

**LEWIS G
WATKINS
DETACHMENT**



**DETACHMENT
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**Detachment #1131
website is:**

mcl1131.org

Tip of the Spear

VOLUME XI ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2022



Commandant's Corner

Our Detachment Business meeting on October 18, 2022, included motions made and approved by the members in attendance. A few minor adjustments to the 2022-23 budget expenditures were approved.

Our next Business meeting will be held on November 15, 2022, at **6:00 pm, not 6:30 pm.**

We continue to hold our Family Breakfasts at Mayberry's on Saturdays, with our next breakfast scheduled for November 19 at **9:00 am** at Mayberry's in Seneca, so please try to join us. This is an hour later than previously held, as Mayberry's has changed their opening hours on Saturdays.

With sadness we announced earlier that Skip Wakeman, our loyal Detachment member and Marine brother passed away on November 3. Skip was a former Detachment Commandant and Marine of the Year. His services were held on November 9, and we were privileged to provide a Military Honors Service with the assistance of three Marines from the Marine Corps Reserves unit in Greenville. Several of our members turned out to honor Skip, with some serving as pall-

bearers, others serving on a rifle detail, and others attending the church services at the eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church. Skip was laid to rest on November 10 in Peachtree City, Georgia, on the Marine Corps Birthday. Very fitting.

Several members participated in placing Marine flags on Marine gravesites on November 5 in honor of Veterans Day. Flags were placed at four local cemeteries.

Our Marine Corps Birthday Dinner was held November 10, 2022, at the Keowee Key Clubhouse. Bill Thompson, Skip Wakeman, Del Williams, Jim Day, and Todd Alexander served as a committee to help plan the event. SC Senator Thomas Alexander joined us as our featured guest speaker, and he delivered some very inspiring comments. Fifty-nine individuals attended, including Colleen Wakeman and members of her family. Many of the birthday traditions were incorporated into the ceremony including recognition of the oldest and youngest Marines -- Don Alexander and Todd Alexander—and Josh Herring presented the symbolism of the Fallen Marine Table.

By the time you read this newsletter we will have held our annual Toys for Tots Golf tournament held November 14, 2022, at Cross Creek Plantation. Eddie Brown and T.J. Grove once again organized the event which annually brings us more than 250 very

Commandant's Corner (Continued)

nice toys and cash contributions. Bob Walker, this year's Toys for Tots coordinator, has a full schedule of dates for the which kicked off the first week of October. We have a new location for our Toys for Tots Store at 510 W. North 1st Street in Seneca. Bill Thompson is coordinating the toy collection and pickup operation. Please let him know if you can help by calling him at (678)296-6131. Len and Carol Rock are once again managing the Toy Store and the organization of toys.

Check the Upcoming events list in this newsletter for the list of Christmas Parades the Detachment will participate in beginning November 28. These are great opportunities to draw attention to the final week of the Toys for Tots campaign. We'll need your participation in the parades to ride in our Toys for Tots Train and greet the children.

Please remember to check the website at mcl1131.org and this newsletter to keep up with the upcoming events. Happy Thanksgiving!

Semper Fi,

Steve Slagle
Commandant



Todd Alexander
Senior Vice-Commandant

Good day my fellow Marines,

I wanted to thank everyone who participated in the funeral services for Skip Wakeman and for joining us at this year's Detachment Marine Corps Birthday dinner. We had a great turnout of members and guests.

It's a busy time of year for us with Toys for Tots events, parades and such. I encourage you to help out where you can.

Be safe for the holidays too, especially if you are traveling.

Semper Fi.

Todd Alexander
Senior Vice Commandant



Don Alexander
Judge Advocate

The Marine Corps Birthday dinner is behind us. It was a great success by all accounts. Thanks for all who participated. I was particularly glad to see that our new members Paul Barnett and his wife Kathy and Jim Koerner and several of his friends attend. Jim, you are a talented musician; you handled the bugle like a pro!

Our newest Associate member-to-be, Mikie Hornbeck, also attended. She will get sworn in at the November meeting. By all indications she intends to be very active.

A couple of serious prospects have indicated their intent to join us at the November meeting. Cathy Dineen is a Marine veteran who works for BabyRead and was recruited by Jim Day. Karen Helms' husband was a Marine (now deceased) who wrote the book *The Proud Bastards ... from Parris Island through the Hell of Vietnam*. I met Karen at the Veteran's Appreciation Festival at South Cove Park in October 2022.

Please introduce yourselves and make our new prospective members feel welcome.

Semper Fi.

Len Rock
Junior Vice Commandant

Aloha, members of 1131! It's been a sad and glad month for us. Sadly, we lost Skip Wakeman. I was happy with the membership/friends' turnout at both the funeral home and his church. I was also impressed by Colleen's and family's attendance at our Marine Corps Birthday Dinner. They gave new meaning to Espirit de Corps. May God's grace continue with all of Skip's family.

I have a couple of issues I am working on but not enough information to report out as of yet. I urge all members to try hard to attend our monthly business meetings. Don't forget, the time has been moved from 1830 to 1800.

This is also the busy/crazy time for all of the Toys for Tots activities so let's lend a hand whenever we can.

Semper Fi,

Don Alexander
Judge Advocate

In Memoriam

A.O. "Skip" Wakeman

May 13, 1946—November 3, 2022



Skip was a dynamic and vital member of Detachment #1131. A former Detachment Commandant, he was a member for many years.

Skip served in the U.S. Marine Corps with distinction for over 20 years. A Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient, he also received multiple individual and unit awards including the Meritorious Service Medal with 3 gold stars, a Joint Service Commendation Medal, a Navy/USMC Commendation Medal with Combat V, and a Combat Action Ribbon.

His years of service to the detachment, other veteran organizations, his church and community will be greatly missed.



Thanks to the USMC Reserve Unit in Greenville, SC and Detachment members for providing military honors at his memorial service.



Commandant Steve Slagle and Adjutant Jim Day were interviewed by City Talk's host Riley Johnson on October 19, 2022. Steve and Jim gave background on the Detachment, SSgt Lewis J. Watkins and the memorial service earlier in October and 1131's role in Toys for Tots. A big supporter of TFT, Riley asked about the community's support and upcoming parade participation. Key dates and contact information were provided. City Talk airs every Saturday from 8:00 to 9:00. According to Riley, the segment will air periodically on 94.1 The Lake throughout the TFT campaign.



Raymond Carolina Handling of Greenville donated a pallet jack to TFT. It should come in handy as we receive toy shipments in 2022 and the coming years. Nice jack!

USMC Birthday Dinner

November 10, 2022



Colleen Wakeman with friends
and family



Josh Herring explains the
Fallen Marine Table's significance



Nice Cake!



Cake Detail Front & Center



The Keowee Key Clubhouse provided a nice venue for the 247th USMC Birthday dinner



Charlie Brickett reading the USMC Commandant's Birthday Message



Commandant Steve Slagle cutting the first piece of cake



Commandant Steve Slagle & SC Senator Alexander ready to toast



Guest of Honor Alexander provided an appropriate tribute in his remarks



The Governor's Proclamation — Courtesy of a Marine Corps mom



Oconee County 2022 Toys for Tots Campaign

Lewis G. Watkins Detachment #1131, MCL

Boxes & Application Key Dates

√ All TFT Collection Boxes in Place	Monday, October 10, 2022
√ Toys for Tots Golf Tournament	Monday, November 14, 2022
• Last Date to Submit Toys Applications	Wednesday, November 30, 2022
• Last Date to Drop Off Toys	Sunday, December 4, 2022
• Pick Up Date for Toy Collection Boxes	Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Toy Distribution Dates

This year the store is located at 510 W. North 1st St in Seneca. Each town/organization/church signed up with Detachment #1131 can schedule to come to the Toys for Tots Store on the following dates to pick out Toys for their families:

- Tuesday, December 13, 2022
- Wednesday, December 14, 2022
- Thursday, December 15, 2022

Bob Walker is the TFT Coordinator again this year. Each Town/Organization/Church has been asked to contact him by phone (864-884-3532) or email at bobcpssc@bellsouth.net to schedule the date and time that works best for their group. Groups will pick their own Toys again this year. Each group has been reminded to bring enough help and sufficient vehicles to handle Toy bags efficiently. Several groups will be scheduled on one or more of the Toy distribution dates. Bob Walker has also reminded the groups that parents are not allowed to pick out Toys — group representatives only.

Toy Store Hours

November 4 & 5	10 am—1 pm
November 11 & 12	10 am—1 pm
November 18-19	10 am—1 pm
November 25 & 26	Closed for Thanksgiving
November 28	10 am—1 pm
December 2 & 3	10 am—1 pm
December 5—10	10 am—1 pm

Store Managers Len and Carol Rock will provide access if you need to make deliveries at other times. Contact Len at 802-318-5990 or at lrockins@comcast.net.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Monday, November 14, Toys for Tots Golf Tournament, Cross Creek Golf Course. Assemble at 9:00 am to assist with event execution.

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 6:30 pm: Detachment #1131 Business Meeting. American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay St, Seneca, SC

Saturday, November 19, 2022 at 9:00 am Family Breakfast at Mayberry's, 125 N. Townville St, Seneca, SC

Saturday, November 19, 2022 at 4:30 am & 2:20 pm: Fishing Tournament at Lake Hartwell. Bob Walker for check-in & Bill Thompson for weigh-in.

Monday, November 28, 2022 at 6:30 pm: Seneca Christmas Parade. Staging begins at 3:30 pm.

Friday, December 2, 2022 at 6:30 pm: Westminster Christmas Parade.

Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 5:00 pm: Detachment Trustees Meeting at American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay St, Seneca, SC

Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 5:00 pm: Walhalla Christmas Parade. Staging at 3:30 in pre-assigned spaces. Cannot throw candy from train but we can walk along side and hand it out.

Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 4:00 pm: Salem Christmas Parade.

Saturday, December 17, 2022 beginning at 2:00 pm: Wreaths Across America. Wreath placement at 5 local cemeteries. Assistance being provided by BASF veterans.

Tuesday, December 20, 2022: No Detachment Business Meeting.

Saturday, December 31, 2022: No Family Breakfast. Happy New Year instead!

Salem, South Carolina 29676

910 Stamp Creek Road

Editor Jim Day

Lewis G. Watkins Detachment#11321, MCL

Postage