



The Pikes Peak Scuttlebutt
December 2025 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>



2025 Pikes Peak Detachment Officers

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

Osa Tuck
Paul Reifke
John Alban
Vince Espinoza
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

The Pikes Peaks Detachment
Monthly Meeting
Saturday, 20 December 2025



Breakfast is free this month
Awards and officer swearing-in



Breakfast starts at 0800 Meeting Starts 0900
DAV Chapter 26 6800 Palmer Park Blvd

Department of Colorado Quarterly Staff Meeting
Saturday, 24 January 2026



Host: Pikes Peak Detachment

DAV Chapter 26

6880 Palmer Park Blvd Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Social 1100 – Lunch 1200 – Meeting 1300

Pack Growl shortly after the meeting

Guests at the November detachment meeting



Brad Virus



Louis Rodriguez



Tristen Chunn



Rebecca Keltie

2025 Pikes Peak Region Marine Corps Ball



2025 Wreath Laying Ceremony at Memorial Park, Colorado Springs.

The wreath laying ceremony harkens back to the solemn Armistice Day.



Paymaster Dan Wood

Well here we are at the end of another successful year. With this report we only have 14 Delinquent members, most of whom I've talked with to get their dues caught up. So let's keep those commitments going with your dues paid up at our last meeting of the year. If I haven't contacted you, and you're not sure if you're delinquent, then please reach out to me. Here's a hint on the dues process: Our Fiscal year runs from 01 Aug until 31 July so if you have NOT paid your dues since 01 August then you ARE DELINQUENT!! Too easy right? I'm available most days if you need me to meet up with you or, if necessary, I will come to your residence to take care of it.

With this meeting already full of installation of officers, handing out of certificates, etc. it may be difficult to process your payment at the meeting, HOWEVER, I will make every effort to accommodate your need.

Everyone have a safe and wonderful Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!
Dan

Pikes Peak Detachment members and Pikes Peak Young Marines before the 2025 Manitou Christmas Parade. The Manitou Springs Christmas Parade every year ask everyone attending the parade to get into the spirit of giving by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to the parade. The Young Marines collected toys along the parade route from parade goers for Toys for Tots.



2025 Veterans Day Parade, Colorado Springs.



Chaplain Terry Crum

Marine Corps League family.

So much has happened since the last newsletter and December is only going to keep busy. Recently the anniversary of Pearl Harbor on December 7th came and went with little fanfare on the news for example. Soon many folks across the country will be placing wreaths on all of the tomb stones of Veterans on Saturday December 13th as part of the national program "Wreaths Across America." Wreaths will be placed on tomb stones at many cemeteries in the Colorado Springs area.

On behalf of Theresa and myself Theresa and I will be hosting our Annual Crum Cottage Open house. As with previous years you are all welcome to stop at your leisure and enjoy some conversation and great holiday delectables during this Christmas open house. The open house will be Sunday, December 14th 1:00-4:00 PM. Our address is 7514 Wrangler Ridge Drive.

Please keep the following detachment members and their family members in your thoughts and prayers. So many of our members are battling ailments, some more severe than others, but I'm sure they can all use a bit of healing prayer. Please contact me day or night (719) 432-7340 so that we might lift them up in our thoughts and prayers. Let us know how we can be a source of comfort and assistance in time of need.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your family,

Terry

Honor Guard Commander Terry Crum

Greetings motivated Marines, dedicated FMF Corpsmen, outstanding associate members, and excellent auxiliary members. The honor guard continues to be busy and the cooler temperatures do not lessen our commitment to serve honors when requested. In addition to making themselves available at short notice for funeral service honors.

A few weeks ago a ceremony was held at the Mt. Carmel Center to ring into service Honor Bell Number 2. This bell will serve the Pikes Peak region as Honor Bell number 1 serves the Denver area. Members of the MCL Pikes Peak Detachment Honor Guard teamed up with members of the American Legion Post 209 Honor Guard to provide a rifle salute for the ceremony. This was the first time our Honor Guard has teamed up with another organization and the results were outstanding. Us with old M1 rifles and them with their AR-15 rifles. I predict this will not be the last time this happens.

If you retained basic rifle manual from boot camp, then you could join our ranks. We are busy now and I predict that this trend will continue.

Semper Fi,
Terry

Honor Guard members of the MCL Pikes Peak Det. teamed up with members of the American Legion Post 209 for the dedication ceremony for the Honor Bell 2.





Toys for Tots Warehouse Needs Help Sorting Toys!

Hello everybody,

The Pikes Peak Region Toys for Tots needs help sorting toys. Your help is needed! Normal warehouse hours are 9 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday.

Toys for Tots Warehouse 1980 S. Academy Blvd, Unit D. Down behind Loaf and Jug at the Corner of Chelton and Academy. Enter the warehouse from the back of the building.

Please contact me if you wish to help. If I am alone at the warehouse, the door is often locked for my safety, and you will not be able to get in. See below for my phone number.

Thanks you,

Donna Rae Smith

donnarae.mcl29@gmail.com

815-973-0073



Marine Corps History December

Marine Henry Talmage Elrod

Medal of honor Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while attached to Marine Fighting Squadron 211, during action against enemy Japanese land, surface and aerial units at Wake Island, 8-23 December 1941. Engaging vastly superior forces of enemy bombers and warships on 9 and 12 December, Capt. Elrod shot down two of a flight of 22 hostile planes and, executing repeated bombing and strafing runs at extremely low altitude and close range, succeeded in inflicting deadly damage upon a large Japanese vessel, thereby sinking the first major warship to be destroyed by small-caliber bombs delivered from a fighter-type aircraft. When his plane was disabled by hostile fire and no other ships were operative, Capt. Elrod assumed command of one flank of the line set up in defiance of the enemy landing and, conducting a brilliant defense, enabled his men to hold their positions and repulse intense hostile fusillades to provide covering fire for unarmed ammunition carriers. Capturing an automatic weapon during one enemy rush in force, he gave his own firearm to one of his men and fought on vigorously against the Japanese. Responsible in a large measure for the strength of his sector's gallant resistance, on 23 December, Capt. Elrod led his men with bold aggressiveness until he fell, mortally wounded. His superb skill as a pilot, daring leadership, and unswerving devotion to duty distinguished him among the defenders of Wake Island, and his valiant conduct reflects the highest credit upon himself and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

Pikes Peak Detachment Monthly Meeting Minutes



Adjutant's Report

TOPIC: Regular Meeting Minutes
LOCATION: DAV 26
Date: 15 Nov 2025



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

Sgt At Arms Scott Douglas secured the room ensuring all present were qualified to be at the regular meeting.
Sgt At Arms Scott Douglas posted the Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Chaplain Terry Crum led the opening prayer.
Sr. Vice Commandant Paul Reifke opened the meeting at 0900.

Roll Call of Officers:

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

Recognition of Dignitaries:

- National Sr. Vice Commandant Russ Miller – Excused
- MCL Rocky Mt. Division/Department of Colorado Chaplain Milt “Doc” Whitaker – Present
- MCL Department of Colorado Sr. Vice Commandant Terry Crum – Present
- Pueblo Detachment 1376 Commandant Vince Espinosa - Present
- Marine Corps League Auxiliary National Judge Advocate & Marine Corps League Auxiliary Department of Colorado Jr. Vice Commandant Donna Rae Smith – Present

Guests:

- Louis Rodriguez
- Brad Virus – decided to join as an Associate Member to drive the MCL fire truck
- Tristen Chunn – MCL member from Texas looking to have a dual membership
- Rebecca Keltie, Colorado State Representative, House District 16, PO1, USN(Ret)

Applications for membership:

- Multiple guests were submitting applications for membership. The Sr Vice Commandant entertained a motion to accept all memberships submitted and paid for to the Detachment Paymaster following the meeting, with DD214 verification. A motion to accept was made by Dan Wood and the motion was seconded by John Huntz. The motion carried and was passed.

Previous meeting minutes:

- The Sr Vice 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 Larry Hathaway and the motion was seconded by Bert Stewart. The motion carried and was passed.

Correspondence:

- NSTR for correspondence.
- Dan is representing 15 Veterans as the detachment VSO. For security purposes, he is going to transfer all documents from the Paymaster laptop to a new computer he will purchase himself

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 Sr Vice Commandant entertained a motion to accept the Paymaster report pending audit. A motion to accept was made by Larry Hathaway and the motion was seconded by Bert Stewart. The motion carried and was passed.

Report of the Chaplain:

- Sick and in distress: Osa Tuck was recently in the hospital and was excused from the meeting as he returned home and was recovering.
- Please remember to send thoughts and prayers for the care takers of our members as they need support.
- Please keep all of our associate members in our thoughts and prayers as well.
- 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:**

- A note from Osa was read by Sr Vice Commandant Paul Reifke. "Thank you to everyone who attended to Marine Corps Ball and Veterans Day parade. This month we will hold elections and at the December meeting newly elected officers will be sworn in, and awards will be presented.
- Pikes Peak will be hosting the January Quarterly staff meeting on January 24, 2026.

Sr. Vice Commandant Paul Reifke:

- Nothing significant to report.

Jr. Vice Commandant John Alban:

- Nothing significant to report.

Judge Advocate Vince Espinosa:

- Today is Vince's last meeting as a Pikes Peak officer and active member. He is now the Commandant of the Pueblo Detachment. He will put his focus and energy to the Pueblo Detachment and Toys for Tots in Pueblo.

Jr. Past Commandant Jennifer Luckett:

- Nothing significant to report.

Sgt At Arms Scott Douglas:

- Nothing significant to report.

Adjutant Mark Shuster:

- 41 members were in attendance with 4 guests.

Quartermaster Osa Tuck:

- Excused

Honor Guard Terry Crum:

- There were 23 Veteran ceremonies in 2025, more than last year.
- On Monday, 17 Nov 2025, at 1400, the Honor Guard will support the dedication of the second Honor Bell at Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center.
- If you are interested in joining the Honor Guard please talk to Terry Crum!

Webmaster Terry Crum:

- Our Detachment website will be updated and hosted by Go Daddy. It will work better online and with smart devices. National MCL would like Detachment websites to look more like their website.
- If you are not receiving emails, please check your spam or promotion folders to make sure the messages are there. If this is not happening, please contact Terry to fix this.

Toys for Tots Russ Miller:

- The warehouse is located at 1980 S. Academy Blvd, Suite D.
- If the door is locked, Donna is there alone. Please call her and let her know you are at the door.
- Volunteers are needed to deliver boxes, as well as helping the WACs set up the back area.
- Donna will be there from 0900-1500 Monday through Friday.

MODD Russ Miller:

- Excused

Report of Standing Committees

Budget Donna Rae Smith:

- Nothing significant to report.

Scholarship Kittrie Adams:

- Nothing significant to report.

Marine Corps Ball – Mark Shuster and Donna Rae Smith:

- Attendance was fantastic with 550 tickets sold. The entire event was outstanding, and we are excited to see everyone next year in November 2026.
- Mark Shuster reported that our family nights and sponsorships raised \$4,875.19 for the ball! The goal is to raise more in 2026.
- Thank you to everyone who donated their time and effort to support the ball.

Marine Corps League Auxiliary Pikes Peak Unit 525 Donna Rae Smith:

- Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with the silent auction this year.
- The silent auction raised \$5,210 and sold 63 out of 69 items at the ball. There are 4 items left to be picked up which represents an additional \$240 that will be added to the total raised.

Unfinished Business:

- Homeless Veteran Stand Down was be held on Tuesday, 21 October 2025.

New Business:

- Pikes Peak will be hosting the January Quarterly Staff meeting on January 24, 2026. Time and location is TBD.

Special Business:

- Former Pikes Peak Commandant Joe V. Mmartinez conducted the nomination and election of 2026 Detachment Officers.
 - Joe opened the floor for nominations for the office of Commandant. Larry Hathaway nominated Osa Tuck. John Huntz seconded this nomination. Joe read a letter from Osa stating he would accept the

nomination. Joe asked for other nominations an additional three times and there were no other nominations for the position of Commandant. Joe closed the nomination.

- Joe opened the floor for nominations for the office of Sr. Vice Commandant. Terry Crum nominated Paul Reifke. Dan Wood seconded this nomination. Joe asked Paul Reifke if he would accept the nomination and he agreed. Joe asked for other nominations an additional three times and there were no other nominations for the position of Sr. Vice Commandant. Joe closed the nomination.
- Joe opened the floor for nominations for the office of Jr. Vice Commandant. Jennifer Luckett nominated John Alban. Dan Wood seconded this nomination. Joe asked John Alban if he would accept the nomination and he agreed. Joe asked for other nominations an additional three times and there were no other nominations for the position of Jr. Vice Commandant. Joe closed the nomination.
- Joe opened the floor for nominations for the office of Judge Advocate. Vince Espinosa nominated Brandy Bejarano. Dan Wood seconded this nomination. Joe asked Brandy Bejarano if he would accept the nomination and he agreed. Joe asked for other nominations and Jennifer Luckett nominated John Huntz with Dan Wood seconding. Joe asked John Huntz if he would accept the nomination and he passed to allow Brandy to serve. Joe ask for other nominations an additional three times and there were no other nominations for the position of Judge Advocate. Joe closed the nomination.
- Joe closed the nominations with the following nominations:
 - Commandant – Osa Tuck
 - Sr. Vice Commandant – Paul Reifke
 - Jr. Vice Commandant – John Alban
 - Judge Advocate – Brandy Bejarano
- Joe called for the vote of all nominations and the motion passed.
- Congratulations to all of the newly elected Officers, we appreciate your willingness to serve.

Good of the League:

- Susi Huntz was the 2024 Associate of the Year. She is the committee chair for the 2025 Associate of the Year. Any detachment member can nominate an Associate member for the award. Please have nominations submitted NLT 01 Dec 2025.
- Chaplain Milt “Doc” Whitaker was the 2024 Marine of the Year. He now has the honor of chairing this year’s program to select the 2025 Marine of the Year award. Please have nominations submitted NLT 01 Dec 2025.
- Mark Shuster thanked Brandy Bejarano for his very generous \$1500 donation for the MCL table sponsorship at the Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center Hoe Down for Heroes event.
- Theresa Crum mentioned the annual Crum Cottage Christmas Open House will be on Dec 14, 2025, from 1300-1600. Everyone is invited to attend.
- 50/50 – a total of \$153 was collected and \$76.50 was won by Kittrie Adams! Congratulations Kittrie and thank you to everyone who supported the 50/50 raffle this month.
- Please bring a toy for Toys for Tots to the December meeting when breakfast will be free.

Closing Ceremony:

- Sgt At Arms Scott Douglas retired the Colors.
- Chaplain Terry Crum said the closing prayer.
- Jr. Vice Commandant John Alban executed the closing actions normally performed by the Sr. Vice Commandant.
- Sr. Vice Commandant Paul Reifke closed the Pikes Peak Detachment 29 meeting at 1002.
- The next meeting will be held on Saturday, 20 December 2025, at 0900.

Another successful Detachment meeting.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Shuster