

Kalamazoo Detachment  
Marine Corps League  
**The Scuttlebutt** July 2024  
July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Parade



Sweerin, Weber, Smith, Leddy, Kalafut, Calvey, Hensley, and Susan Sweerin

Several members of the MCL Detachment gathered in Dowagiac on July 4<sup>th</sup> to participate in their annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. The parade was well attended by enthusiastic local citizens who stood when the flag passed by with their hands over their hearts. Local veterans also demonstrated their love of their County by saluting the flag.





The EGA on the Parade float



Comdt. Hadder with Revolutionary War Reenactors



No, the MCL members were not reenacting the raising of the flag at IWO. But it sure does look like it because it took four men to put the IWO tribute together. Thanks Guys!



## MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO, Calif.

Article and photo courtesy of Marines.mil



U.S. Marine Corps Pvt. Carlos Paz-Sosa, who was recruited out of Recruiting Station Riverside, wasn't always the most physically fit growing up; he struggled with his weight throughout his childhood. During his senior year of high school, he decided he wanted to embark on the journey of becoming a Marine. However, this would prove to be no easy task. If he wanted to have the privilege of going to recruit training, he'd have to lose more than 100 pounds.

"It took about a year," Paz-Sosa, a Marine with India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, said about his weight loss journey. "It took a lot of going to the gym and eating healthy. My mom makes good food, so portion control was probably the hardest part." Not only did he have the support of his recruiter, but his family also saw his desire to join the Marine Corps as something that would have a positive impact on his life. Having been overweight for most of his life, once they saw him starting to lose weight, they realized how important this journey would be for him.

"My mom was really supportive," Paz-Sosa stated. "She said, 'If this is what you want to do go ahead. My brother definitely talked some smack at first, but once I started to make progress; he began to support me, which was a really good feeling.'"

Today, Paz-Sosa has accomplished his goal; he graduated recruit training on July 12, 2024. His journey through bootcamp has been had its literal uphill battles at times, but those around him have noticed a change in who he was and who he is now.



Congratulations to Marine Corps veteran Cpl. J.D. Vance on accepting his nomination for Vice President for the Republican Party. Semper Fidelis

## The Scuttlebutt Torch is Being Passed

Twelve years ago, Grace Anne Kalafut took over as Editor of the Scuttlebutt from Robert “Bob” Cook. She is rarely seen in photos in the Newsletter because she’s usually taking pictures at events. However, the photo below is Grace receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Commandant Hadder at the June MCL meeting. MCL member Jake Kokowicz has accepted his “nomination” (pun intended) for MCL Scuttlebutt Editor.

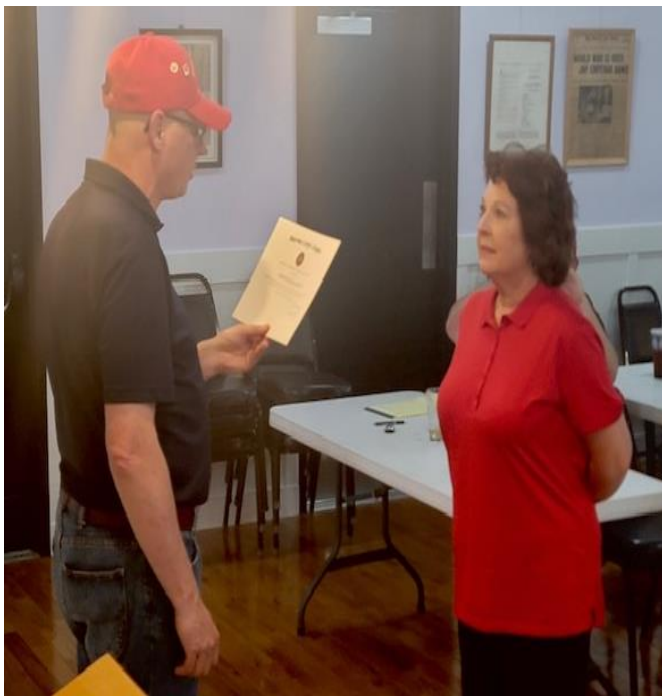


Photo courtesy of Michael Beahon



Cpl Kokowicz home from boot in 2013