

THE TARMAC

RDU-MCL Detachment #1482



*Meetings Monthly:
2nd Thursday
6501 Mt Herman Rd
Raleigh NC 27617*

*Mailing Address:
2144 Page Road Suite 104
Durham, NC 27703*

*Website: Rdu-mcl.org
Facebook: RDU MCL Detachment*

MILITARY FORCE

THE TARMAC

RDU-Marine Corps League



**Commandant ~
A J Pitts**

Marines, Sailors, and Associate Members
Greetings and Blessings for Safe and
Happy Holidays.

S/F

AJ Pitts



**Sr Vice Commandant ~
Patrick Melton**

Members of the Detachment,
Hope you enjoy a great Thanksgiving.

Semper Fi!

Patrick



**Jr Vice Commandant ~
Michael Brady**

Happy Holidays

Recruit-Recruit-Recruit!
Mike Brady



**Judge Advocate
John Staley**

Semper Fi

John Staley

The Tarmac



**Chaplain ~
Jeff Mixon**

Christmas on "The Canal"

The Rev. Frederic Gehring, Captain (CHC), USN was a man of peace, but his Christmas memories are filled with bombs and war.

There was the Christmas of 1938 when Japanese planes bombed the American mission in China as the priest finished a sermon titled "Peace on Earth."

There was the Christmas of 1942 when he led a midnight Mass for hundreds of soldiers on the island of Guadalcanal. A Jewish boxing champion played carols on a small pump organ as enemy shells rained from the sky.

And there was the Christmas of 1950 when he was reunited after eight years with Patsy Li, a war-injured Chinese child the priest nursed back to health on Guadalcanal.

To thousands of Marine veterans, Father Gehring is known as the Padre of Guadalcanal.

The Navy chaplain was a decorated war hero who never fought and a violinist who consoled men of all faiths on a South Pacific island that became a pivotal World War II battleground.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Gehring had just finished a prayer service for peace in a New York City church when he learned the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. On Dec. 8, the U.S. declared war. On Dec. 9, Gehring volunteered for the Navy. He trained at the Chaplain's School at the Naval Base in Norfolk, Va. He was one of five Roman Catholic chaplains sent to Guadalcanal to be with the Marines, who had landed Aug. 7, 1942.

If the mention of the name Guadalcanal no longer sends chills down American spines, it is only because more than 50 years have passed since the United States, still reeling from the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor and the simultaneous rout at Corregidor eight

months earlier, drew a line in the sand of a Guadalcanal beach and turned the island in the Solomons into the first bloody battleground of World War II.

Gehring was the last of the Chaplains to leave.

It was on Guadalcanal that Gehring earned the respect of thousands of fighting men. He became the first Naval Chaplain to receive the Legion of Merit Medal. With native help, he rescued 27 missionaries from behind the lines using a small motor boat.

It was also on the island that natives brought a wounded girl to Gehring. The girl, about 5 or 6 years old, had been beaten, bayoneted and left for dead. Gehring and the Marines nursed the girl to health and tried to protect her from the horrors of war. When the bombs fell, Gehring would throw the girl into a foxhole and shield her with his body while she screamed. The men sang songs in unsuccessful attempts to drown out the explosions.

Gehring wrote in his book, *A Child of Miracles*, that they did all they could to hide the war from the child, like playing hide-and-seek far from the graves when it was time to bury the dead. "But there were some scenes of brutality and terror to which the child inevitably had to be exposed," Gehring wrote. ". . . The sight of planes shot down and exploding near us or pilots' bodies being incinerated in sheets of crackling flame (could not be) lightly dismissed even from a child's mind and heart."

Gehring named the girl Patsy Li. When the Marines had firm control of the island, she was flown to an orphanage run by nuns on Espiritu Santo Island. Eight years later Gehring and friends paid for the child's trip to the United States and helped with her education. She is now Patsy Li Fasano, a nurse living in Albuquerque, N.M. She and her husband would visit Gehring frequently.

{Continued on page 4}

Newsletter Editor:
Jacque' Griffin
Phone: 919-539-2307
Email: adjutant@rdu-mcl.org
Website: RDU-MCL.org
Facebook: [rdu mcl detachment](https://www.facebook.com/rdu.mcl.detachment)

RDU-MCL DET#1482
MONTHLY Meeting: '2nd'
Thursday
Triangle Shooting Academy
6501 Mt Herman Rd
Raleigh NC 27617

NOVEMBER 2022

The Tarmac

(Continued from page 3: Chaplain's Corner)

Christmas soon followed Patsy Li's departure from the island in 1942. But spirits among the troops were anything but festive.

Gehring prepared a midnight Mass and was looking for something to elevate somber moods. Barney Ross, a decorated Marine and three-time champion professional prizefighter, wandered over to the priest who had a little pump organ. "Who plays?" Ross asked. "I'm trying to find somebody," Gehring said.

Ross, an Orthodox Jew, offered to play, learning Christmas carols by ear as Marines hummed them. In an interview with newspaper columnist Jimmy Breslin several years after the war, Ross recalled that Gehring said Mass and asked a blessing. "From the God who looks down on all of us," is the way he put it" Ross said.

Gehring asked Ross if he wanted to play something else, and Ross said he would like to play something in honor of his mother, "My Yiddische Mama." He sang in it in Yiddish. Then he sang in English, translating it to "My Wonderful Mama," and soon several hundred Marines were wiping their eyes.

Ross, who died in the 1970s, set the scene in the Breslin interview:

"There was a Jewish kid playing an organ and singing in Yiddish about his mama and a Catholic priest standing next to him with a violin trying to help it sound nice, and all around there were guys who came from every religion and some of them didn't even have one, but they were all crying and thinking about the same thing."

"That was my most memorable Christmas," Gehring said.

Years ago, Gehring typed up a short inspirational piece reflecting on the war and Christmas in Guadalcanal. He would insert into it into Christmas cards because its message is as pertinent today. One passage states: "Our heroes, who gave their lives for their country and now lay beneath the white crosses that mark their final place, do not see the dark clouds of war hovering overhead in various parts of the world.

"The peace they fought and died for seems but temporary."

Chaplain Gehring went on to serve as a parish priest, he was also for a time the National Chaplain for the Catholic War Veterans and the 1st Marine Division Association. Captain Gehring went to Glory in 1998 and the little girl Patsy Li was there to pay her respects along with a Marine Honor Guard for the Padre of Guadalcanal.

When the FMF sends you around the world to defend our country, Christmas, Chanukah and all the other holidays go with us. Fortunately, the Marine carries their faith with them and the Religious Ministry Team of the Chaplains and RP's are there to help them worship.

A Merry Christmas to all of our Christian brothers and Chag Hanukkah Sameach to our Jewish brothers!

Jeff Mixon, Chaplain, RDU Detachment



**Adjutant ~
Jacque' Griffin**

Because we can, we will try;
Success is derived from continued, steadfast determination.
Leap into the coming New Year with a determined goal and seek after what will strengthen the Whole Body! Comrades-in-Arm.

Thank you
Semper Fi,

Jacque' Griffin

The Tarmac



Junior Past Commandant Bruce Goeden

Greetings All and Happy Birthday Marines!

Another great year is coming to a close. We celebrate the Birth of our Corps and Thanksgiving this month, then Christmas next month.

We have had a very successful year! We raised our membership, had a very profitable 1st Raffle Fundraiser, and a successful 2nd Annual Golf Tournament.

People are calling me with interest about the Detachment and Toys-4-Tots.

We celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday with turkey fixings and a birthday cake with AJ, our Commandant, being the youngest Marine present at the meeting.

Continue to mark your calendars so you can remember to attend our meetings.

We **meet the 2nd Thursday of each month** and go to the Range the 3rd Monday of each month. Please invite potential members to either/both events.

Share our fun and camaraderie with others.

Semper Fi

Bruce Goeden
Past Commandant RDU Detachment



Sgt-at-Arms Kevin Rumsey

Happy Holidays!

Semper Fi!
Kevin



Web Sergeant Joshua Stevens

Happy Holidays!

Semper Fi
Josh Stevens

The Tarmac

SPONSORS of RDU-MCL Detachment #1482



**Strategic Retirement
Solutions Inc**
919-797-2284
2144 Page Rd,
Suite 104
Durham NC 27703



Bullseye Grill
984-200-5336
6501 Mt Herman Rd
Raleigh NC 27617



**Triangle
Shooting
Academy**
919-802-2040
6501 Mt Herman Rd
Raleigh NC 27617

East Coast Marketing Lady



919-412-8467
Designer of this website, Rose.



**Fred Smith Company
Ranch**
919-422-4092
2102 Pritchard Rd.
Clayton, NC 27527

WEBSITE

www.fredsmithcompany.com



CrossFit Goliath
919-810-6321
2609 Discovery Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606

The Tarmac



RDU DETACHMENT #1482 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MONTHLY MEETING

November 10, 2022 Monthly Minutes/Agenda

Opening Ceremony: 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance

Sergeant-at-Arms Dave Morgan ~ secure and assure all present are eligible for going forward with the meeting.
Chaplain Mixon opened with prayer.
Sergeant-at-Arms Morgan: declared meeting open for transaction of business.

Welcome/Thank You to All Attending

Commandant proceeds welcoming all.

Recognition Dignitaries and Guests: Darnette Williams, Lorne Williams, Elton Corbett, Cindy Montgomery, Ami DePierio, Rich Depierio, Mark Nordstrom, Gladys Honorett, Dep Chief Raleigh Police Department Scott Oosterhoudt and Raleigh Police Eric Godwin

Roll Call of Officers by Adjutant {Stand and Salute}

Commandant	AJ Pitts
Sr. Vice Commandant	Patrick Melton
Jr. Vice Commandant	Mike Brady
Judge Advocate	John Staley (Excused)
Jr. Past Commandant	Bruce Goeden
Adjutant	Jacque' Griffin
Paymaster	Dave Young {Excused}
Sgt-at-Arms	Kevin Rumsey
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Dave Morgan
Chaplain	Jeff Mixon
Web Sgt.	Josh Stevens
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Jeff Mixon

Do we have any applications for Membership or Transfers ~ N/A

Installation Ceremony {If needed}; (Short Version)

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

(Minutes are published in The Tarmac for review by the Membership)

The Newsletter is emailed to all members placed on **rdu-mcl.org** Website, under the **Members Only** page.

Do we have any corrections? N/A

Without any objections we can accept the previous minutes

Voice Vote: _Approved_ ~ Rap Gavel to confirm.

Correspondence

All Correspondence from the Dept of NC and National is emailed to Detachment membership. {Paper copy to be mailed to Steve Curlee}

The Tarmac

RDU MONTHLY MEETING

Paymaster Report: For the month of: October 2022 {Report by Dave Zabarsky in absence of Paymaster Young}
{*Report of Paymaster may be viewed on Website: RDU-MCL.org (members only)*}

Starting Checkbook Balance: \$
Month End Checkbook Balance: \$
(Not yet cleared \$375.00)

Can we have a Motion to Accept the Paymaster's Report, subject to Audit?

Motion made by Dave Morgan and Seconded by Patrick Melton to accept Paymaster's Report, subject to Audit.

Any Discussion? If hearing none ~ Voice Vote/**Approved - Rap Gavel**

Chaplain: Do we have any reports of Sickness, Distress or Fallen Marines who have passed to Guard the Heavenly Gates? No KIAs. No internal health reports; Steve's wife home recovering {Steve reports OK}. Bruce's wife recovering after Gall Stone surgery.

Let Chaplain Jeff know of any members ill/under weather, etc.

Standing Committee Reports:

Sr. Vice Commandant ~ Convention/Fundraiser – No Report

Jr. Vice Commandant ~ Recruitment/Retention – Mike Brady: Toys-4-Tots Campaign in full swing, ask persons donating toys about becoming a Marine Corps League member. Reminds every member to RECRUIT-Recruit-RECRUIT to help growth of our membership League

Judge Advocate ~ Bylaws/Admin Pro. – N/A

Jr. Past Commandant ~ Bruce has information on Toys-4-Tots. Anyone wishing to help please contact him. Toy for a Ride at Durham Fire Department is being held – bring a toy for a ride! Steve Curlee states he has a Toys-4-Tots box set up for collections.

Public Relations ~ N/A

Website, Facebook, Newsletter ~ Web SGT Stevens ~ No Report

Sgt-at-Arms/Asst. Sgt-at-Arms ~ Kevin Rumsey ~ has supplies for Roadside Cleanup – on November 12, 2022.

Monthly Range Activity ~ Triangle Shooting Academy: every 3rd Monday (NOV 21) now at 6:00pm instead of 7:00pm

Eagle Scouts ~ Jeff Mixon: Mission of Eagle Scout Stein, interested in joining the Navy. Retro awards in discussions Chapel of the 4-Chaplains discussing awards.

Budget and Finance Committee ~ No Report

Unfinished Business

State Raffle Tickets disbursing now. SrVice Melton has tickets for those who need them.

The Tarmac

RDU MONTHLY MEETING

New Business

Any Special Projects, New Ideas or Suggestions – Always Welcomed

Each Member bring/invite '1' new member {Marine or Associate} to every monthly meeting.

**Recruit, Recruit, Recruit ~ Website: rdu-mcl.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/rdu mcl detachment](https://facebook.com/rdu%20mcl%20detachment)**

Scholarship Committee Update: Jessica Streamo – 2 persons completed program. An individual they know makes candles – she has samples for anyone to see following the meeting.

Adopt a Highway (NOV 12 in afternoon) – meet at 1300 Brier Creek Way at the Chic-fil-A.

ALL Tax Forms have been submitted with IRS/SOS/National... Just waiting for confirmation on Form 990. Form resubmitted listing the new agent for RDUdet#1482.

Truist Bank... (Close NFCU by Jan 1) Trying to get all funds transferred by January 1, 2023.

BOT vote to donate \$1,000 to officer Torress (\$1500 donated to Foundation) SrVice Melton states his Company has added \$2000. A total of \$3,460 donated in honor of Officer Torress.

VFW Donation of \$1000. At Fall Membership meeting, NC DoMCL membership down from last year. Discussion - donation of funds to DoMCL: with new leadership in command, SrVice Melton feels we may desire to send funds but hold them accountable for actions they take on behalf of the NcDoMCL. Chaplain Mixon: Gives us a 'dog-in-the-fight' if we donate the \$500. Asst Sgt-at-Arms Morgan: if RDU Detachment donates, what consequences should we expect from the NC DoMCL Leaders?! Cmdt Pitts explains what occurred last year. Since RDU was host to State Conference in May 2022, we know how unexpected things will occur that the Detachment may have to consume. Wants no one to have to start in the negative going forward. Dave Morgan - if we're going to help NC DoMCL needs to have All Detachments in the State donate same amounts. Why isn't a representative from NC DoMCL in attendance at our meeting to request aide? Dave Zabarsky: If Nc DoMCL has a need for a particular expense, they should compile request. Goeden: motion to table discussion for next meeting; motion seconded by Kevin Rumsey ~ \$500 donation discussion tabled until next meeting.

Awards ~ following awards presented to RDU Detachment#1482:
National JrVice – 08/15/2022 Meritorious Commendation – 5/13-14/2022 Convention Award

Commandant Pitts: Certificate of Appreciation to R Corvette Club – accepted by JrPast Bruce Goeden

Individual Meritorious Commendation presented to: Greg Grabus

Honorary Award to: Captain E J Grabus

Certificate of Appreciation for: Sgt-at-Arms; Wood Family, Mark Spain and Eric Goodwin

Good of the League ~ Jessica Streamo suggests we offer one of the BITS Scholarships to the wife of fallen Officer Torress on behalf of RDU Detachment#1482.

Elton Corbett – reminds us that Golden Corral is providing meals to Veterans on Monday, November 14, 2022.

Birthday Cake Celebrating USMC "247" years
Youngest Marine: A J Pitts **Senior Marine:** Steve Curlee

Announcements:

Closing Ceremony: Sgt-at-Arms: Retire Colors; **Chaplain** ~ Prayer

Sgt-at-Arms: Meeting Closed until December 8, 2022

In Unison: Marine Corps Hymn

50/50 Raffle winner

Respectfully submitted

Jacque' Griffin
Adjutant@rdu-mcl.org

The Tarmac



The Tarmac



The Tarmac

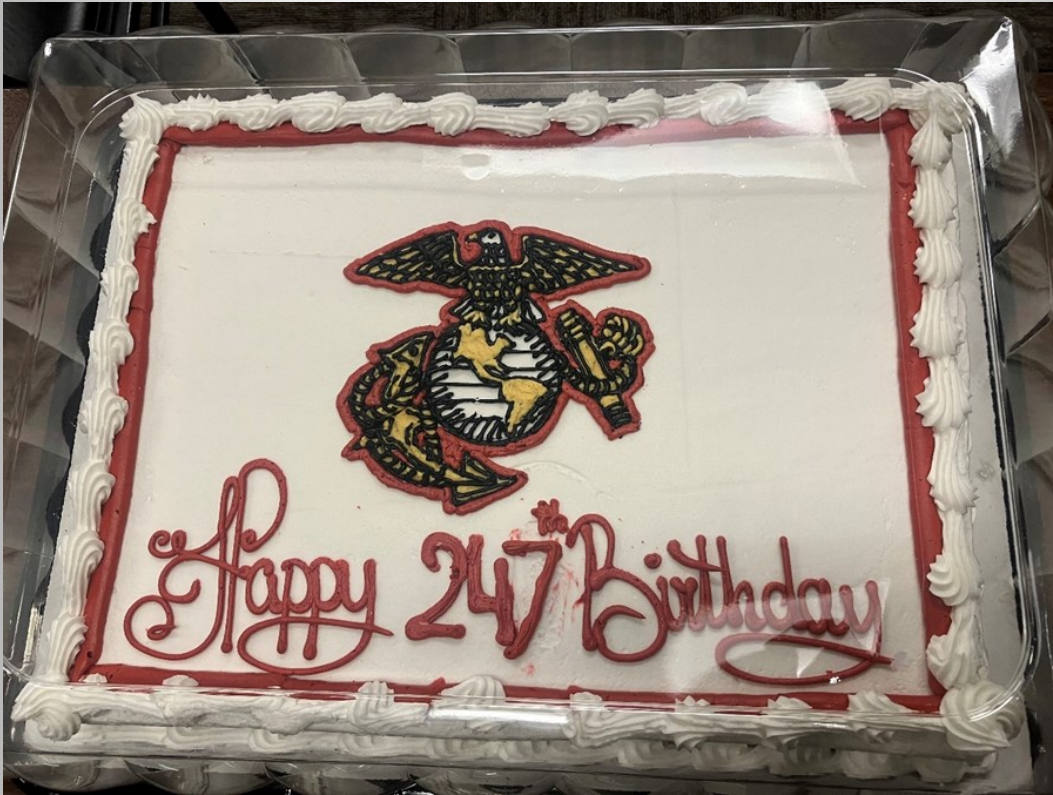
RDU DINNER/MEETING PHOTOS



The Tarmac



The Tarmac



RDUDet#1482 Celebrates Marine Corps Birthday
Senior and Youngest Members ~ 2022

