

THE JARHEAD JOURNAL

Charles Walgreen, Commandant (Commandant@lakecountymarines.com)

www.lakecountymarines.com



During our January meeting, we presented our \$5,000 Toys for Tots check to MACG 48 Commanding Officer Col David Joseforsky along with SgtMar Keith Connor and GySgt Darrin Lee. In turn, Col Joseforsky presented Commandant Walgreen a 'Thank You' plaque.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

The Jarhead Journal Published Monthly

Editor: Mel Ellingsen

editor@lakecountymarines.com

(847) 274-8144

www.lakecountymarines.com

Detachment Officers

Commandant:	Charles Walgreen
Senior Vice-Commandant:	Hank Landrau
Junior Vice-Commandant:	Allan Perez
Judge Advocate:	Peter Karlovics
Paymaster:	Mel Ellingsen
Adjutant:	John Jezioro
Sgt. at Arms:	Patrick Fegan
Asst. Sgt. at Arms	
Junior Past Commandant	Ed Mampe
Chaplain:	Joe Womack
Asst. Chaplin	MGYSgt. Wayne Carle
Quartermaster:	David Pedrin
Web Sgt.:	Mel Ellingsen

Where Stuff Is

1. Toys for Tots & MACG-48
2. Where Stuff Is
3. Commandant's Chat
4. Chaplain's Corner
5. Alex White Story
6. Welcome Aboard
7. St Paddy's Day
8. Eagle Scouts
9. Color Guard
10. Remember Iwo Jima 75 Years Ago
11. More Imo Jima
12. VA Hospital Visits
13. Foundation
14. Related Military Links

Our next meeting is scheduled for

21 February (Tuesday)

Start Time 1830

Steven's Restaurant

Last Month's Mystery Medal of Honor
Recipient was Marine Cpl. Jason Lee
Durham.



Who is this Mystery Marine-First MoH Recipient in Viet Nam?

Read about him here: <https://www.usmcm.edu/Research/Marine-Corps-History-Division/Information-for-Units/Medal-of-Honor-Recipients-By-Unit/Cpl-Robert-Emmet-OMalley/>

COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS

I AM A MARINE

NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER SURRENDER

Happy New Year Marines & FMF Corpsmen! It is resolution time! Time to make a decision to act. Here are the 2023 committees and their respected heads: Color Guard-Ed Mampe, Eagle Scouts-Mel Ellingsen, Membership-Allan Perez, Hospital/Wellness Visits-Greg Cummings, Veteran Affairs-Oliver Davidson, Fun- Al Seyler, St Patrick's Day Dinner-Patrick Fegan and Memorial Day Picnic-Carol Mampe and Charles Walgreen.

Please consider volunteering and signing up for a committee or two. The power of volunteering is YOU can change lives, experience a feeling of satisfaction, and connect with your fellow Marine brothers and sisters.

I would like to share an amazing story that involves the positive impact of volunteering right here in our Lake County.

The Christmas after 9-11 on December 15, 2011, a 9-year boy finally told his parents what he wanted for Christmas. He was to embarrassed after weeks of his folks asking what do you want for Christmas so he wrote it on a little sheet of paper "For all the people in the Marines that died, let them be safe in heaven."

On Christmas afternoon there was a knock on the boy's front door. When he opened the door there stood two Marines in dress blues. A Staff Sergeant and a Sergeant reporting that Santa got his message and the Marines who died were safe in heaven.

The NCO's stayed for Christmas dinner and later went back to MACG-48.

Fast forward eleven years to June 16, 2022, that boy had transformed to a young man that was being pinned an Eagle Scout. I had the honor to present him a Ka-Bar on behalf our detachment #801. Please see the whole story on the next page.

Oorah Marines!

Semper Fi

Charles Walgreen

Commandant

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Welcome to 2023!

It's a new year and time to stop and take a moment to reflect on our blessings and thank God for the abundance he has provided. 2023 is going to present new challenges but successfully addressing those challenges will present new opportunities.

Let's hope and pray that this new year brings us peace and solitude and keeps our families and loved ones in good health.

Special thanks go out to all of members who have participated in Toys for Tots and other fundraising efforts. It has been refreshing to witness the turnout and support for these efforts and for the outside world to see the dedication and energy we bring to these endeavors. After all, we are "Marines"!

"Keep On Keeping On" are my words for the future—our team efforts will be rewarded both monetarily and intrinsically.

Semper Fi

Joe Womack

Chaplain

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

24 MAY 2023

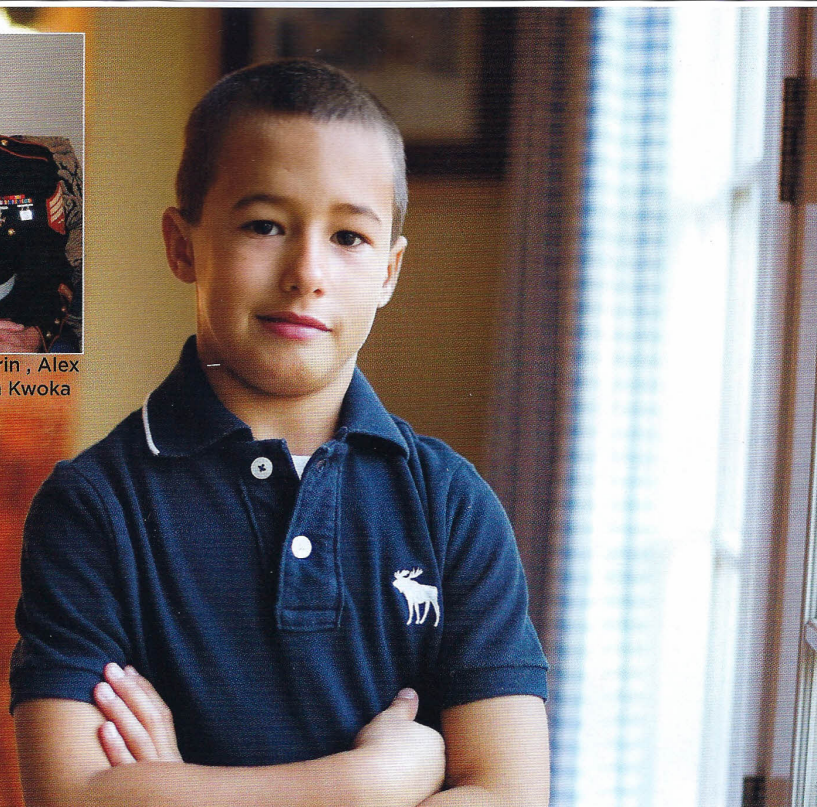
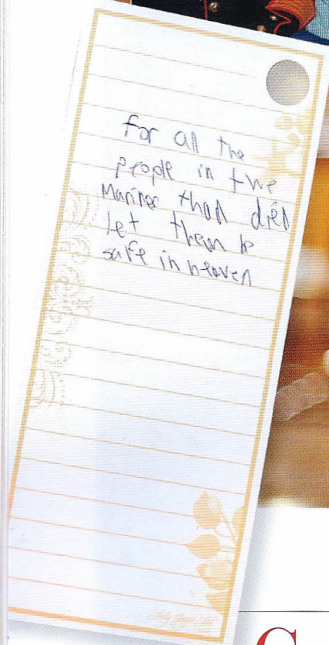
LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

FEATURE



Staff SGT. Michael Morin, Alex White, and SGT. Jason Kwoka



An Unusual

TEXT BY JAKE JARVI
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM PRISCHING

CHRISTMAS LIST

When kids have an ever-evolving technological wonderland to choose from every holiday season, it's hard to imagine any 9-year-old choosing his fellow man over an Xbox. But last year, one little Lake Bluffian proved it can still happen.

It was 10 days before Christmas last year when 9-year-old Alex White of Lake Bluff finally told his parents what he really wanted from Santa. His father, Peter, had been asking him for weeks, but the answer was always the same, "I don't really know." When he finally confessed to having something he really wanted, he told his parents that he was too embarrassed to tell them what it was. Peter suggested that he write it down as a Christmas list and give it to them instead. Shortly after dinner, Alex walked downstairs, set his Christmas list on the table, and went straight back into his room. Peter wasn't ready for what he read on that little sheet of paper, and Santa's workshop certainly wasn't either. All that was written was: "For all the people in the Marines that died, let them be safe in heaven."

"Our hearts melted," says Margaret, Alex's mother. "We couldn't believe it. What 9-year-old asks for that?"

Not only was Peter choked up by his son's unusual request, he wanted to make sure that this particular piece of paper made its way to Santa's mailbox. Having been a regular attendee at Lake Bluff's Memorial Day ceremony, with Alex in tow, and having seen Colonel Todd Garlick speak at the war memorial on Veterans Day, he thought he knew where to start. Well, Colonel Garlick must have passed the note all the way up the chain of command to the North Pole, because Christmas afternoon there was a knock at the front door. When Alex

answered it, there stood two Marines in full uniform, Staff Sergeant Michael Ouzts and Sergeant Jason Kwoka. They officially informed him that Santa got his message and they had it on good authority that the Marines who died were safe in heaven. Alex couldn't believe it.

"It was really cool," Alex says. "They had all their uniforms on and all that. And they stayed for dinner."

The Marine confirmation wasn't the only thing Alex got for Christmas. He also got a new pet gecko. As they discussed potential names over dinner, Sergeant Kwoka suggested naming him Sergeant. "Sarge is a great name for him," said Margaret. "Not Sarge." Sergeant Kwoka said, "That sounds like the Army. We're the Marines, it's Sergeant."

"So we named him Sergeant in honor of them," says Alex.

After dinner and a couple of games of Mouse Trap, the two Marines headed back to the Great Lakes Naval Base, where there's a small Marine air detachment. Alex's Christmas wish was a nice piece of timing for the two Marines as well—neither of them were able to make it home for the holidays and it was a nice opportunity for them to have a home-cooked, family-style Christmas dinner.

It's one year later, and as Christmas approaches once again, I only had one other question for this altruistic 10-year-old. What does he want for Christmas this year?

"I don't really know," Alex says with a smile. "I don't have anything yet."

I don't know if Santa is waiting on pins and needles, but I'm pretty sure I heard Alex's parents chuckle as I asked the question.

**WELCOME
ABOARD**



Welcome aboard LtCol Fidel Arroyo, USMC, currently in the active reserves and working full time for the Navy Department. He enlisted (yes, a mustang) in November 1990 starting out at San Diego. Then in January 1996 off to Quantico for The Basic School later serving with MOS of 0302. He is married with children living in Antioch. He currently likes working out and reading.

St. Patrick's Day Party!

Tuesday, March 21st @18:30

**Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
At Steven's Restaurant
Plus O'Hare Irish Dancers**



We'll have games and a "Best Dressed" contest.

This is a don't miss event – sign-up now!!

Steven's Restaurant in Gurnee
401 N Riverside Dr, Gurnee, IL
LakeCountyMarines.com

It's that time to break out your Irish digs for our St Paddy's Day meeting and dinner! We need to know who is attending so we can buy food. Members and their significant other are invited.

[Please click here to let us know you'll be there.](#)

Or, call Patrick Fegan at (773) 875-4643.



EAGLE SCOUTS



Here's Commandant Walgreen presenting Ka-Bars to new Troop 48 Eagle Scouts. Alex White (the boy from the story) on the left. This was June 2022.



During January, we presented seven Ka-Bars

Can you walk, talk and chew gum at the same time? Can you stand in front of a group of people and talk to them without getting flustered? If so, maybe you can help us present Ka-Bars to new Eagle Scouts. Please let me know if you want to join the Eagle Scout presentation team. Mel Ellingsen (847) 274-8144.



COLOR & HONOR GUARD



Color and Honor Guard

The Color Guard did a rifle volley for a WW2 Marine veteran, and we also presented colors at Stevenson H.S. during January.

If you would like to join the Color Guard, just see Ed Mampe Color Guard Commander. Please call me for details, (847) 641-9689.

We changed our practice location to the Gurnee American Legion, 2nd floor, (across from Primo) every other Thursday starting 9 February 2023 beginning at 1830 until 1930.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801



and

then

“SMED”

said

For all members of Lake County Detachment #801 (The Best Damned Detachment in the Nation).

This month marks the 75th anniversary of the planting of our Flag on Iwo Jima. I would like to submit this "ballad" commemorating one of the Marines who helped plant "that Flag".

I would also strongly suggest any member that has not yet done so, read the book "Flags of Our Fathers" authored by James Bradley. It remains one of my favorite stories.

Stay well, stay active.

Semper Fi, Richard Butler (847) 648-68593

THE BALLAD of IRA HAYES

Perhaps you have seen the movie, or read the book about four Marines and a Corpsman, or five Marines (depending on the version) scrambling up a hill named Iwo Jima to plant a flag on 23-February-1945. I have read the book and seen the movie as well as visited the funeral home in Antigo, Wisconsin where the Corpsman made his home. I prefer to believe the first version.

This ballad was written and released in 1964 about one of those men, a Marine named Ira Hayes, and I would like to share it with you.

Ira Hayes
Ira Hayes

Call him drunken Ira Hayes
He won't answer anymore
Not the whiskey drinkin' Indian
Not the Marine who went to war.

Gather round me people there's a story I would tell
About a brave young Indian, you should remember well
From the land of the Pima Indian, a proud and noble band
Who farmed the Phoenix Valley in Arizona land

Down the ditches of a thousand years
The waters grew Ira's peoples' crops
Till the white man stole the water rights
And the sparklin' waters stopped.

Now Ira's folks were hungry
And their land grew crops of weeds
When war came, Ira volunteered
And forgot the white man's greed.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

Call him drunken Ira Hayes
He won't answer anymore
Not the whiskey drinkin' Indian
Not the Marine who went to war.

There they battled up Iwo Jima's hill
Two hundred and fifty men
But only twenty seven lived
To walk back down that hill again.

And when the fight was over
And Old Glory raised
Among the men who held it high
Was the Indian, Ira Hayes.

Ira, he returned a hero
Celebrated through the land
He was wined and speched and honored.
Everybody shook his hand

But he was just a Pima Indian
No water, no home, no chance
At home nobody cared what Ira'd done
And when they did the Indians danced

Then Ira started drinkin' hard
Jail often was his home
They'd let him raise and lower the flag
Like you'd throw a dog a bone.

He died drunk one early morn
Alone in the land he fought to save
Two inches of water in a lonely ditch
Was a grave for Ira Hayes.

Call him drunken Ira Hayes
He won't answer anymore
Not the whiskey drinkin' Indian
Not the Marine who went to war.

Yeah, call him drunken' Ira Hayes
But his land is still as dry
And his ghost is lying thirsty
In the ditch where Ira died.

Written by; Peter LaFarge Released: 1964
Johnny Cash sings The Ballads of The American Indian
"Bitter Tears"

CAPTAIN JAMES A. LOVELL FHCC VISITS



Here's Chuck Butrim. Greg Cummings, Nada Sydow,
Mary Carmody and Don Bahe.

Hello fellow Marine Corps League members. Hospital visits are still a no go. Veterans closet is still giving food and clothing away to those in need. [Click here for their website.](#)

Greg Cummings

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE LAKE COUNTY DETACHMENT 801

Lake County Detachment Marine Corps League Foundation, Inc

Officers and Directors

President- Al Seyler

Treasurer- Mel Ellingsen

Secretary- Jerry Pedrin

Directors

Jim Sroka, Ed Mampe, Warren Blacklock, Col. Jim Swab,
Charles Walgreen and Joe Wallace.

No new requests for assistance have been received.

We are scheduling a meeting of the Board to start off the new year.

Al Seyler
President

Related Military Links to Click

Midwest Veterans Closet

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

Marine Corps League Headquarters

Honor Flight Lake County

Illinois Marine

VFW Action Corps Weekly

American Legion

Sgt Grit

PTSD Resources