’ 251st Birthday”.
 - If you have any issues or problems with the rooms please call Donna and not the hotel.

Unfinished Business:

- Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony is at Memorial Park on 25 May 2026. Please be there at 1000 for setting up with the ceremony at 1100. Bring your own lawn chair because there is no seating at the park.
- Territory Days is Memorial Day weekend May 23, 24, 25.

New Business:

- 2026 National Marine Corps League National Convention
 - Monday, 10-14 Aug 2026
 - Wyndham Indianapolis Airport Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241
 - Sign-up sheet is at the front table. This must be submitted not later than the afternoon of 18 July 2026.

Good of the League:

- Mark Shuster announced that Sherwin-Williams has an annual Heroes Program where they paint a house for free for a special member of the community. Working with the District Manager, Mark nominated a MCL member. Sherwin Williams will be painting the home of Karen George for FREE!! The event will take place in August and Mark is asking for MCL volunteers to help that day. The tentative day is 1 Aug 2026 and will be 0600-1800.
- Bill Bohn will be on the next CO Springs Honor Flight to Washington, DC.
- Mark Shuster will be the guest speaker at the next World War II luncheon in June.
- Marine Corps League women’s luncheon will be on Friday, 22 May 2026, at 1200 noon at Red Robin on Powers and Bloomington Street. Please call Theresa Crum for more information.
- 50/50 – a total of \$174 was collected and \$87 was won by Brandy Bejarano! Brandy donated the money to the Marine Corps Ball!

Closing Ceremony:

- Sgt At Arms Scott Douglass retired the Colors.
- Chaplain Terry Crum said the closing prayer.
- The Senior Vice Commandant executed the closing actions.
- Commandant Osa Tuck closed the Pikes Peak Detachment 29 meeting at 0942.
- The next meeting will be held on Saturday, 20 June 2026, at 0900.

Another successful Detachment meeting.

Very Respectfully Submitted and Semper Fi,

Mark Shuster