

**LEWIS G
WATKINS
DETACHMENT**



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

mcl1131.org

Tip of the Spear

VOLUME XI

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SEPTEMBER 2022



Commandant's Corner

Our Detachment Business meeting on August 16, 2022, was conducted by our Senior Vice Commandant Todd Alexander in my absence. I attended the MCL National Convention that week and will have a few things to report at our upcoming Business meeting on September 20. This serves as a reminder that our Detachment Business Meetings going forward begin at **6:00 pm, not 6:30 pm.**

We continue to hold our Family Breakfasts at Mayberry's on Saturdays, with the most recent on September 17. I could not attend the breakfast as I attended the MCL Department Quarterly meeting in Columbia, SC that day. Our next breakfast will be held October 29 at 8:00 am at Mayberry's in Seneca, so please try to join us.

I was pleased to learn at the Quarterly meeting that out of 23 Detachments in SC our Detachment is one of 12 that have submitted all the required reports and documents required for us to maintain our non-profit, tax-exempt status, meet the IRS tax return requirements and the membership records submissions required by the MCL. Hats off to David Wessinger, our Paymaster, for doing a great job, not only with our financial records but also keeping us in full compliance.

We have some important events coming soon, not the least of which are the Lewis G. Watkins Honors Day on October 7, 2022, at Wolf Stake Cemetery (for which we need volunteers) and our Marine Corps Birthday Dinner to 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. 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'll be receiving an invitation and an RSVP card soon. Please mark both dates on your calendars. 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. We have a new location for our Toys for Tots Store and Bob will be letting us all know when it is ready for operation.

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

Semper Fi!

Steve Slagle

No Photo
available

Todd Alexander
Senior Vice-Commandant



Len Rock
Junior Vice-Commandant

Hello all,

Not much to report this month. Things are going smoothly. I look forward to seeing many of you in some of our upcoming events. We have quite a few things happening over the next couple of months. We have several recruiting opportunities that we will need people for. If you can please, try to attend.

An inventory was conducted of the detachment's rifles. We noted several that have some small repairs needed. The majority are in excellent condition. Jim and I are in the process of putting together an official inventory sheet to track the status of our rifles. This will live on the safe and be available for any member to see. If you have experience with repairing or getting parts for these rifles, please reach out to me. I would like to get them all up to 100%.

That's all I have for this month. I will see you at the next meeting. If you need anything don't hesitate to ask.

Semper Fi

Todd Alexander

Senior Vice Commandant

Just a reminder, we have a couple of recruiting events in the next few weeks to attract potential new members to the detachment. (Both are Clemson football away games.) The first is in front of Lowe's on September 24, 2022 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The second is on October 8, 2022 at the Oconee County Veterans Appreciation Festival to be held at South Cove Park. The Festival will be held from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm with free lunch and beverages being served from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Recruiting table times are to be determined. Come out and enjoy the festivities and help us grow our numbers.

Semper Fi.

Len Rock

Junior Vice Commandant



Don Alexander
Judge Advocate

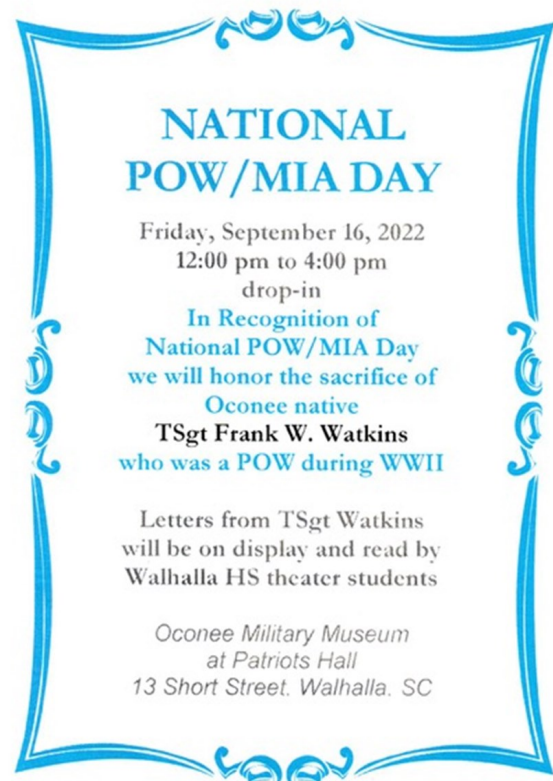
Well, folks, here it is, creeping into Fall already. What that should mean to all of us is TOYS FOR TOTS. Coordinator Bob Walker and his staff will need our help in making this, the 75th Anniversary of Toys For Tots a dynamite year. If any of you can volunteer some time, please let Bob know.

Now, on the By Laws situation, the recent request I submitted to the Department Judge Advocate will soon be approved. I am requesting that all members, Regular and Associate, carefully look over our By Laws and if you think there is a question or if you note a section that needs clarification, please have those thoughts on paper and be ready to discuss them at our next Regular Business Meeting. If I can be of help to any of you, please ask me.

Semper Fi

Don Alexander

Judge Advocate



The highlight of the past month was the National Pow/MIA Day held at the Oconee County Military Museum on September 16, 2022. The museum honored TSgt Frank W. Watkins, brother of Lewis G. Watkins, our Detachment namesake. TSgt Watkins' B-24 was shot down over Germany on February 22, 1944 and he spent the remainder of the war in a German Prisoner of War camp (Stalag Luft IV) in what is now Poland. Detachment #1131 Associate member Pam Dowd and fellow Oconee County Museum docent Sherrie Ross have been instrumental in gathering letters, medals and other artifacts from the Watkins' surviving sisters Betty Watkins Towe and Nancy Watkins Long as well as niece Hazel Moore .

The first annual POW Recognition Day ceremony was attended by ten Walhalla High School drama students, their teacher Stephanie Necessary, and Walhalla HS principal Jennifer Crawford. Also in attendance were SC State Senator Thomas Alexander, Salem Mayor Lynn Towe, Oconee County School District Superintendent Dr. Thomas Thorsland and Jerry Dyar from the Oconee County Veterans Council. After a brief introduction by Sherrie Ross, students read selected letters home from TSgt Watkins. The event highlighted important local history for students that frequently get little exposure to World War II historical events in the classroom.

**POW/MIA Observance at
Oconee County Military
Museum, September 16, 2022**



*A day of remembrance ...
so that we may never forget.*



Associate Member and Museum Volunteer Pam Dowd



Letters from POW TSgt Watkins, a diagram of Stalag Luft IV & a map of the prisoners' forced "death" march — 700 miles from Poland to France that took 53 days.



TSgt Watkins' awards include the Purple Heart, the Air Medal & the WWII Victory Medal



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 bobcpsc@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.



Off to a good start!

Four boxes of toys were collected at the Salem Car Show on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Detachment #1131's TFT float also participates in the Salem Christmas parade.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Saturday, September 24, 2022 at 11:00 am—2:00 pm at the Seneca, SC Lowe's. Detachment recruiting event.

Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 5:00 PM. Detachment **Trustee's Meeting** at American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay Street, Seneca, SC

Friday, October 7, 2022, Noon—1:00 pm, Lewis G. Watkins Honor Ceremony, Wolf Stake Cemetery. Assemble at 11:00. Volunteers needed for the rifle detail & event coordinator.

Saturday, October 8, 2022 Oconee County Veterans Appreciation Festival, 9:00 am—3:00 pm, South Cove County Park, Seneca, SC. Recruiting event & Toys for Tots promotion opportunity. Food & beverages served from 11:00am to 1:00 pm.

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

Salem, South Carolina 29676

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Editor Jim Day

Lewis G. Watkins Detachment#11321, MCL

Postage

