

**Townsend Detachment #920
Marine Corps League**

**Minutes of Detachment Meeting
March 17, 2025**

Members Present: 11

Members on Zoom: 2

Opening Ceremony:

Flag Salute and Pledge of Allegiance
Marine Corps Hymn
Opening Prayer

Commandant:

**Roll Call of Officers: Present - Commandant, Jr. Vice, Judge Advocate, Jr. Past
Commandant, Pay Master, Sgt. At Arms, Chaplain
Absent - Sr. Vice - excused absence**

Commandant: Installation of Rear Admiral Kent Davis was affirmed by vote of Townsend Detachment #920 members. Commandant Nancy Burtron administered the oath of membership and Rear Admiral Davis was accepted into the membership of the detachment. Rear Admiral Davis spent 31 yrs. serving his country not only in the Navy but also the Army and the Air Force. Welcome to the Marine Corps!

Correspondence: Jr. Vice Commandant Mike Jeffries reported that he had spoken to Dale Barnes, currently an inactive member of Townsend Detachment, inviting him to become active again. Mr. Barnes stated he would be attending the April monthly meeting. Mike Jeffries stated he would follow through with another call in April before the April meeting.

Commandant: Installation of Jr. Vice Richard Joki

Adjutant: Adjutant Pat Jeffries reported that the minutes were posted to the Townsend Detachment #920 web page (townsendmcl920.org) with no corrections. She also share the two pages honoring the memory of Townsend Detachment member, Dick McClain, and associate member, Linda Joki. These two pages have been sent to the Howlin Mad Smith Detachment MCL, organizers of the State MCL Convention, June 2025, in Birmingham, AL. to be entered in a MCL booklet.

Pay Master's Report: Chuck Moore, Pay Master, reported that the Detachment had \$6500 in the Detachment's account. One check for \$200 was written to Howlin Mad Smith Detachment MCL for two pages in their booklet honoring the

the memory of two Townsend members who recently died. He also reported that in researching Townsend membership records he has discovered that over the past years seven other members of Townsend Detachment have died.

Sick and Distressed: Chaplain Charles Harris was welcomed back after a brief hospitalization. He is back at work, just no heavy lifting for a while as his body heals. Commandant Nancy Burtron stated that the MCL State Commandant Reese was having gall bladder surgery.

Officer Reports:

Jr. Vice Rick Joki reported on the MCL Department Convention. He read the Schedule for each day. Commandant Nancy Burtron stated anyone could attend the meetings. The following list is information about the Convention.

When - June 20 - 22

Where - Doubletree by Hilton, Birmingham, AL

Registration - ASAP Send a request for a Registration Form to Nancy Burtron

Jr. Vice Commandant Mike Jeffries reported on the first meeting of the newly formed veterans group named the River Region Veterans Coalition. Mike Jeffries and Sr. Vice Robert Fell represented Townsend Detachment at the first meeting held February 27, 2025 at 6:00 pm. The purpose of the group is to create a unity of all the Veterans' Groups in the River Region and to reach out to veterans who are not a member of any group to invite them to join the Coalition, too. Mike Jeffries saved the slide show presentation on his cell phone for members to see. The next meeting will be at Feast Buffet, 5831 Atlanta Hwy, Montgomery, AL on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 6:00 pm. All veterans welcome.

Recess for dinner - 5:30pm

Reconvened after dinner: 6:00pm

Sergeant at Arms Mark Kuehendorf purchased two flag staff finials to replace the broken ones. He paid \$65 for two sets. He is requesting that he be reimbursed by the Detachment. Mark Barnhart made a motion that Mark Kuehendorf be reimbursed \$65 for purchase of the finials. Roger Shelnutt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mark Barnhart, News Letter Editor, announced that the news letter is now on the web page. He has included a calendar of events for upcoming activities involving the Townsend Detachment members. He has posted the flag placement event on May 24. Many members including family are needed to place flags on Marines graves. Let Mark Barnhart know of dates of upcoming events so they can be placed on the calendar, too.

Sergeant at Arms Mark Kuehendorf said he has a conflict for placement of flags on graves on May 24th. His wife is retiring and there is a celebration in her honor which he plans to attend on the same date.

Pay Master Chuck Moore reported that he delivered a check for \$100 to the Veterans Service Center located on the first floor of the Elmore County Court House in Wetumpka, AL. The VSO was delighted to receive our donation.

He, also, stated that he and Web Sergeant Eric Neese would have a completed roster of Townsend Detachment members to include member's name, spouse's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail by the next meeting.

Sandi Robertson, Townsend Detachment's VA- Liaison to CDCE, reported that the CAVHCS and the Representatives and Deputies of the VSO are in the process of being reorganized. A meeting has yet to be scheduled. Tuskegee VA is asking for small calendars like ones you receive in the mail be sent to them. They give them to residents and patients at Tuskegee and short term patients in Montgomery. On March 29th at 11:00am will be the annual Vietnam Veterans Commemoration at the Montevallo National Cemetery in Montevallo, AL. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Judge Advocate Mike Jeffries stated that there were no suggestions for changes in the Department MCL and National MCL By Laws. He has saved both sets of By Laws on his phone.

Commandant Nancy Burtron stated that Veterans Service Officers group now has 13 trained VSOs with several more VSO's in training. These individuals help veterans with paper work that is needed for the veterans to ask VA for help. There will be a VSO at the MCL Department Convention in June.

The National MCL Convention will be in August. Nancy Burtron encouraged all Dogs planning to attend get their applications in ASAP. She stated that Townsend Detachment needs 5 delegates. Nancy Burtron, Mike Jeffries, Mark Kuehendorf, Charles Harris and Don Fischer will be attending the Convention. Nancy Burtron made a motion that these five individuals be Townsend Detachment's 5 delegates. Chuck Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Old Business: none

New Business: Commandant Nancy Burtron asked Rear Admiral Davis for a summary of the legislation recently passed by the Alabama House of Representatives concerning Veterans. Rear Admiral Davis stated that the Bill recently passed by the Alabama House of Representatives significantly changes the structure, management and control of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs by veterans.

Good of the League: Commandant Nancy Burtron presented to the past Commandants of Townsend Detachment Chuck Moore, Mark Barnhart and Mike Jeffries a lapel pin thanking them for their service. She presented a belt buckle to Mark Kuehendorf for his continuing service as Sergeant at Arms.

Jr. Vice Commandant Mike Jeffries presented to Jr. Vice Rick Joki a certificate for his deceased wife, Linda Joki, for her service as Historian for Townsend Detachment.

Announcements: Commandant Nancy Burtron stated she would order the flags for the May 24th event. It was decided that the Detachment would not purchase the flags to be placed on the graves in Millbrook, AL.

She also stated that Adjutant Pat Jeffries and she would continue Linda Joki's work on the scrapbook about Townsend Detachment's activities to be presented at the MCL National Convention in August 2025 in honor of the memory of Townsend Detachment's deceased Historian, Linda Joki.

Commandant Nancy Burtron asked everyone to stand and bow there heads in memory of Linda Joki.

Closing Ceremony:

Salute the Flag

Closing Prayer

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat, Jeffries, Adjutant