



**The Pikes Peak Scuttlebutt
August 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, 19 September 2026

Breakfast \$10

Breakfast starts at 0800 Meeting Starts 0900

DAV Chapter 26 6800 Palmer Park Blvd

The August meeting is cancelled due to various detachment commitments



**2026 MCL National Convention
August 10th-14th**

WYNDHAM INDIANAPOLIS AIRPORT HOTEL. 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241

<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/convention/>

**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)

Paymaster Dan Wood

ONE LAST APPEAL: IF you are NOT A LIFE MEMBER, your dues are NOW DUE. The fiscal year ends on 31 August 2026 so REGARDLESS of when you paid your dues in the PAST YEAR, you MUST NOW pay them for the next Fiscal Year 01 Sept. 2026-31 Aug. 2027 by 31 August.

Semper Fi,
Dan

Chaplain Terry Crum

Marine Corps League Family,

Theresa and I are finally home for good, from South Dakota. As so much as Theresa's home state has so much to offer, Colorado is our home.

If I should miss the mark, give me the courage to try again. This simple line from the Marine's Prayer has been a mantra for me lately. This can cover a lot of ground for me. Covering all that I may have done wrong, and that I should have done, but failed to do.

I would be remiss if I did not relate how thankful I am for Milt Whitaker, aka "Doc", aka "Chappie". Doc stood in for me as the chaplain for the last two det. meetings. Once a MCL chaplain – always a chaplain! And Doc is right up there with the best. Speaking of Doc Whitaker, he will be having surgery Monday the 10th at Memorial North Hospital. A portion of his spine will be fused to relieve pain. The plan is for Doc to be home by that evening after the surgery and Ann will be his nurse. Please pray that the doctors and nurses are guided by the Jesus during the surgery. Keep Milt and Ann in your prayers as well.

Korean War Veteran Marine Ken Sanguinetti now lives at the nursing home at St. Francis of Assisi. He is in pretty good spirits and welcomes guests, his room is 337. Theresa and I visited him last Sunday and brought him homemade cookies. Ken is a member of the Knights of Columbus. I contacted the Knights of the St. Francis of Assisi Parish and they are now aware that he is there and will keep an eye on him.

Do not forget that the August Pikes Peak Detachment meeting is cancelled due to the many commitments of August. Until the September meeting take care of yourself and yours. Pray for our Armed Forces serving our country here and abroad. Pray for our brave firefighters battling the many wildfires afflicting our fair land. Theresa and I will be departing for the MCL National Convention in Indianapolis soon; however, I am always reachable by phone, text, or email for your needs. May the Lord continue to bless you and your family,

Terry

Honor Guard Commander Terry Crum

Patriots. The mission of the honor guard continues. We are early in the month of August and already the honor guard has rendered honors for thirty Veterans. This early in the year and 2026 has broken the record for the number of ceremonies in a year and there is no sign of this trend ending.

Because the Honor Guard is always striving to improve performance, we have started to incorporate flag folding rehearsal into our time prior to ceremonies at Pikes Peak National Cemetery (PPNC). Rarely are we asked to provide this portion ceremony, but when the rare time occurs, we want to be prepared to provide the most professional performance that we can.

Every honorably discharged Veteran deserves full military honors for his funeral ceremony.

Semper Fi,
Terry

Web Sergeant Terry Crum

Leaguers, would it not be great if there was a place online to see clearly what event were upcoming for the Pikes Peak Detachment? Well, there is. All a person needs to do is visit the detachment events page at: <https://pikespeakmcl.org/events> . A bit of time will make you well versed in the upcoming activities of this detachment.

Semper Fi,
Terry

Pikes Peak MCL Auxiliary President Donna Rae Smith



Hello from the corn fields of the northwestern corner of Illinois.

MCLA Pikes Peak Unit is holding a virtual Pampered Chef fundraiser party through Facebook. Pikes Peak Unit earns 30% of total sales for this party. Please feel free to pass the link on to friends and family you think would be interested. Funds raised will benefit the Unit, Detachment programs, Toys for Tots, Young Marines, Veterans and our community. Thank you.

The link to the catalog is <https://www.pamperedchef.com/party/e3mf2X>

(NOTE - Donna's party URL will be in the FEATURED TAB for easy access. Any orders placed now will count toward the party!)

The upcoming schedule is ...

- August 10 thru August 14, 2026 – MCL & MCLA National Convention
Wyndham Indianapolis Airport Hotel
2544 Executive Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46241
- August 21 & 22, 2026 – Salute to American Veterans Rally – Cripple Creek, CO
The Detachment will have the Cash Sales tent set up. Please volunteer to help.
- September 19, 2026 – September monthly meeting. Elections and swearing in of officers will be held during this 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. If you would like to donate an item, please reach out to a Pikes Peak Unit member. The funds for this go straight into the Ball Fund to help keep the cost of tickets down for MCL members and Active Duty E5 and below.

Thank you,
Donna Rae Smith

WWII/Korean War/Vietnam Luncheon



Monday, August 10, 2026
(the 2nd Monday of every month)

Veterans start arriving at 1030

Guest speaker starts at 1115



Guest Speaker: Barbara Harris, Honor Flight

Stetson Hills I-HOP

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



Pikes Peak Det. Ladies Luncheon **Thursday, August 20th at noon**



The Marine Corps League Ladies Luncheon will be at ROCKS 24 Pizzeria on Thursday, August 20th at noon. This is located at 2810 E. Fountain Blvd. If you want to carpool from north Colorado Springs let me know and we can make arrangements. See the website:

[Chicago-Style Pizza & Italian Beefs - Colorado Springs](#)

Call or text me to let me know if you will be joining us! Thanks! Theresa



Marine Corps History **August**

Henderson Field Secured

On August 9, 1942, the 1st Engineer Battalion began work on an airstrip taken from Japanese forces on the island of Guadalcanal.

The work was done with captured Japanese equipment and three days later, on August 12, the first American airplane, a Navy PBV, landed on what by then was known as "Henderson Field" to evacuate two wounded Marines.

Over the next few months, as U.S. Marines fought to take control of the island, Henderson Field would be the staging area for the evacuation of almost 3,000 wounded Marines.

Marine Raiders Strike Makin Island

On August 17, 1942, the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion under Lieutenant Colonel Evans F. Carlson landed on Makin Island.

The Raiders, who were launched from the submarines *Nautilus* and *Argonaut*, destroyed a seaplane base, two radio stations, and a supply warehouse, in addition to killing approximately 100 Japanese soldiers before leaving the island the following day.



Adjutant's Report

TOPIC: Regular Meeting
Minutes

LOCATION: DAV 26

Date: 18 July 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.
MCL Rocky Mt. Division Chaplain Milt "Doc" Whitaker 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	Excused
Judge Advocate	Brandy Bejarano	Present
Adjutant	Mark Shuster	Present
Paymaster	Dan Wood	Present
Chaplain	Terry Crum	Excused
Sgt At Arms	Scott Douglass	Present
Jr. Past Commandant	Jennifer Luckett	Present
Quartermaster	Osa Tuck	Present
Web Sergeant	Terry Crum	Excused

****ATTENTION: There is no meeting in August due to National Convention and Cripple Creek****

Recognition of Dignitaries:

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

Guests:

- Bill Stanley
- Otto "Glen" Cross

Guest Speaker

- Our next guest speaker will be the El Paso County Sheriff, Joe Roybal, at our meeting on Saturday, 19 Sept 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:

- Multiple guests were submitting applications 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 Bert Stewart. 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 Dan Wood and the motion was seconded by Scott Douglass. The motion carried and was passed.

Correspondence:

- NSTR

Report of the Paymaster:

- There were no copies of financial reports due to Dan's printer not working. If you would like to see any reports please reach out to Dan.
- The Commandant entertained a motion to accept the Paymaster report pending audit. A motion to accept was made by Brandy Bejarano and the motion was seconded by Bill Bohn. 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.
- This report was given by MCL Rocky Mt. Division Chaplain Milt "Doc" Whitaker.
- Chaplain Terry Crum and Teressa Crum were out of town managing her mother's estate after she recently passed away.
- 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:**

- Department staff meeting – we need a final count today of who is attending so the Pueblo Detachment can order food.
- National Convention sign-up sheet is on the table. Please sign up today if you are going. The form and fees are due to National this coming week. If you change your mind and want to go, you can register on site, but the fees will double.
- We had a great turnout (15 members) for the Monument 4th of July parade. The crowd for this parade was huge and is a lot of fun. Please consider joining us next year if you have not done so before.

Sr. Vice Commandant Paul Reifke:

- Nothing significant to report.

Jr. Vice Commandant John Alban:

- Excused.

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:

- 39 members were in attendance with 2 guests.

Quartermaster Osa Tuck:

- Salute to American Veterans Rally – Friday, 21 August and Saturday 22 Aug. Setup is Thursday 20 Aug. Sign up sheet is on the front table.

- We are looking to sign up at the Flea Market on Platt for next season. The choices are Friday only, and/or both Saturday and Sunday. The reason for looking into this is due to not being able to set up in front of Walmart due to their changes and Scheels not allowing us to.

Honor Guard Terry Crum:

- This report was given by MCL Rocky Mt. Division Chaplain Milt “Doc” Whitaker.
- There is a service for Maine Doug Brock, 33-year-old Marine Veteran. Services will be at the Veteran’s cemetery at 1000 hours on 24 July 2026.

Web Sergeant Terry Crum:

- Excused.

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:

- Annual membership dues for all dogs who are not yet a life member are due this month.
- There was a growl at Russ’ house this past weekend and we had great food (thanks Brandy) and a lot of fun.
- 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

- Donna was at her grandson’s graduation from Army bootcamp.
- Carmella gave the report.
- The bowl-a-thon.
 - Main Event – 1180 Interquest Parkway, Colorado Springs.
 - Sunday, September 20, 2026 – 10:30 am registration. 11:00 am bowling begins.
 - \$15.00 per person registration – pays for 3 games of bowling and shoe rental.
- 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.
- There is no meeting in August

Report of Standing Committees

Budget Donna Rae Smith:

- Donna was at her grandson’s graduation from Army bootcamp.

Scholarship:

- We are looking for a new scholarship committee lead and members. If you are interested, please see Osa.

Marine Corps Ball – Mark Shuster and Donna Rae Smith:

- Mark Shuster
 - The next family night fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, 26 July 2026 at the Main Event. Please join us from 4:00-6:00 pm. Information will be sent out by email. Thank you Katrina for helping to set up our family night events! We are working on the next event for August.
 - The family night fundraiser following July is on Sunday, 30 Aug 2026 at Dave & Buster’s. Please join us from 1630-1930!
 - 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 – she was excused from the meeting.

- Please invite everyone you know!!
- Hotel update – the 2nd payment was paid on Friday, June 19.
- 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:

- 2026 Marine Corps League National Convention
 - Monday, Aug 10-14, 2026.
 - Wyndham Indianapolis Airport Hotel – 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241
 - Signup sheet is on the table up front. We need to submit the registration no later than the afternoon of July 18, 2026.
 - Rooms are booked ... backup hotel is Delta Hotel Indianapolis Airport – 5860 Fortune Circle West, Indianapolis, IN 46241. Rates may be higher as the group rates show closed as of July 15, 2026. For more information go to: www.mcllibrary.org/convention.

New Business:

- NO AUGUST MEETING!
- Department of Colorado staff meeting
 - Saturday, 25 July 2026 – Hosted by Home of Heroes Detachment in Pueblo
 - American Legion Post 2 – 701 W. 9th St, Pueblo, CO
 - Social Hour 1100, lunch 1200, meeting 1300 with MODD Growl after the meeting.

Good of the League:

- Karen George's house painting by Sherwin-Williams (for free) is on Friday, 31 July 2026. Come on out and help starting at 0700.
- Chirs Rauer and Kittrie Adams moved to Gunnison to be closer to their daughter and her husband. They started new jobs this month and are selling their house here in CO Springs. We are very happy for them and family comes first.
- Kristopher Thomas announced an open house hosted by the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 423 & Auxiliary Unit 423 on Saturday, 8 August 2026. It is from 1100-1500 at 2 Carson Circle, Fountain, CO 80817. Please visit www.moph423.org for more information.
- 50/50 – a total of \$112 was collected and \$56 was won by Jim Harper who donated it to the ball fund!

Closing Ceremony:

- Sgt At Arms Scott Douglass retired the Colors.
- MCL Rocky Mt. Division Chaplain Milt "Doc" Whitaker said the closing prayer.
- The Senior Vice Commandant executed the closing actions.
- Commandant Osa Tuck closed the Pikes Peak Detachment 29 meeting at 0945.
- The next meeting will be held on Saturday, 19 Sept 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 04-351