



**The Pikes Peak Scuttlebutt
October 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, 17 October 2026

Breakfast \$10

Breakfast starts at 0800 Meeting Starts 0900

DAV Chapter 26 6800 Palmer Park Blvd

Growl of the MODD Pound 150 after the Meeting



Dept. of Colorado Staff Meeting

Hosted by the Whipple-Coffey Detachment 1441

Ralston Creek Church 6425 Wadsworth Blvd Arvada, CO 80003

Saturday, October 24, 2026

Social 1100. Lunch 1200. Meeting 1300

MODD Colorado Pack Growl shortly after the meeting



2026 Pikes Peak Region Marine Corps Ball at the Hotel Polaris

Tickets Now On Sale. We still need to sell many more tickets!!!!



***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)

Pikes Peak September Detachment meeting



New Member Paul Dunbar



Paul Mole



Commandant Osa Tuck



The Pikes Peak Detachment is a prayerful detachment



Cash sales in business!

Commandant Osa Tuck

All,

A big shout out goes to the Auxiliary. They did a fantastic job with the first Bob and Marianne Smith Memorial bowl a thon. Great job team!! By the time you read this, the latest High Country Toy Run, has finished. We had a fantastic turnout on riders, almost double from last year. Great Job all!!!

Fun stuff coming up in the next couple of months. The 2026 Ball is coming up, make sure you get your ticket soon, before they are gone.

Department staff meeting is coming up, the end of October, all members in good standing are welcome to attend. Reach out if you need any information.

Elections are coming up. If you can, step up and help shape our detachment.

Semper Fi

Osa Tuck

Commandant

WWII/Korean War/Vietnam Luncheon
Monday, October 12, 2026
(the 2nd Monday of every month)
Veterans start arriving at 1030

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



Paymaster Dan Wood

Hello fellow Marines and Associates, it's a beautiful day here in the Springs and I hope you all are getting out there to support the many events that our MCL Det. #29 have going on now or coming up soon. I highly encourage each one of us to do all we can to help make all of our events very successful as the funds raised do, help our Detachment to continue to provide the many requests for help received throughout the year.

The Marine Corps Ball is right around the corner and the crew is busy putting everything together to make it the most successful Ball ever. There are tickets still available so go online, with the email address in the event box above.

Next, I would like to remind those of you that maybe couldn't make the last meeting that please, please come to the meeting on the 17th and get caught up on your annual dues. Again, as a friendly reminder, IF YOU HAVE NOT GIVEN THE PAYMASTER \$36 since 31 JULY, you are in the Delinquent mode and will not be able to vote until they are paid.

NO WORRIES, I will be at the meeting by 08:00 and can take your payment(s) at that time. If you can't make it you can mail your check/money order/cash to:

PO BOX 10536
C.S., CO. 80932-1536

EASY SCHMEAZY,
SEMPER FI,
Dan

Honor Guard Commander Terry Crum

Patriots. September has been a quiet month for the Honor Guard. We did have a working party to clean and lubricate the detachment's M1 Garand rifles. I am thankful for the Marines who helped with the needed maintenance.

Our calendar has a few funeral ceremonies on it. This includes the ceremony for the six unclaimed Veterans. Read the Chaplain's report for details.

We are always looking for more Marines for the Honor Guard. It has all the ingredients of an outstanding program: drill and ceremony, manual of arms, paying a final tribute to a fellow Veteran, firing rifles, camaraderie of Veterans. Sure, you are asked to clean and lubricate the rifles from time to time, if you are able, but that is all part and parcel with the pleasure of firing them.

Every honorably discharged veteran has the right to military funeral honors upon request.

Terry

The Honor Guard Marines clean and lubricate the detachment's M1 Garand rifles



Chaplain Terry Crum

Marine Corps League Family,

I am thankful for the hard work and effort that so many of our members put forth to further the cause of the Marine Corps League. To everyone who contributes their time and treasure to make the lives of Veterans and their families better, I salute you. I hope that while you labor for the good of so many, you remember to keep your spirits up and keep your eye on the big picture. Here is a short story that makes my point:

The Three Bricklayers: In this classic story, a traveler comes across three men working. He asks the first what he is doing, and the man grumbles, *"I am laying bricks."* He asks the second, who replies, *"I am building a wall."* When he asks the third, the man looks up with pride and says, *"I am building a cathedral."* This story reminds us to keep things in proper perspective. You might consider your role in the Marine League as small and insignificant, but done for the right reason, it can have a big impact.

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love"

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

It is with great sadness for me to announce the passing of Pikes Peak Detachment associate member Bradley Virus. Brad was a trucker by trade and had started to drive the detachment's fire engine for local parades. Watching him proudly drive the detachment's fire engine in the parades this year brought so much joy to everyone, and his presence will be deeply missed. Words cannot express how sorry we are; our hearts reach out to Brad's family as we share in this sorrow. He is survived by his wife Lori and son Bradley. Funeral service: Souls Harbor Church, 1715 4th St, Colorado Springs, CO 80907. October 25, 2026 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM.



Edwin Henry Beck February 8, 1925 - September 19, 2026

An American hero with strong ties to the Colorado Springs community passed away recently.

His life of service was defined by what he called "two wars and a prison camp." Edwin enlisted in the Army in 1943 and deployed to the European Theater with the 106th Infantry Division. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge on December 16, 1944, and escaped the German Prison Camp—an enduring testament to his resilience and courage. Edwin served with the 1st Cavalry Division in the Korean War. Below is a link for his obituary:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/fountain-co/edwin-beck-13047635>

There will be an Unclaimed Veterans Service is November 5, 2026 at 9:00 am at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery (PPNC). The ceremony will honor six unclaimed Veterans who were recently buried at PPNC or at the Fort Lyon National Cemetery. I will be the chaplain for the ceremony. The rifle volleys will be provided by a joint Honor Guard from the American Legion Post 209 and Pikes Peak Detachment 29. The detachment bereavement team and the public are welcome to attend the ceremony.

As you are able, check up on one that you care about. We are our brother's keeper. A phone call could do the person on the other end of the line a world of good.

For God and Country,
Terry

Web Sergeant Terry Crum

Leaguers,

I hope you are enjoying this award-winning newsletter and perhaps even learning a bit about the most outstanding detachment in the Marine Corps.

I was doing some work on the detachment website when I noticed that the website had been visited 5720 times in the last year and 1402 times in the last thirty days. Nice numbers. I am sure a lot of this traffic is because of the Marine Corps Ball.

If you or someone you know is having issues receiving the newsletters, please let me know. I am sure some of you are thinking, "If I was having trouble receiving the newsletter, then I would not be reading this". There is a comedian in every crowd...

Semper Fi,
Terry



Rebuilding Tun Tavern

There is a project underway to rebuild the birthplace of the U.S. Marine Corps. While the original location of the Tun is under I-95, the new location will be approximately 250 yards from the site, in the heart of Philadelphia's Old City District. The mission of The Tun Legacy Foundation is to fully reestablish The Tun® as a monument to its historical significance in the United States, and to inspire a perpetual commitment to charitable giving that uplifts and empowers.

Want to get involved?

Learn more at: <https://thetun.org/1775-club-by-the-tun/>

Do Facebook?: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553665078026>

There are plenty of ways to contribute financially to the Tun rebuild. Here are two examples:

Join the 1775 Club: <https://thetun.org/1775-club-by-the-tun/>

Buy a personalized brick: <https://thetun.org/the-tun-alley-brick-program/>



Pikes Peak MCL Auxiliary President Donna Rae Smith

Hello Everybody,

The first annual Bob & Marianne Smith Memorial Bowl-a-Thon was a success and everyone who came out had a great time. Thank you to everyone who donated, came out to bowl or cheer on bowlers, and/or bought raffle tickets or 50/50 tickets. You each made this event the success and fun filled event it was. The future Bowl-a-Thons have been moved to March, with the next one being held on March 20, 2027, at the Main Event. This was done, and approved by a membership vote, due to the crazy fall schedule of both the Auxiliary and the Detachment. More information will be announced when it gets closer. Again – thank you to all who helped and participated this year!

The upcoming schedule is ...

- October 4, 2026 – High Country Toy Run
Cash sales will be set up – please volunteer as a few of our Marines will be in Dress Blues handing ride pins to the riders. TOYS for TOTS!!
- October 17, 2026 – October monthly meeting. Elections and swearing in of new officers.
- October 24, 2026 – Quarterly Department of Colorado Staff Meeting
Ralston Creek Church – 6425 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada, CO
11:00 am – social hour; 12:00 pm – lunch; 1:00 pm – meeting – MODD Fleas following meeting.

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 Rae Smith
President



MARINE CORPS BALL SILENT AUCTION

Donations are being accepted for the Pikes Peak Region 251st Marine Corps Birthday Ball Silent Auction. If you would like to donate an item, please reach out to a Pikes Peak Unit member, or call Donna at 815-973-0073. The funds for this go straight into the Ball Fund to help keep the cost of tickets down for Marine Corps League members and Active Duty E5 and below.

Thank you,

Donna Rae Smith



Donna Rae Smith presented Whistle Pig Brewery owner Rob Beers the 1st place award for the 2025 Pikes Peak Toys for Tots Great Train Race. October 3, 2026. Joining members of the Pikes Peak Detachment for the event were Rich and Holly Caruso.

**Military Order of the Devil Dogs
Karnivorous Kanines of Pikes Peak Pound 150
Madam Dog Robber Jennifer Luckett**



Woof! Woof!

On behalf of Sir Pound Keeper Russ Miller this howl is made:

Howling for all dogs of Karnivorous Kanines of Pikes Peak Pound 150 to attend our **Annual Growl of the Pound** on Saturday, October 17, 2026. The growl will be immediately following the regular MC League meeting of Pikes Peak Detachment 29.

Please be in attendance with your Paws, Passports and one big bone fee, Collars and Dog-tags. If you can, bring Dog food donations for the rescue dogs we support. Be ready to cheer on Russ passing the Bone of all Bones and having someone in mind for stepping into his role as Pound Keeper. Also all the rest of the officer dogs who are either moving up the food chain or moving out!

Come see how the new KMA 2.0 works and learn how to update your information electronically!
Madam Dog Robber Jennifer Luckett

Honor Flight 23 Home Coming



Honor Flight 23 was made up of 83 Veterans, including Pat Mesa and Rick Archuletta, who returned home from Washington, D.C. , on October 3, 2026. The buses with the 83 Veterans arrived at the North Colorado Springs Readiness Center shortly before midnight. Among the crowd welcoming the Veterans home were detachment members Russ Miller, Terry & Theresa Crum, and Joe V. Martinez. A number of Rick Archuletta's family was on hand to welcome grandpa home.



High Country Toy Run October 4, 2026



Members of the Pikes Peak Detachment helped with the 2026 High Country Toy Run. Cash sales was up and running. Marines in dress blues handed out ride pins to the riders. About ten years ago, Tony "Bear" Barerra began the tradition of one or more Marines in dress blues saluting the bikers as they departed the Pikes Peak Harley parking lot. Joining Terry Crum and Austin Springs in handing out ride pins was Rich Caruso. Osa Tuck and Donna Rae Smith led the cash sales. Hunter Olson entertained the riders, and Theresa Crum took pictures.

Homeless Veterans Stand Down

October 20, 2026

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Weidner Field



*Pikes Peak Det. Ladies Luncheon
Monday, October 19th at noon*



The Ladies Luncheon will be at the Los Volcanes Authentic Mexican Restaurant – 4767 N Carefree Circle, COS 80917.

Call or text me to let me know if you will be joining us! Thanks! Theresa
(719) 237-3034 or cscgirl88@gmail.com





Adjutant's Report

TOPIC: Regular Meeting
Minutes

LOCATION: DAV 26

Date: 19 Sept 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.

Colorado Department Commandant and Detachment 29 Chaplain, Terry Crum, led the opening prayer.

Commandant Osa Tuck opened the meeting at 0900.

Roll Call of Officers:

Pikes Peak MCL Det 29 Officers		
Commandant	Osa Tuck	Present
Sr. Vice Commandant	Paul Reifke	Excused
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

*** NOTE: Unfortunately, my voice recording of the meeting was not properly saved this month. I have put together my report to the best of my knowledge based on notes and inputs from the board. ***

Recognition of Dignitaries:

- MCL National Commandant Russ Miller - Present
- MCL National Chief of Staff Mark Shuster - Present
- MCL Rocky Mt. Division Chaplain Milt "Doc" Whitaker - Excused
- MCL Department of Colorado Commandant Terry Crum – Present
- MCL Department of Colorado Judge Advocate Jennifer Luckett - Present

Guests:

- Paul Dunbar – prior Captain of US Marines

Guest Speaker

- Sheriff Roybal's upcoming guest speaking event is postponed to early 2027 due to the Sheriff's schedule. He remains excited to meet everyone and appreciates our support in adjusting to his schedule.

Applications for membership:

- One guest submitted an application for membership. The 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 Russ Miller and the motion was seconded by Dan Wood. The motion carried and was passed.

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 Bert Stewart. The motion carried and was passed.

Correspondence:

- Dan provided an update on correspondence received and a \$500 donation deposited to the ball fund.

Report of the Paymaster:

- Copies of Dan's reports are available at the front desk during the meeting.
- The Commandant entertained a motion to accept the Paymaster report pending audit. A motion to accept was made by Scott Douglass and the motion was seconded by Bert Stewart. 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.
- Judy Carty is in assisted living at Brookdale on Monument Street. She is doing well. Terry and Theresa visited her.
- Carmella Miller's brother, Fernando, passed away. Thoughts and prayers are with her family.
- Please pray for Terry Baty, Vince Espinoza, Doc Whitaker, Fred Smith, Mark Young, Judy Carty, Ken Sanquinetti, Brad James (wife Jeanette), John Huntz, Marianne Smith, Bill & Roz Bohn, John Hunt's son-in-law Nathan and Rick Archuletta.
- 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:

- Congratulations to Russ Miller for being elected as the National Commandant during the MCL Convention in Indianapolis!! Also, congratulations to Mark Shuster for being appointed as Russ' National Chief of Staff!!

Sr. Vice Commandant Paul Reifke:

- Excused

Jr. Vice Commandant John Alban:

- The Veterans Day Parade will take place the morning of 7 Nov 2026. More information to come and please remember, this is the same morning as the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

Judge Advocate Brandy Bejarano:

- Nothing significant to report.

Jr. Past Commandant Jennifer Lockett:

- Nothing significant to report.

Sgt At Arms Scott Douglass:

- Nothing significant to report.

Adjutant Mark Shuster:

- 40 members were in attendance with 1 guest.

Quartermaster Osa Tuck:

- Salute to American Veterans Rally – Thank you to those who volunteered to help this year.
- L3 Screen Printing & Embroidery is the new embroidery company we use. They have finished with the polos that were ordered as well as a couple of covers. The items have been picked up and are available. Please check in with me to pick up your order.

Honor Guard Terry Crum:

- The Honor Guard as completed 34 ceremonies this year. There will be two ceremonies in early October.
- The team completed a rifle detail for the Salute to American Veteran rally in Cripple Creek on short notice.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with the rifle cleaning party.

Web Sergeant Terry Crum:

- Nothing significant to report.

Toys for Tots Russ Miller:

- Still looking for a warehouse building for the 2026 campaign. Requirement is 10,000 square feet with bathrooms and heat. Please let Russ or Donna know if you hear of any locations interested in helping.
- Members continue to send Russ information about locations. Please include the address to any location you provide because he cannot always figure out the location just from photographs.

MODD Russ Miller:

- Mark Shuster earned his PDD at the National Convention in Indianapolis!!
- There will be a growl on 17 Oct 2026 with elections.

MCL Auxiliary

- Bowl-a-Thon is taking place at the Main Event – 1180 InterQuest Parkway on 20 Sept 2026. Registration is at 1030 with bowling to start at 1100. Registration is \$15 per person – which covers 3 games of bowling with shoe rental. If you are not bowling, please feel free to donate. Everything is going to support the Detachment and the Unit. Come have fun and cheer on the bowlers!!
- Items are already being collected for the Marine Corps Ball silent auction. If you have anything to donate, please reach out to a Pikes Peak Auxiliary member. Everything raised from the silent auction goes to the annual Marine Corps Ball fund.

Report of Standing Committees

Budget Donna Rae Smith:

- Donna will be working on the budget in October.

Scholarship:

- Kittrie and Chris moved to Gunnison in July. If you are interested in this committee, please see Osa.

Marine Corps Ball – Mark Shuster and Donna Rae Smith:

- Mark Shuster
 - Thank you to everyone who supported our family night events this year. We raised a total of \$420.27 in 2026 for the ball!!
 - We have approximately \$16,000 in pledged sponsorships this year. We also will have new KRDO commercial hitting the airwaves and a video spot from Peaks 2 Plains weather station.
 - An upcoming schedule for those involved in the ceremony will be published soon.
 - Donations are being accepted. The full donation request packages are available – please let Mark know if you know of any local business partner who can support us.
- Donna Rae Smith
 - There have been approximately 200 tickets sold, but only 25 from the detachment!! Get your tickets today! Tickets will not be sold at the door.
 - James and Susan Edwards, from Heretic Custom Arms has made a custom rifle for a silent auction at the Ball. The rifle will have an engraved EGA and it will be on display at the ball. There will be 500 tickets sold and James & Susan will be at the ball to draw the ticket during the ceremony.
 - Please invite everyone you know!!
 - Come to the Marine Corps Birthday ball at Hotel Polaris on Saturday, 7 November 2026.
 - Tickets for the ball and room reservations are available on the Pikes Peak Website!!
 - If you have any issues or problems with the rooms please call Donna and not the hotel.

Unfinished Business:

- Nothing significant to report

New Business:

- Terry Crum discussed the Tun Organization that is rebuilding the Tun Tavern in Philadelphia. There are two ways to help. Join the “1775 Club” for \$17.75 per month for 12 months or \$213 up front.

You can also buy a personalized brick to be laid at The Tun for only \$517.70. Further information will be available for possibly the Detachment and CO Department buying a brick.

- The 2026 Homeless Veteran Stand Down is Tuesday, 20 Oct 2026. Opening ceremony is 0815-0830 and the event is from 0900-1400. Come early for free parking is limited. Please let Terry Crum know if you are able to support and put your name on the sign-up sheet. The location of the event is: Weidner Field at 111 W. Cimarron St. The MCL table will be on the second floor and will hand out DRMO poncho liners.
- Honor Flight will send off Veterans on 2 Oct 2026 and be welcomed home on 3 Oct 2026 at 2100 at the North Colorado Springs Readiness Center.
- Department of Colorado staff meeting
 - Sunday, 24 Oct 2026 – hosted by the Whipple-Coffey Detachment
 - Ralston Creek Church – 6425 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, CO
 - Social Hour 1100, lunch 1200, meeting 1300 with MODD Growl after the meeting.

Good of the League:

- Thank you to everyone who showed up to help paint Karen George's house that was all donated by Sherwin-Williams (for free) on Friday, 31 July 2026. It was an outstanding event and we are grateful to have helped.
- Theresa Crum announced that next lunch meeting for the Women of the MCL will be at 1200 noon on 19 Oct 2026 at Los Volcanes Authentic Mexican Restaurant – 4767 N Carefree Circle, COS 80917
- NOTE: If you or an organization you know is looking to have our National Commandant, Russ Miller, attend please reach out to Mark Shuster to help coordinate.
- 50/50 – a total of \$170 was collected and \$85 was won by Rich Archuleta.

Closing Ceremony:

- Sgt At Arms Scott Douglass retired the Colors.
- MCL Rocky Mt. Division Chaplain Milt "Doc" Whitaker said the closing prayer.
- The Junior Vice Commandant executed the Senior Vice Commandant's closing actions.
- Commandant Osa Tuck closed the Pikes Peak Detachment 29 meeting at 1009.
- The next meeting will be held on Saturday, 17 Oct 2026, at 0900.

Another successful Detachment meeting.

Very Respectfully Submitted and Semper Fi,

Mark Shuster

Mark Shuster
Retired US Marine
Detachment Adjutant
Life Member 59784 / MODD 04-35