

CAPE FEAR DETACHMENT 1070  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

---

UNITED STATES

1775



2023

MARINE CORPS

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248<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023



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Cape Fear Detachment 1070  
Marine Corps League  
Wilmington, NC 28408

Welcome to the Cape Fear Detachment 1070 Marine Corps Birthday Celebration. On November 10 of each year, we commemorate our Corps' history as one of the premiere military organizations in the world and renew our bonds with Marines of the past and present.

This year we celebrate our 248th Anniversary and we are delighted that we Marines, Families, and friends are able to share this moment together. The Marine Corps, as always prides itself on its past and relishes its continuing service to our country now and in the future. As the years progress, we face ever increasing challenges to our freedoms and the Marine Corps is ready to meet those challenges. We members of the Marine Corps League are honored and humbled to be a part of the traditions of the Corps from the Halls of Montezuma to today's never-ending crises.

Thank you all for coming. We hope you enjoy yourselves and I look forward to meeting each of you throughout the evening. Please keep all our Service men and women in your thoughts and prayers.

Finally, I'd like to salute all our sponsors who have made this evening possible.

Semper Fidelis,

Art Howard  
Commandant, Cape Fear Detachment 1070  
Marine Corps League

# PROGRAM

**1800 Cocktails**

**1845 Dinner**

**2000 - 2100 Traditional Cake Cutting Ceremony**

**Escorts Entrance**

**Entrance of Detachment Commandant  
and Guest Speaker**

**Posting of Colors**

**National Anthem**

**Birthday Cake Procession**

**Reading of General LeJeune's Message**

**Cake Cutting - Oldest and Youngest  
Marines**

**Departure of Participants**

**Guest Introductions**

**Guest Speaker - Brief Remarks**

**Retiring of Colors**

**Marines' Hymn**

**2100 - 2300 Dancing**



## LtGen Walter E. Gaskin

LtGen Walter E. Gaskin is retired from the US Marine Corps and is currently the Secretary of the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Lieutenant General Gaskin has served on the North Carolina Military Affairs Commission. From 2010 until his retirement from the United States Marine Corps in 2013. LtGen Gaskin served as the Deputy Chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium. In that role, he provided strategic military counsel on operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya to NATO's Secretary General and the North Atlantic Council.



LtGen Gaskin also served as the Commanding General of the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, NC from June 2006 until July 2008. In addition to this role, he simultaneously served as the Commanding General of II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward). During this tour, LtGen Gaskin led II MEF (FWD) during its year-long deployment to Anbar Province, Iraq as the Commanding General of Multinational Forces-West.

LtGen Gaskin most recently served as Chief Executive Officer of La Porte Technology Corp. LAPORTECH is an engineering Technical Development Plan supplier with the capability to design, test, retrofit, and roll out new and existing specialty defense and commercial vehicles. Prior to this, LtGen Gaskin served as the Managing Director in Charge of Operation Management Complex of Global Bank in Irvine, CA.

A graduate of Savannah State University's NROTC Scholarship Program with a Bachelor of Science degree. He also graduated with the student honor of Summa Cum Laude and earned a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma. He also completed the Senior Executive Seminar from the JFK School of Government at Harvard University. His military education includes the Amphibious Warfare School; Army Command and Staff College; Army War College; and the Combined/Joint Force Land Component Command Course.

## ETERNAL FATHER STRONG TO SAVE

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!

Lord, guard and guide the men who fly  
And those who on the ocean ply;  
Be with our troops upon the land,  
And all who for their country stand:  
Be with these guardians day and night  
And may their trust be in thy might

Eternal Father, grant, we pray  
To all Marines, both night and day  
The courage, honor, strength, and skill  
Their land to serve, Thy law fulfill  
Be Thou the shield forevermore  
From every peril to the Corps.

# THE MARINES' HYMN

From the Halls of Montezuma  
To the shores of Tripoli  
We fight our country's battles  
In the air, on land and sea.  
First to fight for right and freedom,  
And to keep our honor clean,  
We are proud to claim the title of  
**UNITED STATES MARINES**

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze  
From dawn to setting sun;  
We have fought in every clime and place  
Where we could take a gun,  
In the snows of far-off northern lands  
And the sunny tropic scenes,  
You will find us always on the job,  
**THE UNITED STATES MARINES**

Here's health to you and to our Corps  
Which we are proud to serve;  
In many a strife we've fought for life  
And never lost our nerve.

If the Army and the Navy  
Ever look on Heaven's scenes,  
They will find the streets are guarded by  
**UNITED STATES MARINES**

*"Once a Marine, always a Marine"*

**Detachment 1070**  
**2023 Officers, Staff, and Committee Chairs**

**Elected Officers**

Commandant	Art Howard
Senior Vice Commandant	Tim Snyder
Junior Vice Commandant	Tim Otting
Judge Advocate	Bob Herd
Adjutant	Shawn Swanson
Paymaster	Ray “Hondo” Davids
Junior Past Commandant	Ray Decker

**Appointed Staff Positions**

Chaplain	Bob Herd
Community Relations	Ham Hicks
Fallen Marines	Tim Otting
Historian	Eric Shaffer
Newsletter Editor	Lois Smith
Photographer	Denise Bradley
Quartermaster	Chuck McLiverty
Sergeants at Arms	Al Gumbs (acting)
Veterans Liaison	Dan Wisehart
Website/Roster	Gordon Johnson

**Committee Chairs**

Birthday Ball	Steve Smith
Birthday Ball Ads	Gordon Johnson
Color Guard	Chuck McLiverty
Parades	Tim Snyder
Riverfest	Bob Herd
Scholarships	Chuck McLiverty
Toys for Tots	Bob Hedden

***“If the Army and the Navy Ever look on Heaven’s scenes,  
They will find the streets are guarded  
By United States Marines”***



**DETACHMENT 1070 FALLEN MARINES & CORPSMEN**

*Frank A. Incerto  
Conrad L. Giacalone  
Albert M. Hauser  
Carmen Delia  
Joseph Gasquez  
Allan W. Cameron  
James G. Finucan  
Sigmund B. Smith  
Thomas J. O’Connell  
Joseph R. Manning  
Joseph G. Corbin  
Joseph J. Brown  
James H. Flowers  
Owen Waters  
Robert R. Witkowski  
Gerard Lyons  
Florence Stefan  
Arcelia Wicker  
Victor Sizemore  
John McQuade*

*Paul M. Slebodnik  
Richard Munoz  
John Kopp  
John E. Goodrow  
Robert Martin  
Robert Ochs  
Don Tancredi  
John Babb  
Hank Phillips  
Paul M. Williams  
Richard Neher  
John Brodie  
John Dunn III  
Bill Young  
Raymond Kress  
Bill Facello  
Ed Donovan  
James Welch  
Troy Bradley*

## **A Brief History of Detachment 1070 Marine Corps League**

In the fall of 2000, Hank Phillips and John Irwin didn't know one another but shared a common goal to establish a Marine Corps League detachment in Wilmington, NC. Adhering to the motto "Once a Marine, always a Marine", the two met and began gathering names of former and retired Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen in the greater Wilmington area. They placed newspaper ads, made phone calls and sent e-mails to prospects announcing the formation of the new detachment, then contacted the national headquarters of the Marine Corps League to get the necessary forms to charter. Soon, it became very clear that there were many Marines and sailors in the area interested in joining the detachment.

The first organizational meeting of the detachment was held at McAllister's Deli on 10 January, 2001. Hank Phillips volunteered to serve as the detachment's first commandant. Thirty charter members signed the application form. The charter ceremony for Cape Fear Detachment 1070 was held on 22 March, 2001 at the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center on Burnette Boulevard with approximately 75 attendees. By July, 2001, there were 70 members making the new detachment one of the largest in the Department of North Carolina Marine Corps League. The following November, the first Birthday Ball was held at the Wilmington Elks Lodge.

In the following months and years, detachment meetings were held at various locations including American Legion Post 10, Western Sizzler, Coastline Convention Center, Union Café, and VFW Post 2573. The detachment currently meets at the Wilmington Moose Lodge the first Tuesday of the month. Recent Birthday Ball celebrations have been held at UNCW's Warwick Hall and Burney Center, the Country Club of Landfall and the Cape Fear Country Club. Steve and Lois Smith have organized the detachment Birthday Ball for many years and have greatly contributed to its success.

The detachment has had an excellent speaker program from the start with many top-level speakers from MCB Camp Lejeune

and MCAS New River giving presentations. Other speakers have provided interesting information about our community and its history.

Community involvement is an important aspect of the detachment's activities. In 2006, Cape Fear Detachment 1070 assumed responsibility for the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program in Wilmington. Since that time, the detachment has collected over 250,000 toys, books and bicycles in the greater Wilmington area for needy children and families at Christmas time. John Dunn was honored by the City of Wilmington as "Mr. Toys for Tots" for his more than 25 years of active leadership and support for the program both here and in Baltimore, MD. Mike Gautier, John Gill, Al Gumbs, and Art Howard each led the program following Dunn. Bob Hedden currently heads up the detachment's Toys for Tots program.

Continuing to follow the Marine Corps League's mission statement, Detachment 1070 "voluntarily aids and renders assistance to all Marines and U.S. Navy FMF Corpsmen and to their widows and orphans." Aid has recently been offered for families of Marines who have been affected by hurricanes and tornadoes in our area.

Detachment 1070 has an active scholarship program for high school seniors and college enrollees for sons, daughters, and grandchildren of detachment members and Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen in New Hanover County. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,000 each year. Past Commandant Bill Facello successfully managed the program for several years and in 2018, under Bob Herd, \$5,000 was awarded. Detachment 1070 has established a partnership with the Veterans Services organization at Cape Fear Community College and recently awarded \$1,000 to help fund scholarships for Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen. The funds to support the detachment's scholarship program are generated from the sale of ads in the Birthday Ball Program. This year, two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to local high school seniors.

Detachment 1070's "Fallen Marine" program honors Marines

in New Hanover County who have passed on at memorial services. Joe Hack, George Casola, Jerry Dowling and Al Gumbs have been program leaders. The detachment also supports through its Foundation Account, the families of Fallen Marines, Marine families in need, and the Wounded Warrior Program.

In addition to the annual Birthday Ball, Detachment 1070 has held a picnic for members, families and guests at Long Leaf Park. For several years, detachment Marines and sailors worked on projects aboard the battleship U.S.S. North Carolina. Visits have also been organized to MCB Camp Lejeune, MCAS New River, Parris Island Recruit Depot, the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and Washington D.C. war memorials and monuments. The detachment participates in Wilmington's Azalea Festival parade, Memorial Day observances, Veteran's Day parade, and Riverfest. Commandant John Babb organized a detachment color guard for parades and other events, and Tim Ciotti and Chuck McLiverty constructed an Iwo Jima float for use in the Azalea Festival parade and the Veteran's Day parade.

Following Hank Phillips, a descendent of John Harris, the 6th Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, John Irwin served as commandant, followed by Don Tancredi, Joe Hack, John Kucan, John Gill, Jerry Dowling, Chuck McLiverty, Bob Ochs, Bill Facello, John Babb, Ray Decker, and Art Howard.

Cape Fear Detachment 1070, Marine Corps League in Wilmington, continues the traditions and spirit of all Marine and Navy FMF Corpsmen who proudly wear or who have worn the eagle, globe, and anchor of the Corps - Marines helping Marines and the Cape Fear community. For further information, go to Detachment Webmaster Gordon Johnson's website at: [www.capefearmcl.org](http://www.capefearmcl.org).

*Originally prepared by Hank Phillips in 2018.*

*Updated for this Program Booklet.*

# SEMPER FI!



# Happy Birthday Marines!

**This Program is Dedicated to the  
Members of Cape Fear Detachment 1070  
Who Served During WWII and Korea**

**John Brodie  
James Bryce  
Carmen Delia  
Bill Facello  
James Flowers  
James Hargrove  
Albert Hauser  
Ray Kress  
Dudley McGough  
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Robert Ochs  
Victor Sizemore  
Don Tancredi  
Owen Waters  
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Bob Witkowski**

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**Semper Fidelis**

**John Gill**





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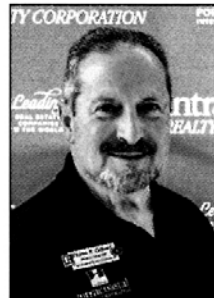


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and  
Barbara Weiner.  
Semper Fidelis





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— OF THE —

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HAPPY 248th BIRTHDAY  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRIENDS  
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(SENCLand Chapter)



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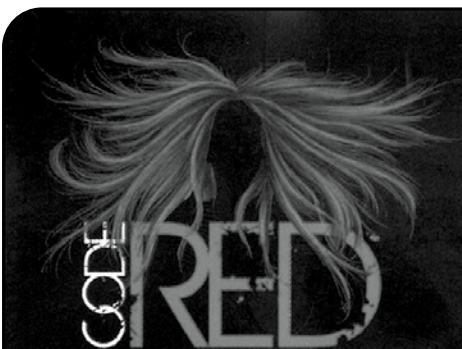
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another who loved so  
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too soon but forever in our  
hearts. ♥

Happy 248th Birthday Marines!

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**In Loving Memory of  
Sgt. Troy Lancer Bradley USMC**



## **Sgt. Troy Lancer Bradley USMC**

Troy never knew a stranger; he was one of the friendliest people you would ever meet and was always willing to help those in need, giving of himself constantly. He worked a full-time job and a weekend job taking care of yards for those that couldn't. He spent the rest of his free time volunteering when others wouldn't. He would smile and laugh hoping to bury an incurable pain deep within from the tragedy and loss of our daughter Sierra in 2016. Most would not have known the pain he was in. The Marine Corps taught him to bury the pain and be strong, to which he was for me and our daughter Jessica, but the reality is, life would never be the same for any of us. He suffered PTSD from the Kosovo and Iraq wars which worsened after the loss of our daughter.

7 years after Sierra passed, Troy joined a nonprofit veteran support group and began enjoying extracurricular activities. He began to live again, meeting veterans from all branches and forming instant bonds. One activity in particular, scuba diving, won him over. In his own words, scuba diving relieved the pain in his body (neuropathy), and he felt at peace under water and closer to Sierra. He said it was like Heaven underwater.

Sadly, July 7th, 2023, while scuba diving, Troy lost his life. He had an unknown heart condition that only an angiogram would detect. Troy had an extremely enlarged heart and 80% blockage of his coronary artery. Although he was trying to control his rapid breathing underwater, his heart would not have allowed him to, due to the strain on the heart already as it fought to get more oxygen to the brain while scuba diving. Had he known he had a heart condition, he never would have gone scuba diving, nor would he have been allowed to. The lack of oxygen caused

him confusion which was observed but he was not asked to surface; due to this confusion, he was not able to monitor his air pressures/depth and dive time accurately until it was too late, which then caused him to surface away from the anchor line without pressurizing once he realized he was in danger. He used the remaining 500 PSI to surface with no air left to fill his BCD. Once he surfaced the seas were rolling, his gear was on, his weight belt was on, he had no air left and he went under. Troy's rapid breathing caused him to use his air 3 times faster than anyone else's, not knowing his heart was the cause of this rapid breathing. This is his story. A story that needs to be told because it could save someone else's life.

Troy is loved beyond measure and will be missed forever.  
We love you Troy,  
Forever ~ N ~ A Day Infinity

**Love your wife Denise, daughter Jessica, Mom and Dad.**

Troy,  
You have always been like a son to us. You have touched our hearts and we will forever be grateful and blessed to have known you and your family. You always worked so hard for the League, and we felt you never received the recognition you were so deserving of, even though we know you didn't do it for recognition, you did it because that was the loving caring soul that you were. Always putting everyone and everything else ahead of yourself. You are irreplaceable and will be missed by all that knew and loved you. Semper Fi Marine.

**With love, Tim and Margie Ciotti.**



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