

**LEWIS G  
WATKINS  
DETACHMENT**



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**Detachment #1131  
website is:**

**[mcl1131.org](http://mcl1131.org)**

# Tip of the Spear

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## Commandant's Corner

Our Detachment Business meeting on September 20, 2022, included motions made and approved by the members in attendance. Our next Business meeting will be held on October 18, 2022, at **6:00 pm, not 6:30 pm**. The members approved a balanced budget for 2022-23 proposed by Senior vice Commandant Todd Alexander.

We continue to hold our Family Breakfasts at Mayberry's on Saturdays, with our next breakfast scheduled for October 29 at 8:00 am at Mayberry's in Seneca, so please try to join us.

We conducted our annual Lewis G. Watkins Honors Day on October 7, 2022, at Wolf Stake Cemetery which included inspiring remarks by SC Senator Thomas Alexander and an invocation by the Pastor of Wolf Stake Baptist Church, Bobby Bugg. Several of the church's congregation attended and 12 of our Detachment members were present.

We were fortunate to have enough members to form a seven-man firing detail led by Charlie Brickett, Sergeant at Arms, and including James Day, Len Rock, Todd Alexander, Leon Davis, Perry Paradise, and Bill Thompson. Jacques Macy

was on hand to play Taps on the bugle. Associate member Pam Dowd explained the significance of the Missing Man Table which was provided to honor both Lewis Watkins and his brother Frank Watkins. The Seneca *Journal* published a very nice article about the event in the October 6, 2022, edition of the newspaper.

Len Rock will inform you of our successes holding two recruiting events, one on September 24 at Lowe's Home store in Seneca, and the second on October 8 at the Oconee County Veterans Appreciation Festival at South Cove Park. I thought both events were very productive and provided excellent publicity for the Detachment. The weather really cooperated too for both events.

Our Marine Corps Birthday Dinner will be held November 10, 2022, at the Keowee Key Clubhouse. Bill Thompson, Skip Wakeman, Del Williams, and Todd Alexander are serving as a committee to help plan the event. Senator Thomas Alexander will join us again as our featured guest speaker. We will want to know in advance who plans to attend and have registration fees in advance, by November 1, so the final details can be arranged. You will be receiving an invitation and an RSVP card soon. Please mark November 10 on your calendars.

## Commandant's Corner (Continued)

The committee has worked hard to make this dinner a notable occasion filled with tradition.

Also make note that our Toys for Tots Golf tournament will be held November 14, 2022, at Cross Creek Plantation. Eddy Brown and T.J. Grove are once again organizing the event which annually brings us more than 200 very nice toys and cash contributions. We hope we can count on your presence by 9:00 am at Cross Creek to help with the collection and transport of the toys. Bob Walker, this year's Toys for Tots coordinator, has a full schedule of dates for the upcoming campaign which kicks off the first week of October with collection boxes to be in place by October 10. 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 or emailing him at [bthompson55@charter.net](mailto:bthompson55@charter.net)

Semper Fi,

*Steve Slagle*  
Commandant

No Photo  
available

**Todd Alexander**  
**Senior Vice-Commandant**

Good day my fellow Marines,

I wanted to thank everyone who participated in the Lewis G. Watkins ceremony. It was a very good turnout and an experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. I have never had the opportunity to be a part of a 3-volley salute before. It was a very rewarding experience. I hope that it meant as much to the family and spectators as it did to me. To all those who made the time to honor Staff Sargent Watkins, I say thank you.

Semper Fi.

*Todd Alexander*  
Senior Vice Commandant



September and October have been quite productive in soliciting new members. The September Lowe's recruiting event was very successful with positive interaction with numerous vets. We have text or email addresses for three of the most promising candidates. The October Veterans Festival at South Cove Park was likewise very positive with two very likely new members. All candidates will be sent a text or email inviting them to our October 18th meeting. Now that Toys For Tots is underway November and December will be busy months what with toy collections, parades and holiday schedules. As such we will pause our recruiting events for those two months and start again in January. That said there is no reason we all can't continue individual outreach efforts anytime we meet or see a prospective member. While we are looking for Marines we shouldn't overlook the opportunity to grow our Detachment with associate members.

Semper Fi.

*Len Rock*

Junior Vice Commandant



**Don Alexander**  
**Judge Advocate**

Aloha to all! There is not much to report, other than the request that I submitted to the SC Department of the Marine Corps League for the removal of the section of our ByLaws pertaining to guests being asked to leave a detachment meeting if finances are discussed has been approved by Claude Davis, Department Judge Advocate as of September 28, 2022. The necessary changes are being made made by me and WebSgt Jim Day to updated copies of the ByLaws and Standard Operating Procedures. These documenta are available on our Detachment website.

We need young blood in our detachment! Many of us old salts are finding it hard to navigate. Our hearts are in the programs and events which we sponsor but it gets more difficult each year. Please try hard to attend our regular monthly meetings.

Semper Fi,

*Don Alexander*  
Judge Advocate

**Lewis G. Watkins Memorial Ceremony, October 7, 2022**



SC State Senator Thomas Alexander was the guest speaker.

*Another day of remembrance ...  
On the 70th anniversary of the death  
of Oconee County's only Medal of  
Honor awardee,  
SSgt Lewis G. Watkins*



A Detachment honor guard provided by a gun salute & taps. Associate member Pam Dowd also explained the meaning of the missing man table.



Reverend Bobby Bugg, pastor of Wolf Stake Baptist Church, provided the invocation. The Watkins' memorials are located in the Wolf Stake church cemetery.



## Detachment #1131 Recruiting Events in September & October 2022



“Skip” Wakeman, Len Rock, Steve Slagle, Jim Koerner and Don Alexander at the September Lowe’s recruiting event with a proud Marine Mom



Don Alexander & Jim Koerner with an attentive JROTC audience: “What do the Marines Do?”



Some of the many military & service organizations that attended the 1st Annual Veterans Appreciation Festival at South Cove County Park on October 8, 2022.



Something Marines & former Marines are used to — waiting. For guests and free chow (BBQ was on the County.) At least there was hot coffee.



**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.

## **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

**Tuesday, October 18 2022 at 6:00 pm:** Detachment #1131 **Business Meeting.** American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay St, Seneca, SC

**Saturday, October 29 at 8:00 am: Family Breakfast** at Mayberry's, 125 N. Townville St, Seneca, SC

**Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 5:00 pm.** Detachment **Trustee's Meeting** at American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay Street, Seneca, SC

**Saturday, November 5, 2022 at 9:00 am. Veterans Day Flag Placement.** Detachment to place USMC flags at Marines' gravesites at 3-4 local cemeteries.

**Thursday, November 10, 2022, Marine Corps Birthday Dinner,** Keowee Key Clubhouse. **Registration & payment deadline is November 2, 2022.** Social begins at 5:30 pm, Program at 6:00 pm followed by dinner at 7:00 pm.

**Friday, November 11, 2022. Veterans Day Parade at 4:30 pm,** Walhalla, SC

**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

**(Tentative) Saturday, November 19 at 8:00 am Family Breakfast** at Mayberry's, 125 N. Townville St, Seneca, SC

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Editor Jim Day

Lewis G. Watkins Detachment#11321, MCL

Postage

