THE GRINDER

Robert Hare, Commandant **Tina Hare, Editor**

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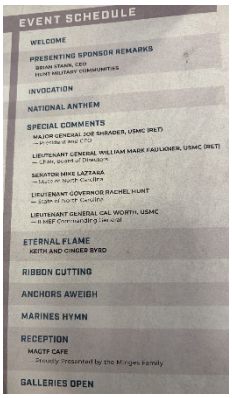
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*Photos courtesy of Steve Nash
https://photofrog.smugmug.com/



Carolina Museum of the *MARINE*

On Friday, June 5th, 2026, USMC League Department of NC Commandant Robert Hare (my husband) and I attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Carolina Museum of the Marine in Jacksonville. Along with 700+/- invited and honored guests including the staff, volunteers, board of directors, dignitaries, marines, and other league members, we witnessed the culmination of a decades-long quest.





Left to right: NC Senator Mike Lazzara, NC Lt Gov Rachel Hunt, U.S. Marine Corps Lt-Gen Cal Worth Jr., Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Lt-Gen Mark Faulkner, USMC (Ret), Maj-Gen Joe Shrader, USMC (Ret), and SgtMaj Joe Houle, USMC (Ret) cut the ribbon as Carolina Museum of the Marines prepares to open its doors June 8th.

The museum's motto, "Meet the Marine, Be Inspired" holds true throughout The Carolina the Marine fulfill the "Honor, preserve, and teach the legacy of Carolina Marines and Sailors." We were grateful to be a part of the events on that sunny Friday evening. The museum officially opened its doors to the public on Monday, June 8, 2026.





the exhibits. Museum of does indeed mission to





Commandant's Quest

Robert Hare



Members of the Fighting 260,

Earlier this year, the world witnessed an historic Olympic moment. It was a moment that could serve as a metaphor for the United States itself.

Team USA forward Jack Hughes was knocked to the ice and lost two teeth when he took a severe blow to the mouth from a hockey stick in the third period of the finals. Less than 25 minutes later, he scored the golden goal in overtime to clinch the championship for the underdog Americans against the heavily favored Canadian team.

Just minutes after the victory, Hughes said, grinning through bleeding gums, quote – "We're USA. We're so proud to be Americans. Tonight was all for the country." -unquote.

This year, America's two hundred fiftieth as an independent nation, is "*all for the country.*" The experiment in democracy has been a proven and exceptional success. Yet the creation of the United States almost didn't happen. The British military was the envy of the world in the 18th century. The Americans suffered significant losses in the battles of Long Island, Brandywine, Charleston, and Camden, just to name a few.

Nine of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence died while fighting in the American Revolution. A dozen signers had their homes looted or burned, five were taken prisoner by the British, and 17 lost nearly everything that they owned. During the signing, Benjamin Franklin reportedly said, "we must indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately." Yet in the end, the upstart colonists prevailed. Because that is what Americans do. We unite for a righteous cause. And we *win*.

As we celebrate our great country, it is so important to recognize and remember our veterans. Educating future generations about our nation's history is the most tangible method to keep the sacrifices and legacy of veterans alive. You simply cannot celebrate a great nation without celebrating its greatest heroes."



Indeed, as President Lincoln memorialized the fallen at the Gettysburg battlefield, he recalled that they -quote- "gave their lives so that the nation might live." – unquote. Thanks to their sacrifice, the nation *did* live. And it flourished. The promises offered by this fortress of freedom can be found in the Preamble of its Constitution.

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Americans have long realized that the formation of a "more perfect union" is an aspiration, not an accomplishment. Perfection is a goal for which we will perpetually strive, not a line item to be checked off a list.



Chaplain's Corner

Al Ruggiero



Semper Fi Marines,

I trust everyone had a meaningful and restful Independence Day. Thank you to all our members who joined us Saturday morning, July3rd, at Friendly Center for the Flag Raising Ceremony. I appreciated the opportunity to share a few remarks and lead everyone in prayer.

The Fourth of July is a very special day for me, and I thank the Lord for the blessings He has bestowed upon our nation. I reflect on our forefathers, who stood with extraordinary courage against the mightiest empire in the world to proclaim that all people are endowed with the right to be free. They understood that by signing the Declaration of Independence they were risking their fortunes, their families, and their very lives. Yet they stood firm, placing their trust in God.

It is remarkable to consider that thirteen small colonies challenged the largest navy and one of the most powerful armies in the world. I thank God for those fifty-six brave men whose faith, wisdom, and courage gave birth to a nation where people could worship freely and enjoy the God-given rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Whenever I hear the words of Francis Scott Key in our National Anthem, I get goosebumps and often become emotional with pride. I think of the flag that continued to fly through the bombardment of Fort McHenry, a symbol that our nation had endured. I also thank God for His guidance and blessings upon this great country throughout our history.

On this Independence Day, I remember those who came before us—George Washington and the Continental Army, the Marines and soldiers of every generation, and all who have served and sacrificed to preserve our freedom over the past 250 years. Their courage, devotion, and willingness to defend liberty have made America what it is today.

I also reflect on the many times our nation has answered the call to defend the innocent and stand against tyranny. Throughout history, America has helped liberate oppressed peoples, confronted evil, and provided hope in times of war, famine, natural disasters, and humanitarian crises. During World War II, millions faced extermination under a brutal regime, and the sacrifices of the Allied forces—including countless Americans—helped bring an end to that horror and saved countless lives. While no nation is perfect, our country has often stood as a force for freedom and compassion around the world.

For all these blessings, I give thanks to God. I am grateful for those who have served before us, proud of those who serve today, and honored to stand alongside each of you.

God bless you, God bless the United States Marine Corps, and God bless the United States of America.

"Check your gear, GOOD TO GO"

Chaplain's Prayer List

Jim and Betty Birdwell
Harold and Judy Turner
Sharon Reddick and Daughter
Earthquake victims in Venezuela
Our Country and our leaders

July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 X	14	15	16	17	18 X
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 X
26	27	28 X	29	30	31	

July 13th – Regular, monthly dinner meeting at the Golden Corral beginning at 17:30

July 18th & 25th– Semper Bingo, Pinetop Neighborhood Resort in Gboro, doors open 17:00, Bingo starts 18:30

July28th – Marine Night Out at Rody's Tavern. Lots of fun and great food! Come on out and bring a friend.

Detachment 260

Christmas Party

December 14, 2026

Woodland Hall, Triad Park

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND OUR NEXT

July 18th

PINETOP NEIGHBORHOOD RESORT

PINETOP ROAD, GREENSBORO

BINGO





BINGO BOOKS ($20 FOR 10 GAMES) GO ON SALE AT

GREATER GREENSBORO DETACHMENT 260

June Meeting Minutes

Meeting commenced at 6:47

Sgt-at-arms posted the flag and led the pledge of allegiance.

Chaplain opened in prayer.

GUESTS:



Catherine Torney of the Garrett Torney Foundation (GTF), in partnership with Saving Grace K9s, spoke about two service persons matched with their dogs and thanked the detachment for their support. Commandant Hare presented GTF with a $5000 donation.

Two Horsepower therapeutic reps, Mike and Emily, talked about the program and its plans. Commandant Hare presented them with a check for $10,000.



Sgt at arms declared meeting open.



Roll Call of officers.

Minutes of last meeting approved.

Commandant Hare swore in the new adjutant.

Paymasters report, approved as presented.

Jr. Vice reported on golf tournament. Also reported that the leadership discussed the need for bringing in new members. He then provided an update for Servant's Center regarding their need for a wheelchair accessible van. The largest sponsor, Ford, was able to accommodate that need in a miraculous way, paid for by Brian Sowers and Jim Burgio.

Commandant Hare spoke about the BINGO- grossed $1372 after expenses, netted $1351at last event.

Judge Advocate thanked Al Ruggerio for his work on the Bingo. Commandant Hare also talked about changes needed to the by-laws after the department conference. He will make the changes and provide updates to Judge Advocate.

Chaplain reported on the Bingo event and outreach to the detachment in Winston Salem who will attend the June 27th session. Adding two families to the prayer list that need prayer due to severe illness.

Community Service Squad Report given by George Orfanedes on the money spent so far on donations.

Commandant reported that in the last quarter eighteen eagle scout awards were presented at courts of honor.

Rich Carrera reported on Judy Brenner's bathroom remodel progress.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget for this year approved as presented.

Editor of the Grinder asked for photos of any detachment events around the area for each month.

Commandant Hare discussed the establishment of a foundation at the department level and recommends it for the detachment too. Making donations from entities previously unable to donate to 504c foundation possible.

Honor Guard report by Rob O'Hannlon. They had two last week alone and Friday was twenty-four in total. He then presented Jim Hayes and Harry with their ribbons for ten funerals. Gen. Sicily's funeral today, which was a great send-off.

Commandant reported about the Department Convention this past weekend. 120 attendees this year. The banquet was at the Carolina Museum of the Marine. Major James Capers Jr. was a medal of honor recipient to be - he served both Korea and Vietnam. Robert also met recipient Kyle Carpenter as well. He thanked the detachment for supporting him in his role as the department commandant. He also talked about his role as a Veterans service officer and reported on the new NC leadership.

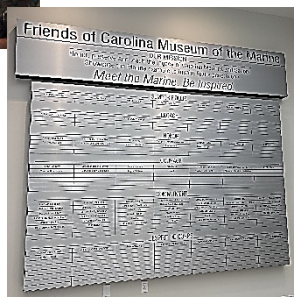
Detachment 260 received a meritorious commendation from the national office for exceeding $1 million dollars raised and awarded to the community.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05.

CAROLINA MUSEUM OF THE MARINE







After a ceremony including the lighting of an eternal flame, ribbon cutting and dedication, the guests had the opportunity to visit the exhibits honoring Carolina marines, sailors, their families, and the community that embraces them today.

The next evening the NC Department of the Marine Corps League were the first official patrons to host a dinner at the museum as a venue. Outgoing Department Commandant Hare presented the President and CEO of the Executive Committee for the museum, Maj-Gen Joe Shrader, a plaque honoring his service and commitment to the museum and the marine.





[Carolina Museum of the Marine]

Commandant's Quest (cont.)

While our founders believed "All men are created equal," today we extend that desire for ALL Americans, men *and* women, of ALL races, religions, and economic classes. A nation that is a true melting pot also benefits from diverse viewpoints and visions. We recognize the humanity of one another. No single person has all the answers, but free and vigorous debate are the hallmarks of a democracy.

While celebrating our country's one-hundred-fiftieth birthday, President Calvin Coolidge said – quote – "We live in an age of science and of abounding accumulation of material things. *These* did not create our Declaration. Our Declaration created *them*."-unquote. He could just as easily describe life in 2026 as he did in *1926*.

We live in an age when astronauts travel to the dark side of the moon and enter the bright side of history. An age when technology creates artificial hearts and mechanical limbs. Same-day delivery has become a staple of American commerce, and basic-necessities are enhanced by smartphones and even *smarter* updates.



John Adams said -quote- "People and nations are forged in the fires of adversity." Unquote. If adversity is the barometer, the United States has a backbone of steel. After defeating the mighty British Empire, America survived and thrived through world wars, the Great Depression, global pandemics, and horrific natural disasters.



The Marine Corps League, along with the "Fighting 260", has long recognized that the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States was worthy of recognition that goes far beyond a single observance or holiday. A semi-quincentennial deserves more than a semi-celebration. For example, over the last 7 years, the Greater Greensboro Detachment has given back not only to the local community but also across the State of North Carolina. They have provided over $1.5m of both financial and in-kind support to organizations like The Servant Center, Horsepower Therapeutic, Triad Honor Flight, and the Garrett-Torney Foundation for Saving Grace K-9, along with humanitarian aid to the victims of Western North Carolina during Hurricane Helene. We do this not out of duty but out of gratitude. Much has been given, and much has been paid.

As Jack Hughes reminds us, victory is not always a smooth or easy process. It took Thomas Edison thousands of unsuccessful attempts before he made a breakthrough in developing the light bulb. General Douglas MacArthur was forced to evacuate from the Philippines almost three years before leading a triumphant return of U.S. forces. Rosa Parks was jailed, but her arrest for refusing to obey segregation laws in Montgomery, Alabama, inspired a national movement.



For two hundred fifty years, millions of ordinary Americans – some famous names that we know, but most of whom we don't – have exhibited the toughness and spirit that was spawned from a revolution that was expected to fail. As we have seen at Pearl Harbor and during the attacks of 9/11, we may get knocked down but never knocked out.

Americans do not need to be Olympians or even athletes to belong to Team USA. Just love the country, remember the price that was paid on our behalf, and enjoy the freedom.

God Bless America, and happy 250th birthday to the greatest nation the world has ever known.

Semper Fi

19th Annual MCL-260 MILITARY CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by

Ford GREEN

Honoring Dean and Marilyn Green's Generous Philanthropy

****

When: Thursday, October 1, 2026 - 10 AM Shotgun Start

Where: Players Course, Bryan Park

Why: Marines Helping Veterans

from all Armed Services Branches in Our Communities

Thanks to our generous sponsors, over the past 18 years Marine Corps League Detachment 260 has given over $1 Million in cash grants and goods to local Veterans organizations such as The Servant Center, Horsepower Therapeutic Riding Center, Triad Honor Flights, and Garret Tourney Foundation/Saving Grace K9s.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Medal of Honor Sponsorship:	**$10,000**	**3 Teams, MCL Gift**
Navy Cross Sponsorship:	**$ 5,000**	**2 Teams, MCL Gift**
Silver Star Sponsorship:	**$ 2,500**	**1 Team, MCL Gift**
Bronze Star Sponsorship:	**$ 1,000**	**1 (4-man) Team**

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Opening Ceremony with USMC Color Guard and ROTC Drill Team
- ✓ Each golfer to receive Tournament gift
- ✓ Box Lunch included
- ✓ Post-Tournament Presentation of Awards
- ✓ All Sponsors listed on www.mcl260.info after event

YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP MCL-260 CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO HELP LOCAL VETERANS!

Make checks payable to "MCL-260 Golf Tournament" & mail to

P.O. Box 10227, Greensboro, NC 27404

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Sowers, Golf Committee Chairman at 336-207-0601 or email: GOLF@MCL260.INFO