

**LEWIS G  
WATKINS  
DETACHMENT**



**DETACHMENT  
OFFICERS**

**Commandant  
Steve Slagle  
(864) 710-6739**

**Sr. Vice-Commandant  
Todd Alexander  
(843) 441-1261**

**Jr. Vice-Commandant  
Len Rock  
(802) 318-5990**

**Judge Advocate  
Don Alexander  
(706) 491-9310**

**Past Commandant  
Robert Walker  
(864) 884-3532**

**Paymaster  
David Wessinger  
(864) 710-6231**

**Adjutant  
James Day  
(864) 247-6661**

**Chaplain  
Leon Davis  
(864) 623-8037**

**Sergeant-at-Arms  
Charlie Brickett  
(864) 557-0983**

**Detachment #1131  
website is:**

***mcl1131.org***

# Tip of the Spear

VOLUME XIII ISSUE 5

MAY 2023



## Commandant's Corner

We've had a number of notable events and activities in May and more to come in June. Our next Detachment Business meeting will be held on June 20, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the American Legion Hut on Fairplay Street. The meeting is important as a new group of officers have been installed and this will be the first meeting of the new group led by Todd Alexander, Commandant.

We provided a firing detail and gun salute to help commemorate a new roadside marker for WWII practice bombing runs at Lake Isaqueena near Six Mile, SC. The event was presented by the Pickens Historical Society and was held on May 21, 2023, at 3:00 pm. Serving as the firing detail were Todd Alexander, Steve Slagle, David Wessinger, Jim Day, Leon Davis, Bill Thompson, and Len Rock. Pam Dowd served as the photographer. The Daniel High School JROTC provided the color guard.

We've also participated in the two local high schools' JROTC awards ceremonies in March and early May. The Seneca High School Military Ball was held on March 25 and a newly enlisted Marine, Keith

Brady, received the Marine Corps League's Outstanding JROTC award provided by the MCL SC Department.

The awards ceremony at West-Oak High School was held May 3 and sophomore cadet Marcus Thaxton received the Leadership Certificate and medal from our Detachment. Their photos are shown elsewhere in this newsletter.

I presented an Eagle Scout commendation and Good Citizen Certificate to a young scout, James Harrison V, on May 13 at his ceremony in Newry, SC.

Congratulations to the newly elected and appointed officers for the coming year: Todd Alexander, Commandant; Jim Koerner, Senior Vice Commandant; Len Rock, Junior Vice Commandant, Don Alexander, Judge Advocate; David Wessinger, Paymaster; Jim Day, Adjutant, and Leon Davis, Chaplain. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Commandant for 2022-23. It was my privilege and honor to serve, and I hope to return from time to time to participate in the Detachment's activities. I will be moving to Greer, SC in late June so cannot continue to serve on the Detachment Board of Trustees.

See the list of upcoming events in this newsletter and please remember to check the website at [mcl1131.org](http://mcl1131.org).



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

Photo

Not Yet

Available

**Jim Koerner**  
**Junior**  
**Vice-Commandant**

Oorah Marines! We have some exciting things coming up this month and this year. Let's start with the upcoming installation of officers. I want to thank each one of you for letting me serve you as Senior Vice Commandant and for believing in me enough to elect me as your Commandant. I am filled with both pride and joy to have been chosen to serve you all in this capacity. My promise to each of you is to do my very best to advance the interests of our detachment and to personally be there for each one of you if you need something. Dinner will be provided that evening by Roller Mills BBQ. They make an excellent pulled pork, and the best banana pudding I have ever had. So, the food alone will be worth coming for.

I also want to discuss is the donation we made to Wild Hearts Equine Therapy. The veteran's charity known as VETS built the playground on April 30<sup>th</sup> and will return on May 20<sup>th</sup> to install the wheelchair swing. There will be a dedication ceremony on June 17<sup>th</sup> to officially open the playground, and you are all invited. There will be food and drink provided by VETS. I hope you will join us in honoring Skip and Del.

We also begun planning the annual family picnic. It will be held at South Cove Park on August 26<sup>th</sup>. I would greatly appreciate it each one of you could be there. We will have food and I will be running the grill like last year, so you can be sure to have some good burgers just the way you like the. Feel free to bring a side or a dessert and come enjoy the festivities.

Semper Fi.

*Todd Alexander*  
Senior Vice Commandant

Hello Fellow Marines,

We are on hold for the summer at Lowe's for further recruiting events so we will all have to be on the lookout for new members.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served as Junior Vice Commandant as Len Rock's temporary replacement. I look forward to serving as the Senior Vice-Commandant in the next year. I'll need your help with recruiting and other Detachment events in order to make the coming year another success.

Semper Fi.

*Jim Koerner*  
Junior Vice Commandant



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

Wow, can you believe a year has gone by and here we are ready to install new Officers in our detachment on May 16th! With the computer-savvy help of Jim Day, we were able to make three (3) important changes/corrections/additions within our ByLaws, as well as some "house cleaning" of various sections. All of these issues were completed and approved by the Department Judge Advocate, as is required and stated in the ByLaws. The final version/updated Detachment 1131 ByLaws is now on our detachment web-site. I urge you to take the time and familiarize yourselves with these ByLaws. On another note - if you are a member of this detachment, please try to attend the monthly meetings as well as trying to get involved in the different projects/events we have going on (Belk's Fund Raising; Rifle Detail; Annual Picnic; Wreaths Across America; Toys For Tots; placing flags in cemeteries; etc). Folks, we need help!! If there is an issue you have that is keeping you away, please feel free to talk with me about it. Hope to see you all at the May 16th Officer Installation Dinner.

Semper Fi,

*Don Alexander*  
Judge Advocate

### Veterans & First Responders in Crisis

**1-800-273-8255**

A simple act of kindness can help someone feel less alone.  
Your actions could help save a life. #BeThere

### The Marine Corps DSTRESS Line

**Call 1-877-476-7734**

24/7 anonymous phone, chat and referral service using a  
'Marine to Marine' approach

### Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors (TAPS)

**Call 1-800-959-TAPS(8277)**

Whether you are in emotional crisis, need to connect with  
TAPS resources and programs, or just want to remind  
yourself that you are a part of a loving, supportive family.



# Spring 2023 Belk Charity Sale

**We collected over \$3,400 in sales and donations, including over \$400 in credit card donations – a first for the Detachment. Thanks to all the Detachment volunteers that made the Detachment’s biggest money maker a huge success again this year!**



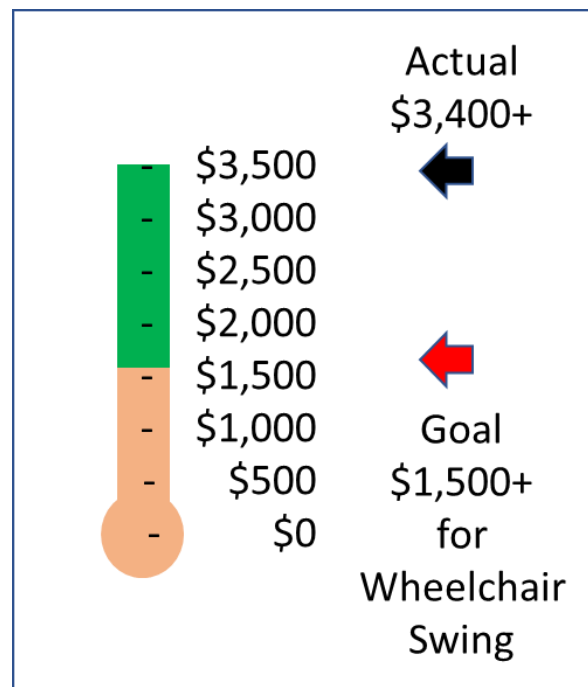
*Lots of donations at \$5 a ticket – the community was very supportive*



*Senior Vice Todd Alexander with our in-store ace technical assistant*



*Associate Pam Dowd Making Another Sale*



## Commandant Steve Slagle Presenting Awards



*Eagle Scout James Harrison V  
Receives Good Citizen Award*



*West-Oak Cadet Marcus Thaxton  
Receives MCL Leadership Award*



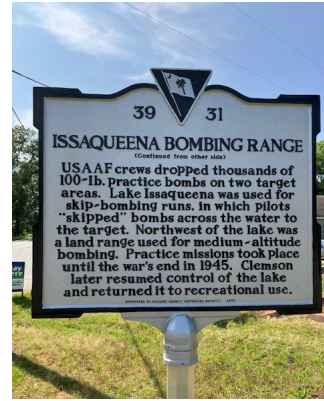
*Bill Thompson  
at Home on the Range*



*Thanks to Deep South Defense for  
Providing Free Range Time*



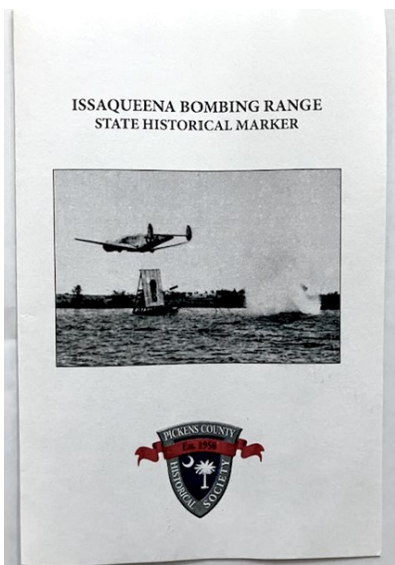
# Issaqueena Bombing Range Commemoration Ceremony



*SC's Newest Roadside Historical Marker — and we helped!*



*The ceremony was attended by several Pickens County dignitaries, Dr. Edwin Breeden from the State Marker Program, guest speaker Dr. Benjamin Sill from Clemson University, American Legion Post 151 representatives and the Detachment. The ool AF JROTC Unit from Daniel High School provided the flag detail.*



*Commemoration Pamphlet*



*Rendering Honors*

## **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

**No Detachment Breakfast** in May, 2023 due to Memorial Day holiday weekend.

**Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 5:00 pm: Detachment Trustees Meeting** at American Legion Hall, 575 N. Fairplay St, Seneca, SC.

**Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 6:00 pm: Detachment Business Meeting** at American Legion Hut, 575 N. Fairplay St, Seneca, SC.

**Saturday, June 17, 2023, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm: Dedication Ceremony & Picnic** at Wild Hearts Equine Therapy Center., 598 Wild Hearts Way, Seneca. Honors Detail to arrive by 9:30 am. Uniform: MCL Cover, Red Blazer & White Gloves then shift to casual attire.

**Thursday, June 22—June 25, 2023: SC Department Convention** at Hilton Garden Inn, Charleston Airport. Commandant Todd Alexander is scheduled to attend.

**Saturday, June 24, 2023 at 9:00 am: Detachment Breakfast** at Mayberry's, 125 N. Townville St, Seneca, SC.

**August, 26, 2023: Detachment Annual Family Picnic** at South Cove County Park. Time and other details TBD.

Salem, South Carolina 29676

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Editor Jim Day

Lewis G. Watkins Detachment#11321, MCL

Postage