The Pikes Peak Scuttlebutt
November 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	**Osa Tuck**	Paymaster	Dan Wood
Senior Vice Commandant	Paul Reifke	Chaplain/Web Sgt	Terry Crum
Junior Vice Commandant	John Alban	Sgt-at-Arms	Scott Douglass
Judge Advocate	Brandy Bejarano	MCL Aux Pikes Peak Unit	Donna Rae Smith
Junior Past Commandant	Jennifer Luckett	MODD Pound Keeper	PDD Russ Miller
Adjutant	Mark Shuster		





Pikes Peaks Det. 29 Monthly Meeting

Saturday, 21 November 2026

Bring a new unopened toy for Toys for Tots and your breakfast is free
Otherwise breakfast is $10

Breakfast starts at 0800 Meeting Starts 0900

DAV Chapter 26 6800 Palmer Park Blvd



Pikes Peak Detachment October 2026 meeting



Guest Ron "Griff" Griffith



Guest Dan McCray



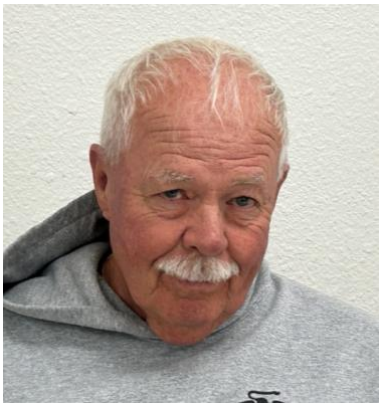
Guest Glenn Cross



Donna Rae Smith and Osa Tuck



Bill Bohn



Lew Andrew

2026 Pikes Peak Region Marine Corps Ball at the Hotel Polaris

Saturday, November 7, 2026



Marine Corps Ball Raffle

The detachment has a rifle for raffle at the Marine Corps Ball.

Tickets are on sale now and will also be sold at the Ball.

If interested, reach out to Osa Tuck or Larry Hathaway.

Tickets prices

$20 Per Ticket
Six Tickets for $100

Commandant Osa Tuck

Hope this finds you all in good spirits and health. The end of the year is rapidly approaching and we still have a couple of major events happening.

Our Marine Corps Birthday Ball is coming up on 11/7. I am looking forward to celebrating our birthday with you all at Hotel Polaris. By the time you read this, we will have wrapped up the Ball. I hope you all had a good time.

The November meeting is coming up, and as a reminder, we are doing elections. If you feel up to it, consider volunteering in a position in the League. Remember to bring a new, unwrapped toy for breakfast.

The December meeting will have us swearing in the officers we elected the month before.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in the next couple of months.

Semper FI, all

Osa Tuck



Paymaster Dan Wood

Short and sweet this time, there are still many individuals who have yet to pay their new year dues. Not January 01, 2027. Please, if you can't attend, reach out to me, and I'll make every effort to accommodate you so you can get them paid.

On a second note, the MCL VSO program has just finished the most complete registry that helps ALL Marines, Veterans, and Spouses of a Veteran, and in some cases their children in navigating the VA system. Basically, if you've got a question or a problem, this is the material for you.

This will help ANYONE needing almost any kind of assistance to be able to work through that process. I've asked our illustrious Web Master to attach that Registry (VSO 2026 FEDERAL BENEFITS BOOK) to this report for ALL veterans, etc., to have available to them. *Editor note: The is a link on the detachment website. To download a copy use this link:* *https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/3f82269e-c77c-412a-ac51-4ff47b10d401/downloads/3ccba7b0-c179-41b4-84c2-676ce1d9b22f/2026%20Federal%20Benefits%20Book%20(1).pdf?ver=1793922656305*

Please feel free to reach out to me should there be any questions or needs.

SEMPER FI,
Dan

Chaplain Terry Crum

Marine Corps League Family,

The Marine Corps Ball is almost here. 151 years young, and most of you Jarheads don't look a day older than 221. Theresa and I are excited to attend. The Hotel Polaris is such a beautiful venue for a Marine Corps Ball. I hope to see many of you there.

As always, the 2026 Homeless Veterans Stand Down was a success. Detachment members who manned the table for handing out poncho liners to homeless Veterans were Terry Crum, Theresa Crum, Scott Douglass, and Denise Wickershiem. Also volunteering at the stand down were Steve Lucks and Kristopher Thomas. The community is richer when Veterans come together to lift the lives of Veterans less fortunate than themselves.

Please keep the members of our detachment with serious health issues in your thoughts and prayers. The list of those in need continues to grow. We do not have the strength or the endurance to do this on our own, but if our strength comes from the one who created the universe. We can persevere.

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:29-31

Ending the article on an upbeat note, congratulations to the new parents, Austin and Nadine Springs. They are the proud parents of a 5 lb 2 oz baby girl named Catherine. I will close with an Irish blessing for baby Catherine and all the wee babies: “May strong arms hold you, caring hearts tend you, and may love await you at every step”.

For God and Country,
Terry

Members of the Pikes Peak Det. at the 2026 Homeless Veteran at Weidner Field





Veterans Day Ceremony at Memorial Park
11 November 2026 at 1100

The annual Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremony in Colorado Springs takes place on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Memorial Park (Monuments Garden on the east side of the park near the giant bell tower). Dress for the weather and feel free to bring lawn chairs. Seating is usually limited.

Honor Guard Commander Terry Crum

Patriots

The members of the Pikes Peak Detachment Honor Guard continue to meet and exceed my hopes and expectations. The number of ceremonies the honor guard performs is at a higher tempo than any other year. But the members are always ready for more. As of today, the honor guard has performed the three round volley for 40 military funeral ceremonies. Bravo Zulu, Marines.

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

Terry



Web Sergeant Terry Crum

Leaguers,
In the near future the detachment will no longer use Constant Contact. We have used this service for a number of years but it is time to move on. As many of you remember we are getting on line with Zeffy. Email to the detachment membership will continue but the format will be different.

We will go forward using the Marine Corps alternate motto “Semper Gumby” meaning always flexible. This will have no effect on the website or newsletter.

Semper Fi,
Terry

Marine Corps History
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedicated



On November 13, 1983, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, containing the names of more than 13,000 Marines who lost their lives in Vietnam, was dedicated during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The dedication, and the parade preceding it, were part of a week-long salute to veterans of the Vietnam War.

Pikes Peak MCL Auxiliary
President Donna Rae Smith

Hello Everybody,

October was definitely a whirlwind month for the Auxiliary. Thank you to everyone who either donated items to the silent auction, or picked up items from businesses, or came to put the baskets together. This silent auction is a team project, and what a team we have!!

The countdown for the Pikes Peak Region Marine Corps 251st Birthday Ball is zeroing in. By the time you read this, it will be over. I hope everyone had a great time and is already looking forward to the 252nd Birthday Ball.

Please remember to bring a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots to the November meeting. In return, your breakfast will be on the Pikes Peak Detachment. Please consider staying after the meeting to help the DAV Auxiliary put their food boxes together.

Thank you everyone for all that you do! Please have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Thank you,
Donna Rae Smith
President





Military Order of the Devil Dogs
Karnivorous Kanines of Pikes Peak Pound 150



The Karnivorous Kanines of Pikes Peak Pound 150 were proud to initiate and welcome the newest Pup to the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, Austing Springs.

Also We are happy to elect PDD Larry Hathaway as the Pound Kepper for Pound 150. PDD Russ Miller was the motivating pound keeper for two years and now it is time for something different. Woof-Woof!

Pikes Peak Det. Ladies Luncheon

The next Marine Corps League Ladies Luncheon will not be until January. We take November and December off from our luncheon because people are so busy during these holiday months!

Terry and Theresa would like to invite you to the Annual Crum Cottage Christmas Party which will be held on Sunday, December 13 from 1 to 4 in the afternoon. Put it on your calendars now. Watch for more details to come!



Marine Corps Hero
Colonel William Earl Barber



Marine Corps colonel who fought in Iwo Jima during World War II and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. Barber and his company of 220 men held off more than 1,400 Chinese soldiers during six days of fighting in North Korea, known as the last stand of Fox Company, only 82 US Marines walked away alive.

Adjutant's Report

TOPIC: Regular Meeting Minutes
LOCATION: DAV 26
Date: 17 Oct 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	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

*** NOTE: Unfortunately, like last month, my voice recording of the meeting did not properly save 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 – Present
- MCL Department of Colorado Commandant Terry Crum – Present
- MCL Department of Colorado Judge Advocate Jennifer Luckett - Present

Guests:

- Ron Griffith
- Glen Cross
- Daniel McCray

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 Paul Mole, Jr., 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 Bert Stewart and the motion was seconded by Paul Mole, Jr. The motion carried and was passed.

Correspondence:

- Dan reported on an email from National about VSO statistics. With only 52 VSO volunteers across the MCL, in FY2026 the MCL secured $157,751,371 to Vets and $10,310,000 DIC to dependents. This was an $8.3M increase.

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 Russ Miller and the motion was seconded by John Huntz. 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.
- Please send continued prayers for Terry Baty, Vince Espinoza, Doc Whitaker, Fred Smith, Mark Young, Judy Carty, Ken Sanquinetti, Brad James and wife Jeanette, John Huntz, Marianne Smith, Bert Steward and Karen George.
- Oct 23, 2026, at 1200 – Pikes Peak National Cemetery
    - Marine Vietnam Veteran Ed Kafell's funeral
    - Bereavement team – park your car in line for the 1145 procession
    - Red Blazer uniform is the preferred attire for Pikes Peak members
- Nov 5, 2026, at 0900 – Pikes Peak National Cemetery
    - Service for 6 unclaimed Veterans of the US Army and Air Force and Navy
    - Joint honor guard with MCL Det 29 and American Legion Post 209
- Please be sure to send all of your thoughts, prayers and positive energy to everyone who needs our support!!

<u>Report of Officers</u>

Commandant Osa Tuck:

- Elections are being held during the November meeting – next month. Swearing in will be during the December meeting.

Sr. Vice Commandant Paul Reifke:

- Nothing significant to report.

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 Luckett:

- Nothing significant to report.

Sgt At Arms Scott Douglass:

- Nothing significant to report.

Adjutant Mark Shuster:

- 44 members were in attendance with 3 guests.

Quartermaster Osa Tuck:

- High Country Toy Run – Thank you to those who volunteered to help this year.
- If you need Blazer buttons please see Osa Tuck.

Honor Guard Terry Crum:

- Services for MCL associate member Brad Virus will be held at Souls Harbor Church on 25 October 2026 from 2-4pm. He joined the detachment to proudly drive our Fire engine in parades. He will be deeply missed.

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:

- There will be a growl after the meeting today with elections. WOOF WOOF!!

MCL Auxiliary

- Bowl-a-Thon was a success – thank you for everyone who helped and came out to bowl. It was a lot of fun. As promised, the Auxiliary has made a wonderful donation to the MCL Detachment
    - $1,466 raised
    - $ 160 to the Main Event
    - $1,306 raised
    - $ 250 donated to the Detachment scholarship fund
    - $ 620 donated to the Detachment general fund

- 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:

- Nothing significant to report.

Scholarship:

- Nothing significant to report.

Marine Corps Ball – Mark Shuster and Donna Rae Smith:

- Mark Shuster
  - We have raised $143 from breakfast raffle winners
  - We have raised $420.27 from three family nights
  - Sponsorships have raised $14,500
  - KRDO has been running our 2026 Ball TV commercial and a video spot from Peaks 2 Plains weather station has been running on their platforms.
  - The USAFA band will be playing music for our ceremony and we have active-duty Marines supporting the formal ceremony.
  - MCL members are supporting the cake cutting detail and escorting the oldest and youngest Marines.
- Donna Rae Smith
  - Total of 292 tickets have been sold since before this meeting.
  - Tickets remain on sale – get your tickets and rooms today!! Tickets will not be sold at the door.
  - Rooms are available and if you have any issues contact Donna Rae Smith.
  - James and Susan Edwards, from Heretic Custom Arms has made a custom rifle for a silent auction at the Ball. There are 500 tickets for sale - $20 each or 6 for only $100
  - Please invite everyone you know!!
  - Come to the Marine Corps Birthday ball at Hotel Polaris on Saturday, 7 November 2026.

Unfinished Business:

- 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.
- The Detachment purchased a Tun Tavern Brick to help raise money for the new building in Philadelphia. Brandy Bejarano graciously donated $520 to pay for the brick.
  - The Commandant entertained a motion to allocated Brandy's donation to the purchase of a Tun Tavern Brick. A motion to accept was made by Terry Crum., and the motion was seconded by John Huntz. The motion carried and was passed.
- 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 sent off Veterans on 2 Oct 2026 and welcomed home on 3 Oct 2026 at 2100 at the North Colorado Springs Readiness Center.

New Business:

- The Detachment will be setting up a new account with Zeffy to replace the use of Square. This application will support all fundraising; income producing activities and help register auctions and raffles. This is what National uses and it will help us be more efficient. The Zeffy application does not charge the Detachment anything for using it. If we had used Zeffy this past year, we would have almost $1700 more in our general fund b/c these are fees we lose. Please note when you use Zeffy the application asks for a donation – the donation is for Zeffy, not the detachment. That is how they raise money.
    - The Commandant entertained a motion to switch to Zeffy. A motion to accept was made by Russ Miller., and the motion was seconded by Jennifer Luckett. The motion carried and was passed.
- National Commandant Russ Miller notified the detachment the National Board of Trustees unanimously approved Colorado Springs to be the site of the 2028 National Convention! The contract has been signed by National and Detachment 29, the hosting unit.
    - Convention dates are currently: 21-28 Aug 2028
    - The Detachment will be establishing a 501c3 non-profit foundation to assist National in managing all money raised and money expended for the convention. This is a requirement and Russ has directed the National Chief of Staff to lead this effort.
    - As a result of the Detachment hosting the convention and not the Department of Colorado, any money left over at the end of the convention will be for the use of Detachment 29 which could be a lot of funds. The National Chief of Staff will be leading the establishment of a local 501c3 foundation for Detachment 29 that will be used for local events like the annual ball, scholarships and more.

Good of the League:

- 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 $138 was collected and $69 was won by Jim Harper who donated his winnings to the Detachment scholarship fund.

Closing Ceremony:

- Sgt At Arms Scott Douglass retired the Colors.
- The Detachment Chaplin said the closing prayer.
- The Senior Vice Commandant executed the closing actions.
- Commandant Osa Tuck closed the Pikes Peak Detachment 29 meeting at 1015.
- The next meeting will be held on Saturday, 21 Nov 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