



THE BULLDOG BULLETIN

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Chuck Burrow Editor and Publisher



There are days when you just don't feel like running with the Big Dawgs



Commandants Corner

South Hills Pittsburgh Marine Corps League Detachment 726 does more than conduct monthly meetings and hold an annual Birthday Ball.

In 2025, our detachment completed a total of 851 community service hours covering: 457 Marine Corps League hours; 215 Veteran Volunteer Service hours; and 179 Young Marine hours.

Marine Corps league activities include: (1) Federation of War Veterans Societies of Allegheny County/Veterans Day Parade, (2) color guards, (3) flag placing, (4) community parades, (5) Rose Campaign (6) the 2025 Marine Birthday Ball and (7) Quarterly Newsletter.

Veterans Volunteer Service activities include: (1) food bank, (2) meals on wheels, (3) veteran funeral pall bearers, (4) veteran hospital visits, (5) funeral honor guards and (6) National Cemetery flag unloading and flag removal.

Young Marine activities include: (1) monthly drills, (2) assisting in local carnivals, (3) adult leadership training, and (4) leadership school directing.

Thank you all for your participation and assisting Detachment 726 meet the Marine Corps League's goals to

Promote USMC, history, and traditions,

Strengthen the fraternity of Marines,

Serve Marines and FMF Navy Personnel, and

Foster ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteering

These activities could not have been completed without the hard work of the Marine Corps League Detachment 726 members.

I would like to make special thanks to Matt Popovich for coordinating and participating the Veteran Volunteer Service activities and Marine Corps League activities; Joe Spinnenweber and Haya Eston for coordinating the 2025 Marine Birthday Ball and participating in the Marine Corps League activities; Chuck Burrow for preparing the detachments quarterly Newsletters; Bettina Radcliff for her relentless dedication to the Keystone Young Marines; and all of you who participated in Detachment 726's 2025 activities.

Semper Fi

Gary Woodside

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**Welcome Aboard Richard Morgan
our newest member, oath given
by District 8 Vice Commandant
Matt Popovich**

CHEERS!



**Two KYM's YM Pvt. Noah Emph and Pvt.
James Lomuscio came to our November
meeting brought snacks and drinks for us.**



**Dual member Tom Hazlett presenting a certificate
from Military Order of Devil Dogs to our detachment
for our generous donation that was included in Ohio
River Devil Dog-Pound 133 Operation Chew Hound
support of Animal Friends for Veterans.**

**Saturday November 8, 2025 Detachment 726 held its 250th celebration of the
Marine Corps Birthday**



**Guest speaker Jack Wagner Marine
and former State Senator**





Detachment 726 attending members



American Legion Post 760 attending guest



THEN and NOW

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S ROLE IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

During World War II, the US called on women to become an even larger part of the Marine Corps. In February 1943, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was established. On June 12 in the same year, Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act and made women a permanent part of the regular Marine Corps. Since then, women Marines have continually enlisted and transformed Marine Corps history through vast achievements, recognition of valor and honor, and immeasurable accomplishments that showcase their boundless influence.



SHAPING FUTURE GENERATIONS

The service and allegiance of women Marines has been guided by the passion and courage of those who have answered their country's call to serve. For over 100 years, women Marines have inspired others, and their accomplishments will continue to shape future generations. WMA is proud to support, recognize, and honor the achievements of all women who have served and for those who are currently serving. Women Marines have a bond and camaraderie without generational limitations. The role of women Marines has continually evolved and pushed the boundaries and barriers for others to follow.

Women Marines have opened up doors to future generations of patriot women, of women empowerment, and gender equality earned on battlefields around the world.



5 Determined Women Marines



A 2000 graduate of the [Naval Academy](#), Okoreeh-Baah was one of the [first women](#) to graduate with a Marine Corps aviation contract. She flew the CH-46E Sea Knight, completed a year-long combat [deployment](#), and then transitioned to the [MV-22 Osprey](#).

In 2006, she became the first woman to pilot the Osprey. Keep in mind, this is the aircraft that kept crashing and there were massive doubts about its performance. This badass pilot flew anyway. That takes guts, skill, tenacity and character -- which, as we all know, is the recipe for making a Marine.

We don't know her name, but she completed one of the hardest courses in the [Marine Corps](#), the Infantry Officer Course. She is briefly shown in a [video](#) released by the Corps and, as the first female Marine infantry officer, she will lead a platoon of infantry [Marines](#). To illustrate how little people associate the Corps with female Marines, the site Jezebel originally posted the story with the headline "The Marine Corps is getting their first-ever woman officer." They corrected the eye-roll inducing gaffe, but the Marine Corps more than any other service branch has voiced concerns about having women in combat. That said, perhaps its reticence and insistence on standards means more acceptance for this unnamed trailblazer, because she met the challenge and succeeded. We hope so, because the beauty of the Corps is that Marines are Marines first and foremost and they take care of their own. A hearty "Oorah!" to this badass female Marine ... 0302, baby!



OK, try and remember this isn't a movie script: A young woman born in a Siberian prison spends the first two years of her life behind bars. Then her mother dies, and she and her twin brother are adopted by an American couple. She goes on to become one of the first women to sign up for the Marine Corps with an infantry contract.

Profiled in [Task & Purpose](#), Maria Daume's story is mind-boggling, inspiring and makes one want to shout "Merica!" Well done, Marine.

Who doesn't love the Blue Angels? Well, except for that one guy who wants them out of San Francisco Fleet Week.

The Blues are one of the [Navy's](#) most visible recruiting and outreach tools. In 2016, Marine aviator Capt. Katie Higgins became the first female Blue Angels pilot when she took to the skies in "Fat Albert," the [C-130 Hercules](#) that takes part in the show.

Taking an agile fighter like the Hornet through intricate maneuvers is badass. But taking a hulking C-130 and making it look as agile as a Hornet is BAD. ASS.

Sadly, Higgins' tour as Fat Albert's pilot was cut short due to [safety and maintenance issues](#) with the plane. But while she was on the team, little girls who dreamed of punching holes in the sky were able to see her signing autographs right there alongside the male pilots.

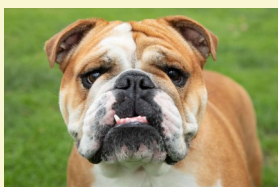


Pfc. Amanda Issa and her family escaped from Mosul as the threat of the Islamic State loomed nearby. She lived for a year as a refugee in a camp in Turkey; then, her family made their way to Michigan in 2011 when she was just a teenager.

Profiled by the [Defense Department](#), Issa's story is a testament to personal fortitude.

Inspired by the bravery of U.S. Marines she saw when she was a child in Iraq, she did what any refugee from a war-ravaged home would do: graduated from high school at the top of her class and enlisted in the Marine Corps.

If that weren't enough, Issa suffered a near enlistment-ending injury in boot camp and defied the odds by making it back and finishing her training. She earned her Eagle, Globe and Anchor in September 2016. Can I get an "Oorah!" for this badass Marine?



The History of the United States Marine Corps Birthday Ball

The United States Marine Corps Birthday Ball is one of the most celebrated and honored traditions within the Corps, representing both the pride of Marines and their long legacy of service. The Marine Corps itself was founded on November 10, 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized two battalions of Marines to serve as naval infantry. Since then, Marines have recognized that date as the birth of their service. The formalization of the Marine Corps Birthday as a celebrated event began in 1921, when Major General John A. Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47. This order summarized the history, mission, and tradition of the Corps, and directed that the anniversary be recognized annually by all Marines.

In the early years, the birthday was often observed with simple unit formations, readings of Lejeune's message, and small gatherings. Over time, however, the celebration evolved into a more formal occasion, culminating in what is now known as the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The Ball features a traditional ceremony that reflects the values and history of the Corps. It includes the reading of General Lejeune's birthday message, as well as a message from the current Commandant of the Marine Corps. One of the most significant rituals is the cake-cutting ceremony, where the first piece is given to the oldest Marine present, who then passes it to the youngest Marine present. This symbolizes the passing of traditions, knowledge, and values from one generation to the next.

The Ball has become more than just a party; it is a moment for Marines to honor their history, reflect on their sacrifices, and celebrate the bond of brotherhood and sisterhood within the Corps. Whether held at large hotels, Marine Corps bases, or even overseas while deployed, the event unites Marines of all ranks in a shared tradition that reinforces their identity and esprit de corps.

Today, the Marine Corps Birthday Ball remains one of the most important traditions in military culture. It is both a celebration of the Corps' heritage and a reminder of the enduring values of honor, courage, and commitment that define the United States Marine Corps.

Erik Bietz
Historian MCL726
11/6/2025





Nothing like a good read while taking care of business

Mission Statement

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines, FMF Navy Personnel who wear or have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.



Since business is slow during the first few months of the year our Wednesday February 4th meeting will be held short and we will have social time, if attending bring a dish if you are able.



Keystone Young Marines



TAPS

NO CASUALTY REPORTED



Where were you stationed and units you were with?