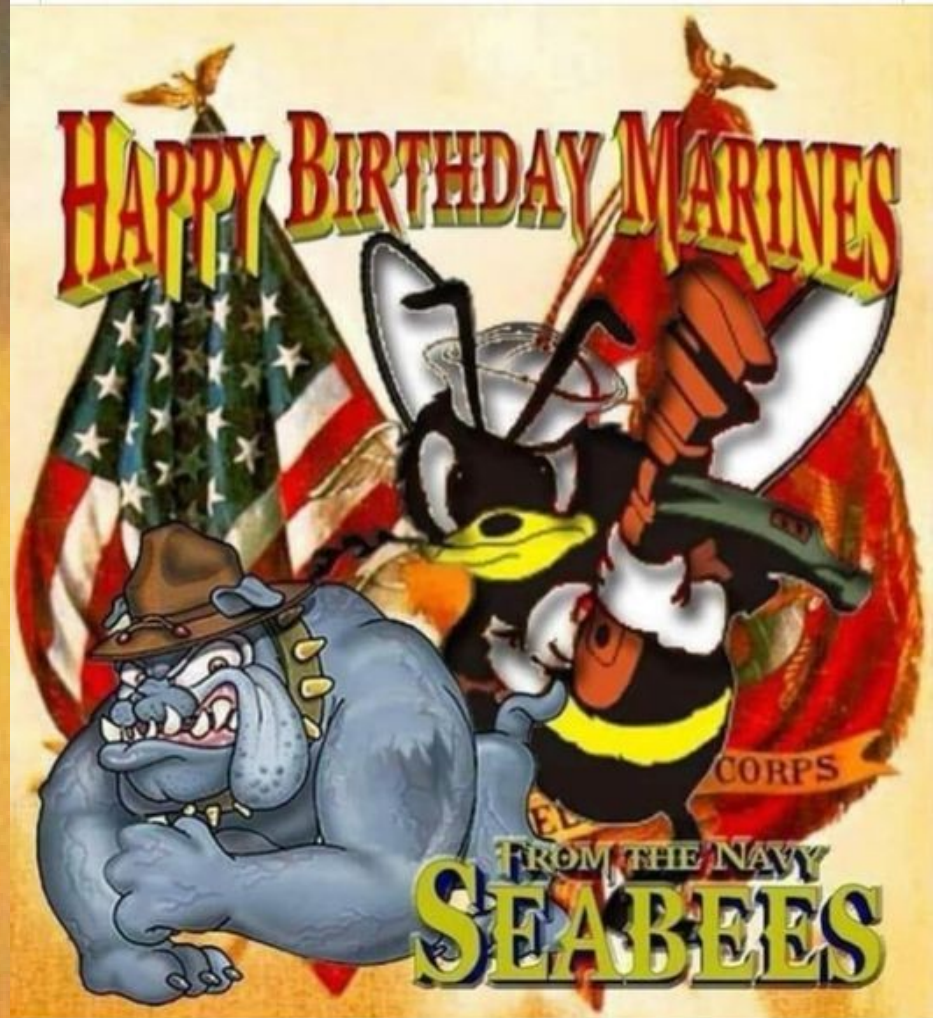


***Welcome to the 245<sup>th</sup> USMC Birthday Ball  
Hosted by the  
Brevard County Detachment  
7 November 2020***



# ***Pictures provided by Roger Scruggs***



***“The Pink Hotel”***  
***The Radisson at the Port***



SALON II

Marine Corps League





Marine Corps League



MARINE CORPS  
LEAGUE  
BANQUET



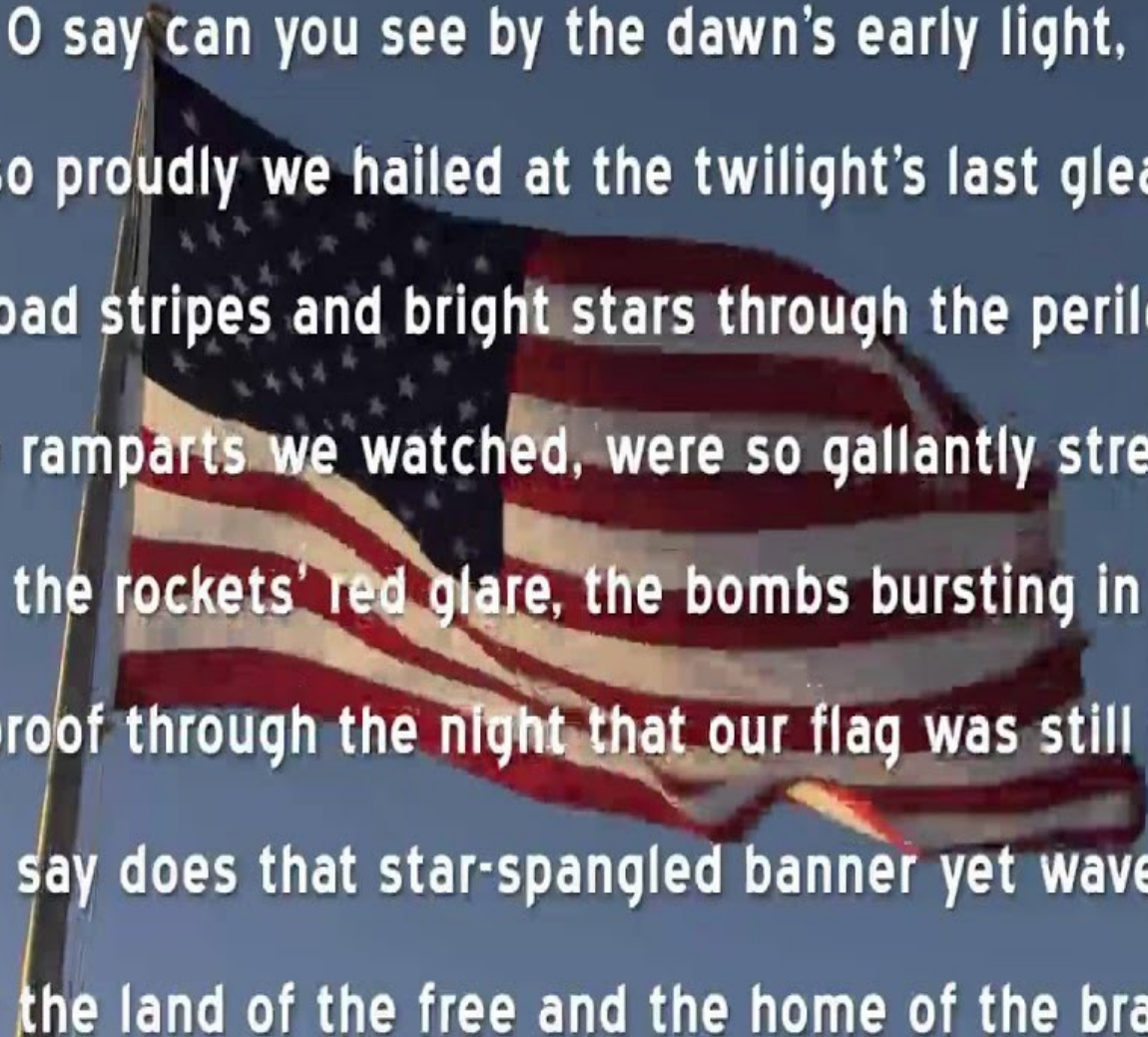
***Our Cake!***  
***Special thanks to Carlos Rivera for creating the base & cart!***



***Special thanks to Detachment Judge Advocate Rick Bedford (Major, USMC, Retired) for being the Master of Ceremonies & putting together the raffles/silent auction items & tables***



# ***The National Anthem is played***

An American flag is shown waving on a flagpole against a clear blue sky. The flag is the central focus of the image, with its stars and stripes clearly visible. The text of the National Anthem is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

O say can you see by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;  
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?





**I pledge allegiance to the Flag  
of the United States of America,  
and to the Republic for which it stands,  
one Nation under God, indivisible,  
with liberty and justice for all.**

# ***The POW/MIA Table***



# "The POW MIA Remembrance Ceremony"

**As you entered the banquet hall this evening, you may have noticed a small table in a place of honor. It is set for one. This table is our way of symbolizing the fact that members of our profession of arms are missing from our midst. They are commonly called POWs or MIAs, we call them "Brothers." They are unable to be with us this evening and so we remember them.**

This Table set for one is small -- Symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his oppressors. Remember!

The Tablecloth is white -- Symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. Remember!

The single Red Rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades-in-arms who keep the faith awaiting their return. Remember!

The Red Ribbon tied so prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn upon the lapel and breasts of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing. Remember!

The Candle, the candle is lit -- Symbolizing the upward reach of their unconquerable spirit. Remember!

A Slice of Lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate. Remember!

There is Salt upon the bread plate -- Symbolic of the families tears as they wait. Remember!

The Glass is inverted -- They cannot toast with us this night. Remember!

The Chair -- The chair is empty. They are not here. Remember!

Remember! -- All of you who served with them and called them comrades, who depended upon their might and aid, and relied upon them, for surely, they have not forsaken you.

Remember!

Remember! -- Until the day they come home, Remember!

# *TAPS is played by the Detachment Chaplain Marine Robert Doyle*

## **Taps**

Day is Done

Composed by Union Army Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield  
American Civil War general, 1862

The image shows the musical score for 'Taps' in 3/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The melody is simple and somber, consisting of a series of quarter and eighth notes. The first system has 4 measures, the second has 4 measures, and the third has 2 measures.

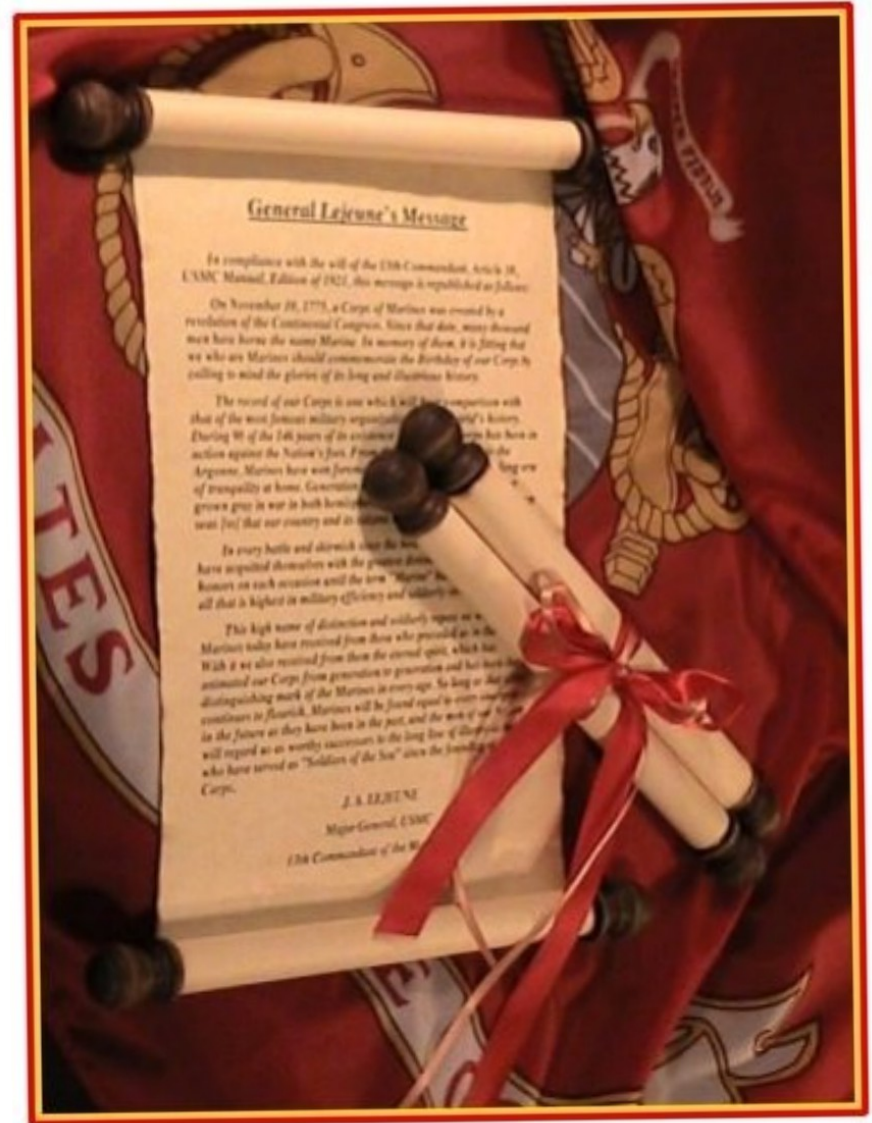
Day is done, gone the sun  
From the lakes, from the hills, from the skies  
All is well, safely rest,  
God is nigh.

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# 13<sup>th</sup> Commandant & Founder of The Marine Corps League, Major General John Archer LeJeune



**ON NOVEMBER 1ST, 1921, JOHN A. LEJEUNE, 13TH COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS, DIRECTED THAT A REMINDER OF THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF THE CORPS BE PUBLISHED BY EVERY COMMAND, TO ALL MARINES THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE, ON THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CORPS. SINCE THAT DAY, THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR CORPS HAVE CONTINUED TO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES ON MANY BATTLEFIELDS AND FOREIGN SHORES, IN WAR AND PEACE. ON THIS BIRTHDAY OF THE CORPS, THEREFORE, IN RECOGNITION OF THE WILL OF THE 13TH COMMANDANT, A REMINDER OF THE CORPS' HONORABLE SERVICE IS PUBLISHED AS FOLLOWS:**

*“On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. Since that date many thousands of men have borne that name Marine. In memory of them it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the Birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.*

*The record of our Corps is one which bears comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. During 90 of the 146 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the Nation's foes. From the Battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war and in the long era of tranquility at home generation after generation of Marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres, and in every corner of the seven seas so that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.*

*In every battle and skirmish since the Birth of the Corps, Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term “Marine” has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.*

*This high name of distinction and soldierly repute we who are Marines today have received from those who preceded us in the Corps. With it we also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our Corps from generation and has long been the distinguishing mark of Marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as “Soldiers of the Sea” since the founding of the Corps.”*

# Birthday Adjutant Carlos Rivera (MGySgt, Drill Instructor, USMC, Retired) with Space Coast Young Marines Color Guard after the National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance and General Lejeune's Birthday Message



***Thanks to the computer saavy of our Detachment Judge Advocate, the Commandant's birthday was able to be enjoyed by all!***

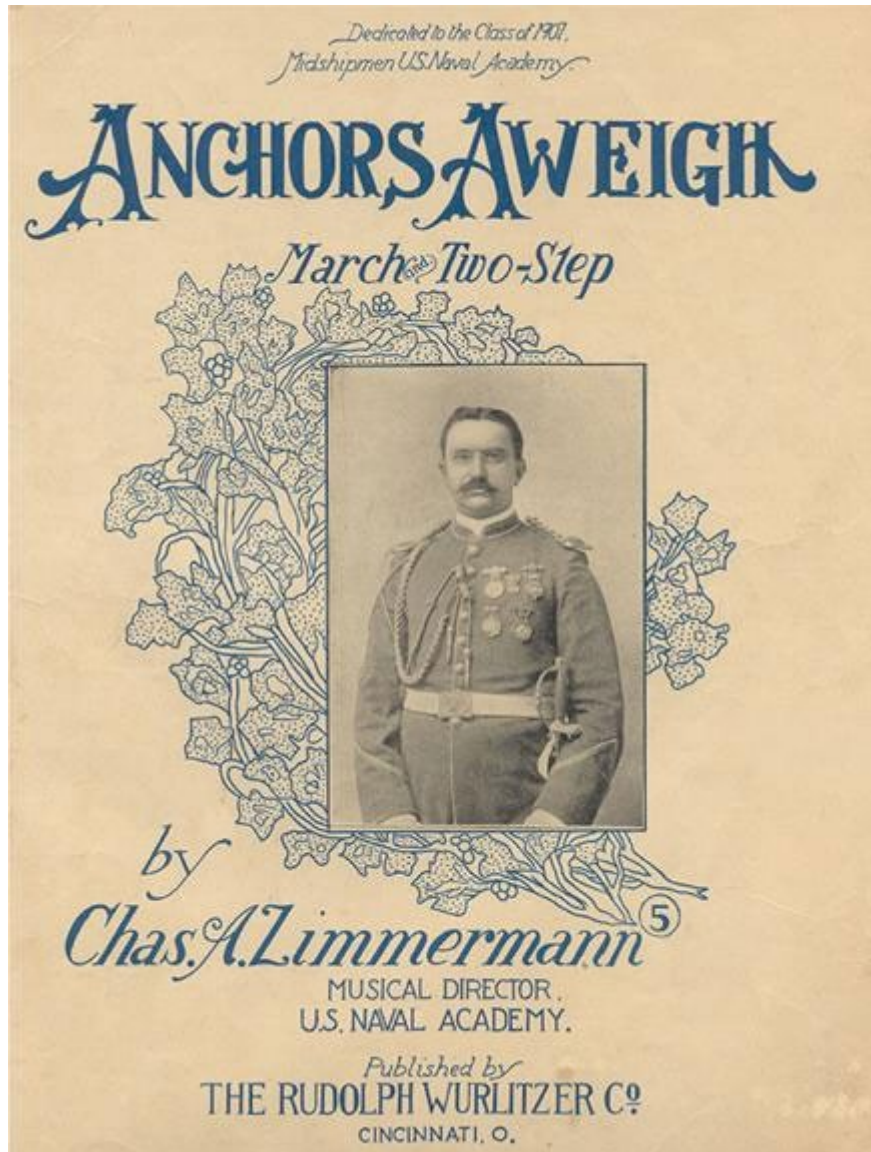




***Detachment Junior Vice Dennis Herring  
(MGySgt, USMC, Retired) & Member  
Tom Fitzgerald wheeling up the  
ceremonial cake***



# ***The Cake Escorts wheel in the cake as the slow version of The Navy's Anchor's Aweigh is played***



***Stand Navy out to sea, fight our battle cry!  
We'll never change our course so vicious  
foes steer shy-y-y-y!  
Roll out the TNT, anchors aweigh!  
Sail on to victory, and sink their bones to  
Davy Jones, hooray!***

***Anchors Aweigh, my boys, Anchors  
Aweigh!  
Farewell to foreign Shores, we sail at  
break of day-ay-ay-ay;  
Through our last night ashore, drink to the  
foam,  
Until we meet once more, here's wishing  
you a happy voyage home!***

***Blue of the mighty deep, Gold of God's  
great sun;  
Let these our colors be, Till All of time be  
done-n-n-ne;  
On seven seas we learn, Navy's stern call:  
Faith, courage, service true, With honor  
over, honor over all.***

***The Cake Escorts wheel in the cake as the slow version of  
The Marines Hymn is played***



***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 Marine.***

***Our flag's unfurled to every breeze  
From dawn to setting sun;  
We have fought in ev'ry clime and place  
Where we could take a gun;  
In the snow of far-off Northern lands  
And in 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.***

## ***Marine Corps Tradition of Cutting the Cake***

Over the years the annual Birthday Ball grew, taking on a life of its own. In 1952, Commandant Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr. formalized the cake-cutting ceremony and other traditional observances. Current Marine Corps policy mandates that the first piece of cake must be presented to the oldest U.S. Marine present and passed to the youngest Marine representing the passing of tradition from generation to generation. Among the many such mandates is the reading of the Commandant's birthday message to the Corps. Like the U.S. Marine Corps itself, the annual Birthday Ball has evolved from modest origins to the dignified function it is today.

# Detachment Commandant cuts the cake



***The first slice of cake goes to our Guest of Honor, Detachment Member & Commander of the Purple Heart Association in Brevard County & Vietnam Veteran, Marine Carl Miller***



***A slice of cake is being handed to The  
Oldest Marine & Iwo Jima Survivor  
Marine Ike Rigell***



***A slice of cake is being handed to  
The Youngest Marine,  
Sergeant Brian Schneider***

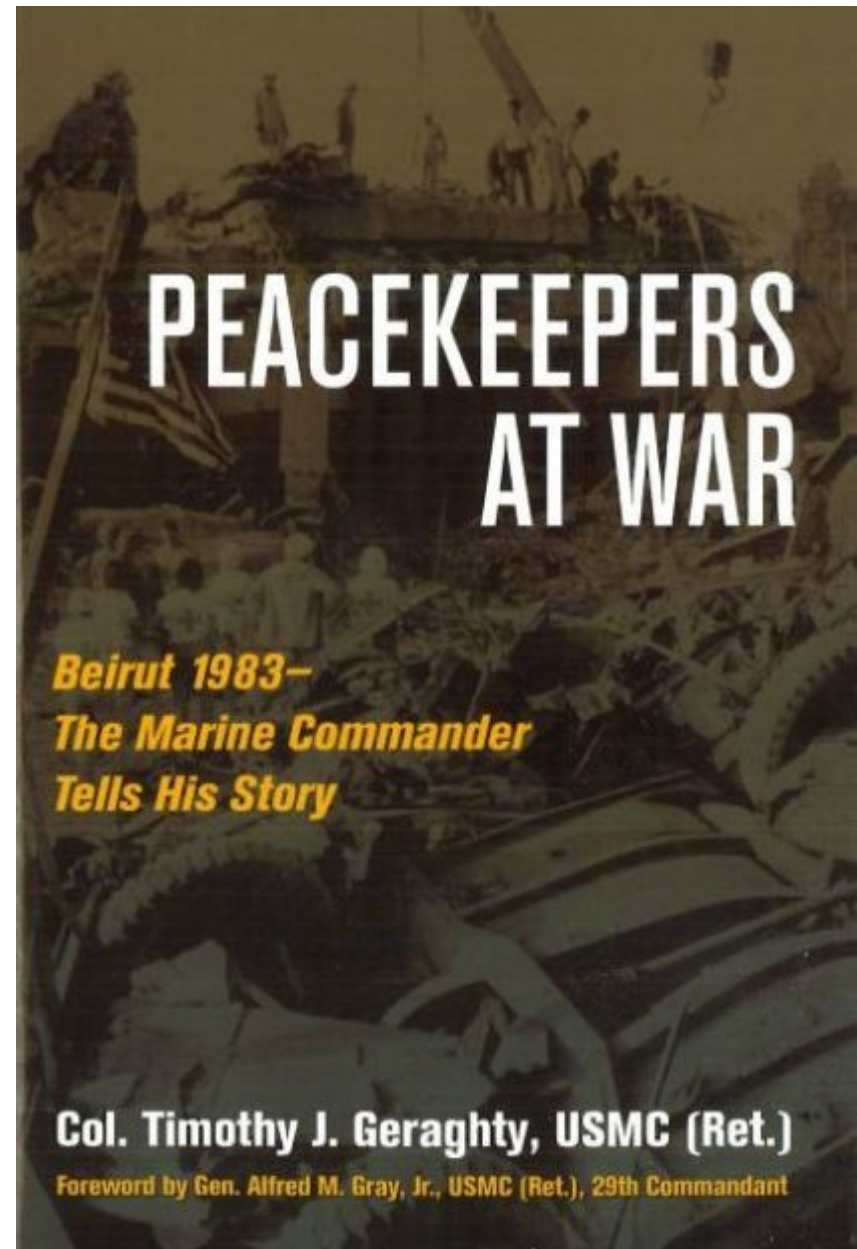




***Presenting our Guest of Honor a token of our appreciation!***



# ***A childhood friend of Bill Muckler***



# ***A special presentation was made to Frank Odzimowski (MGySgt, USMC, Retired)***



Our Brevard County Marine Corps League held a 245th Marine Corps Birthday Dinner on Saturday 7 Nov 2020 in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

I then presented your signed inscribed copy of *Peacekeepers at War* to MGySgt. Frank Odzimowski who served with the author in Beirut. We took Frank by complete surprise and it was a very emotional experience for all in attendance. I could not see dry eyes anywhere. Many in attendance served in 1983. Frank spoke very highly of you and your mutual experiences as we all continue our utmost respect and admiration for you and Frank.

Brothers for Life. Semper Fidelis.

# Other Honored Guests from the VMC!

**Don Pearsall & Dorothy Walsh, Dean & Sue Schaaf,  
Donn & Jeanne Weaver**



***Iwo Jima Survivor Ike Rigell was made an  
Honorary Member of our Detachment***



***Thank you gifts presented to the Space Coast Young Marines for providing our Color Guard***



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# ***Detachment Member Bill Kowalczyk in his Blues!***



© SCRUGGS 2020

***Marine Kim Benton still rockin' it in her Dress Blues!***





# *The magic of Roger Scruggs!*



**Special thanks to Junior Vice Dennis Herring for running the check in table & running the raffles & silent auction**



# *Special THANKS*

*to Pastor Dan Mix for making and providing the 245<sup>th</sup> Birthday Message as a scroll to be distributed as a take home keepsake for our guests!*



