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# THE GRINDER

Mike Clark, Commandant

Alan Atwell, Editor

**A Publication of Marine Corps League Detachment 260**



*Merry  
Christmas  
One  
And  
All*



It's that time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, have joyous gatherings of family and friends, and get a bit over anxious about all the shopping, cooking, and having loved ones home for Christmas. For some it is a sad time because of the loss of someone special, who won't be there or because we cannot celebrate the way we used to.

Our Marine Corps League is one added treasure to our lives, because of the friendships we have made and the difference we have made in the lives of so many veterans in Guilford County. Each of you is appreciated by our Supreme Commandant as you have saved and transformed lives. You are living out His commandment to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

We have so much to be thankful for even when things don't seem to be going the way we want them too. We are alive, we have people who love us, we have brothers and sisters in arms, and we have the love of God. All are blessings that we should count each and every day.

Coming up on **December 17**, is our annual **Christmas Dinner Party**. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent Season with others in the Detachment and their special guests. See the details in this Grinder for reservations, place and time.

**COMMANDANT'S  
LETTER  
MIKE CLARK**



Marines, Corpsmen, and Friends of the Fighting 260,

Season's Greetings. I hope this finds everyone well, having enjoyed Thanksgiving and looking forward to the Detachment Holiday Party and Christmas. We have been getting some requests for assistance with the Toys for Tots program to support the Marine Corps Reserve and the Inspector/Instructor staff. **Senior Vice Commandant, Jim Hayes** has volunteered to be our Detachment coordinator with the Reserve Toys for Tots coordinator. My hope is that we can help in whatever capacity they may need.

We are fast approaching our **Holiday party**. I know that **Rob O'Hanlon** and his team have been working to ensure that we have a great event in celebration of the Holiday season and Christmas. Details of the party will be elsewhere in the Grinder. Again, we will need to have some participation to ensure its success. I am looking forward to it.

As we approach the end of 2025 it seems that it has passed quickly. Our Detachment has had a successful year, assisting many veterans, providing several community services and supporting our chosen organizations. As always, our success is due to the participation and efforts of our membership. As we approach a new year there will be some new fundraising opportunities to work toward. The return of the Reverse Raffle and the pending Bingo nights are the ones on the immediate horizon. As assistance is needed, requests will be sent from those organizing each event. If you have an idea for fundraising, please bring your suggestions to us for consideration.

Warm wishes to all of you as we have winter settling in and Christmas fast approaching.

Semper Fidelis,

Mike

**Monkey Business**  
with  
**Steve "the Squid" Nash**



## Chaplain's Corner

Al Ruggiero



Fellow Marines and Members of the Fighting 260,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Chaplain of the Fighting 260 throughout 2025. Much was accomplished through hard work, dedication and willful kindness of our members. Our community and Veterans have received many blessings from these efforts. Among these are the Mountain Folks who suffered greatly from flood damage, Triad Honor Flights, Boy Scouts, Toys for Tots, The Servant Center, Horse Power and K-9 PTSD support, Welcome Home Baskets, Honor Guard recipient families and so many others within our community. And so now I am looking forward to another great year in which we all may be a blessing to any whom may need us.

My prayer for next year is " May the Lord bless our efforts, and continue with us as we do good for others. Upon Judgement Day there shall be many stars in your crown". God Bless America and God Bless The Fighting 260. S F, C M

### Chaplain's Christmas Prayer

Lord, we thank you for every trial, as they make us stronger and draw us closer to you. We thank you for every blessing, for every Marine and family and every child, but most of all we thank you for our Lord Jesus, who brings us Grace and Forgiveness. And may we all be mindful this holiday season that He is the gift to the world. Hallelujah. Amen.

And the angel said unto them, " Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord". Luke 2: 10-11 King James Version

### Remembering our Brothers and Sisters who joined Heavens Gates

Bill Moss	Moe Parent	Elleen Cobleigh
Jack Connors	Ken Duncan	Shelia Johnson
Chuck Stotz	Percy Sudsbury	
Arnold Husser	Harvey McDonald	

### Chaplain's Prayer List

Judy Brenner  
Bill Doucette  
Sadie Bell

## MCL-260'S CHRISTMAS PARTY IS COMING!!



WHEN: DECEMBER 17, 2025

WHERE: **WOODLAND HALL**, TRIAD PARK (same as last year's location)

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM

ADULT BEVERAGES (beer and wine) ALLOWED (no hard liquor, please)

BUFFET DINNER: 6:30 PM

Everyone: please sign up to bring your favorite side dish or dessert

**Contact Nancy Stotz at 336-202-6056 to let her know what food you are bringing.**

**CHRISTMAS COSTUME CONTEST:** 8:00 PM

**SECRET SANTA GIFT EXCHANGE:** 8:30 PM

If you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped gift. Maximum value \$25. Leave it under the Christmas Tree and get your number card. When your number is called, you get to select a gift from the ones available. If you don't like what you unwrapped, you make trade it for one of the opened gifts.

This should be lots of fun with laughter galore as the gifts are "exchanged" or "swiped" from another party goer.

**ALL HANDS ON-DECK TO CLEAN UP AFTER THE PARTY.**

You will be missed if you don't attend.

# Flag Display Days

<b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>January 1st</b>
<b>Inauguration Day (Presidential)</b>	<b>January 20th</b>
<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>	<b>3rd Monday in January</b>
<b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>	<b>February 12th</b>
<b>Washington's Birthday (President's Day)</b>	<b>3rd Monday in February</b>
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>variable</b>
<b>National Vietnam War Veterans Day</b>	<b>March 29th</b>
<b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>2nd Sunday in May</b>
<b>Peace Officers Memorial Day (half-staff)</b>	<b>May 15th</b>
<b>Armed Forces Day</b>	<b>3rd Saturday in May</b>
<b>Memorial Day (half-staff until noon)</b>	<b>last Monday in May</b>
<b>Flag Day</b>	<b>June 14th</b>
<b>Father's Day</b>	<b>3rd Sunday in June</b>
<b>Independence day</b>	<b>July 4th</b>
<b>National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day</b>	<b>July 27th</b>
<b>Labor Day</b>	<b>1st Monday in September</b>
<b>POW/MIA Recognition Day</b>	<b>3rd Friday in September</b>
<b>Constitution and Citizenship Day</b>	<b>September 17th</b>
<b>Columbus Day</b>	<b>2nd Monday in October</b>
<b>Navy Day</b>	<b>October 27th</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>4th Thursday in November</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>December 25th</b>

**Make a Kopy and Keep a Kopy for Reference**



# December



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 X	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 X	26	27
28	29	30 X	31 X			

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

**12-17 MCL 260 Christmas Dinner Party at Woodland Hall, Triad Park, 5:30-10:00 P.M.**

**12-25 Christmas Day**

**12-30 Marine Night Out @ Rody's Tavern  
5:30 until ???**

**12-31 New Years Eve**

## Year End Report

### Community Services Squad

Community Services Squad End of Year Report

MCL-260's efforts to assist our fellow Marines and other Veterans continues!

Here are our donations for October thru December:

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CASH	GOODS
10/8/2025	Marine-In-Need for family support	\$ 1,000	
10/13/2025	Triad Honor Flight	\$ 10,000	
10/13/2025	Triad Honor Flight-Stotz Donation	\$ 500	
11/19/2025	MIN - Jason Vereshack - Home Destroyed in fire	\$ 500	
12/4/2025	The Servant Center - Clothing Donation Sports Endeavors LLC		\$ 15,500
12/19/2025	The Servant Center Christmas Gifts for Vet's family	\$ 1,500	
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 13,500</b>	<b>\$ 15,500</b>

Our total donations since we starting tracking in 2017 are:

Cash: \$ 521,328;

Goods (mattresses, etc.): \$ 586,895

Grand Total: \$ 1,108,223

Not bad for a determined Band of Brothers!

Many thanks to MCL-260's Golf Committee (Brian Sowers, Jim Burgio, Jim Hayes, George Orfanedes, Al Ruggerio & Rich Carrera) and the Golf Volunteers for their continued efforts on behalf of our Detachment and for the many Veterans and Veterans' organizations that have received checks and goods!

What is CSS planning for the New Year?

In addition to the annual **Charity Golf Tournament** in October 2026, there are two new fundraisers in the works:

**Reverse Raffle** which Susan Carrera is planning for April 17

**BINGO Nights** (Al Ruggerio, Chairman), still in the planning stages.

Would you like to help with either of these? Contact Susan at 336-339-1710 or Al at 336-202-3928. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated!!