

ALABAMA MARINES FOUNDATION



ANNUAL REPORT

2016

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



July 1, 2017

Twenty-sixteen marked the beginning of the fifth year of operations for the Alabama Marines Foundation. As you will see from the enclosed report, the Foundation continued to build upon its record of assistance to military veterans in general and Marine Corps veterans in particular through its three main grant programs: The Temporary Emergency Financial Assistance Program, general grants to other veteran, civic, and educational organizations, and an annual grant to the Mike Spann Detachment, the Marine Corps League Endowed Scholarship at the University of Alabama. The Foundation's partnerships with the veterans affairs offices at the University of Alabama, Auburn University, Stillman College, designed to provide funds to assist students receiving VA benefits in meeting their financial needs, continues to develop and expand.

AMF grants are made possible through individual and corporate donations and by the operation of the Foundation RV Camp and game-day parking during the University of Alabama home football games. My sincere thanks to all who donated their money, time and effort to ensure the success of these critical mission projects.

Once again, ably led by Janice Looney, AMF sponsored the annual Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign in Tuscaloosa and West Alabama, through which more than 2,200 underprivileged children received toys at Christmas. Additional details of this important mission follow in this report. The Foundation is honored to be a part of this community tradition of the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

While AMF lost one of our founding Board Members, Bill Dobbs, to retirement, I am pleased to report that the Foundation added two Board Members during the year; SgtMaj David Blair, US Army (Ret), Director of Veterans and Military Affairs at UA, and Col. Lee Busby, USMC (Ret). My sincerest gratitude to all our Board members for their work and their dedication to AMF's many missions.

Finally, AMF's most remarkable and physically impressive achievement of 2016 was the completion of a bronze bust made possible by the generosity of two artists: Mr. Caleb O'Conner

and Col. Lee Busby, USMC (Ret). The bust is of Captain Johnny Micheal Spann, USMC. Captain Spann was from Winfield, Alabama, a CIA officer at the time, and the first American killed in Afghanistan. He was killed November 25, 2001. The bust is currently on loan to and displayed at the Office of Veterans and Military Affairs at The University of Alabama. AMF has had discussions with the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle Virginia, but a permanent home has not been determined. An identical resin bust was presented to Captain Spann's immediate family on the 15th anniversary of his death.

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions regarding anything in this report or other Foundation matters, please contact me by using the "Contact Us" button on the main menu of the AMF website, www.alamarinesfoundation.org or by email at info@alamarinesfoundation.org.

If you are not presently involved with the AMF, I ask you to consider becoming a part of the vital work we do on behalf of veterans in Alabama. **JOIN, DONATE, VOLUNTEER, and SPREAD THE WORD!**

Semper Fidelis,

Ray Looney
Chairman of the Board

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
History of the Alabama Marines Foundation.....	1
Officers and Board of Directors.....	2
Membership.....	3
Fund Raising.....	4
Grant Programs.....	5
Toys for Tots.....	6
2016 Financial Statement.....	7
Donors.....	8-9
Volunteers.....	10-11
Contact Information.....	12

History of the Alabama Marines Foundation

The Alabama Marines Foundation (AMF) was incorporated in 2012 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation with the mission to honor those Alabamians who have served their country as U.S. Marines. It accomplishes its mission primarily by awarding grants to other non-profit military, civic and educational organizations or institutions that provide services to military active duty, reservists, veterans, and their families. While the primary focus of the Foundation is to honor and aid Marines, grants are made available, as resources permit, to benefit veterans and the families of all branches of the military.

The inaugural meeting of the AMF Board of Directors was held in July 2012. At that time the Foundation Bylaws were adopted and officers appointed. In the five years since the AMF has made rapid and impressive progress in establishing operational policies and procedures, to wit: developing an operational reserve, conducting continuous fund raising efforts, adopting procedures for accepting grant applications, and awarding grants. In addition, procedures were developed for receiving targeted donations in memory or honor of friends and family. Most importantly, in the five years since inception, starting literally from zero, AMF has awarded \$138,789 to directly benefit veterans and their families.

Additionally, with the help of a dedicated group of members and local citizens, AMF has successfully sponsored and conducted the annual Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign from 2012 through 2016 in Tuscaloosa and West Alabama. See below for additional details about our Toys for Tots Campaign.

MEMBERSHIP

At the end of 2016, the Foundation membership numbered 99. As might be expected, most are Marine veterans and family members. However, membership is open to anyone who shares the interests and goals of the Foundation. Military service is not a prerequisite for membership. There is no annual membership fee; however, there is a one-time administrative fee of \$15.00 to join.

Members play a vital role in furthering the mission of the Foundation by their support of its programs, volunteering their time, individual donations, and by acting as spokespersons for the Foundation.

Membership applications may be submitted at the Foundation website, www.alamarinesfoundation.org or by mail.

FUND RAISING

Primary funding for Foundation programs is generated by operation of a recreational vehicle camp at Clara Verner Tower in Tuscaloosa, located near the University of Alabama Campus during UA home football weekends. There are 34 RV spaces available. Returning campers paid \$900.00 per space (\$940 if paid by credit card) and first time campers paid \$1,000.00 per space (\$1,040.00 if paid by credit card) for a 2016 season pass. No individual game passes are sold. Receipts for 2016 totaled \$32,000 from this project. Registration for the 2017 season is underway and only a few spaces remain at the time of this report. Campers may reserve spaces by registering at the Foundation website, www.alamarinesfoundation.org. Fees for 2017 remain unchanged from 2016.

In addition, the Foundation hosted game-day parking at Clara Verner, with a capacity of approximately 120 vehicles. Game-day parking receipts totaled \$16,757 for 2016 at a rate of \$20.00 per vehicle. The receipts are not in a multiple of \$20 because some customers donated their change or gave extra.

Management and control of these parking venues was accomplished by an all-volunteer crew. Beyond contracting for portable toilets, trash bins, a one-time purchase of signage and other traffic control equipment, and liability insurance coverage, there were no administrative costs associated with the operation of these parking facilities in 2016.

Of particular note, Mr. Stan Pate made the parking lots for both RVs and game-day vehicles available at no cost to the Foundation. Mr. Pate's generosity has accounted for a major part of AMF's revenue, and therefore, AMF's support of veterans.

During 2016, individual, corporate, and foundation donations to the Foundation totaled \$11,790.44. This includes almost \$1,200 from the Alabama State Combined Campaign, a significant new resource for AMF. There were many additional donations given directly to the Toys for Tots campaign, which are held in a separate dedicated account. See the 2016 Toys for Tots Report at Page 6 for more information.

A major goal of the Foundation is to build upon and expand donations and fund-raising opportunities for both the Foundation and Toys for Tots Campaign. When giving to the Foundation, you may target your donation to a particular category of the Foundation budget. You may also make donations in memory or in honor of someone. If a memorial, the name of the honoree will be permanently displayed on the Foundation's Memorial page of the website. Please visit the donations page on the Foundation website at www.alamarinesfoundation.org. All donations are fully tax deductible.

When giving to Toys for Tots, please visit the website of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation at www.toysfortots.org and direct your gift to the Tuscaloosa area campaign. A check may also be mailed in care of AMF to the address listed on the last page of this report. Donations for Toys for Tots are welcome at any time of the year.

GRANT PROGRAMS

The Foundation has three distinct programs for directing grants.

General revenue grants are awarded to other non-profit military or civic organizations and educational institutions that provide services to military veterans, either in support of specific projects or for their overall operational needs. In 2016, for example, The AMF awarded grants to the Veteran's Affairs Office at the University of Alabama, the Bryant High School Marine JROTC, the Semper Fi Community Task Force, and the Brute Krulak and Mike Spann Detachments of the Marine Corps League. In addition, the Foundation provided over 200 meals to the residents of Clara Verner Towers for their Veterans Day Memorial Program. A grant was provided to the Mike Spann Detachment of the Marine Corps League to assist in hosting the 2016 Marine Corps Birthday Celebration.

AMF's Temporary Emergency Financial Assistance Program provides grants of dedicated donations to affiliated organizations throughout the State to assist individual Marines who have experienced a temporary financial setback. Various Marine Corps League Detachments and other veteran organizations in the State assist AMF in providing grants to Marines and their families. Grants are awarded for such items as medical/dental care, temporary child care, rent, vehicle repair, transportation, utility bills, and food. In 2016, \$2,500 in grants was awarded under this Program. Since the inception of this grant program in 2013, \$9,500 has been awarded to Marines across the State. It should be emphasized that funds provided through this program are grants, not loans.

Grant application procedures for these two programs may be found on the Foundation website.

Since its inception in 2012 through 2016 AMF has donated \$40,000 to the Marine Corps League, Mike Spann Detachment, Endowed Scholarship Fund at the University of Alabama. That scholarship provides financial assistance for students who have a personal or family connection to the Marine Corps or to Navy Corpsmen who served with the Fleet Marine Force, and who graduated from high school in the State of Alabama. At the end of 2016, the endowment totaled \$80,000.00.

Anyone wishing to donate to these three grant programs may do so at the Donation page on the Foundation Website, www.alamarinesfoundation.org.

TOYS FOR TOTS

Since 1947 the Marine Corps Reserve has conducted annual Toys for Tots Campaigns in communities throughout the country. The object of the campaign is to collect new, unwrapped toys during the months of November and December each year, and to distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the communities in which the campaign is conducted.

In communities without a Marine Corps Reserve unit, the campaign may be conducted by other groups, generally composed largely of Marine Corps veterans, aided by community volunteers. Each local campaign is required to be directed by a “coordinator,” trained, certified, and supervised directly by the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation (**The Foundation**). During the Campaign, **The Foundation** is in constant contact with the coordinator, requiring weekly written reports on toy collection, donations, and expenditures of funds. With the absence of a Marine Corps Reserve unit in the Tuscaloosa area, the Alabama Marines Foundation, with Janice Looney as the certified coordinator, has been authorized by **The Foundation** to conduct the campaign in West Alabama. **The Foundation** requires all funds collected be held separate from Alabama Marines Foundation assets, and all collections of toys and funds are subject to ongoing audits by **The Foundation**.

Under the able leadership of Ms. Looney the 2016 Tuscaloosa area Toys for Tots Campaign was again a resounding success. Last year 2,231 children from low-income homes enjoyed Christmas gifts as a result of the hard work and dedication of many volunteers. Active Duty and Reserve Marines, retired Marines, Marine veterans, their family members, friends, and caring citizens volunteered hundreds of hours. During the period of 2012-16, the Tuscaloosa Toys for Tots Campaign has collected and donated 42,179 toys to 9,615 children. Monetary donations during that period totaled \$142,488. With administrative expenses averaging just three percent, 97% of all donations have gone toward the purchase of toys.

Toys for Tots is, in all respects, a community effort. Its funding is almost exclusively through local donations of toys, cash contributions, and in-kind services. Every dollar contributed to the local campaign remains in the West Alabama area. Individual donations of new unwrapped toys and cash gifts have been and will continue to be at the core of our successful campaigns. Corporate donations also play a vital role, as do toy drives conducted by various civic and governmental groups, businesses, churches, and schools.

The 2017 campaign will kick off in October. Watch the local media for announcements and locations of toy drop off points. Cash donations are welcome and accepted throughout the year. Donations may be made at the Tuscaloosa Toys for Tots Foundation website, www.toysfortots.org. There, donors are able to direct their gifts to the Tuscaloosa Toys for Tots Campaign. Donations may also be made by check, made payable to Toys for Tots, and mailed to the Foundation at the address shown on the last page of this report.

2016

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

EXPENSES	AMOUNT
General Operations	\$ 4,132
Fund Raising (No Funds Spent)	
Membership (No Funds Spent)	
RV & Auto Parking Expenses	\$ 1,511
Emergency Financial Assistance Grant	\$ 2,500
General Grants	\$29,700
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$37,843
INCOME	
Interest	\$ 62
Membership Fees	\$ 0
Donations	\$11,790
RV Parking	\$32,000
Auto Parking	\$16,757
TOTAL INCOME	\$60,609
UNALLOCATED FUNDS* (DEFICIT)	\$22,766

*The income for 2016 exceeded the amount budgeted and helped produce additional funds for reserves in future years.

DONORS

The Alabama Marines Foundation and the Toys for Tots Campaign are grateful for the generous gifts from these supporters during 2016:

Memorial Contributions

Michael and Silvia Billings in memory of Col Stowe

Meadows Road Church in memory of Col Stowe

Businesses, Organizations, and Foundations Contributions

Beavers Drafting, LLC

Culver Road Church

Druid City Business League

First United Methodist Church

Holy Spirit High Students

Kiwanis Club

Krulak Detachment, MCL

Publics Super Market Charities

Nick's Kids Foundation

Robert Half International, Inc.

Moore's Bridge Baptist Church

Norris Limb & Brace

Operation Hat Trick

Sam's Club, Tuscaloosa

South Alabama Hearing Aids

United Methodist Church Women

United Way of Alabama

US Bankruptcy Court

VFW Post 6022

Walmart (Tuscaloosa and Northport)

West Alabama Officers Association

Neighborhood Market Tuscaloosa)

Toys R'Us

Individual Contributions

Marion S. Almon

Aaron & Teri Andrews

Suzanne Barnette

Geraldine Clark

Mary C.M. Collins

Samuel & Felicia Corona

John & Jane Curry

Lillian Duncan

Lee A. Hallman

James C. Hamner, Jr.

Polly & Joseph Hardy

Peggy Herron

Norman & Yvonne Houben

Gay Lake, Jr.

Patrick McGinnis, Jr.

Jim & Sharon McLean

Thomas Mullen

Harold & Lisa Parker

Romas & Rita Rimsa

Ronald and Mary Ann Robertson

Mary Emil Rushing

Mikiel Shaffer

Carolyn Willingham

Dennis & Carolyn Dahl

Frieda Fulmer

Frances and Gary Hamner

Sammi Hampton

Linda Harris

Frank & Carol Hinkle

Karen Kone

Roger & Sue Lee

Ray & Janice Looney

Delaine & Barbara Mountain

Don and Linda Odum

Beverly C. Phifer

Robert & Patricia Roberts

Johnny & Gail Rushing

Marilyn Shackelford

Betty Townsend

Elden & Martha Willingham

In-Kind Gifts

Stan Pate

Game Day Tents

PARA

Cintas

All American Storage

VOLUNTEERS

The success of the Alabama Marines Foundation and the Toys for Tots Campaign during 2016 would not have been possible without the dedicated volunteer services of these individuals. The Foundation Board of Directors and the Toys for Tots Coordinator are truly thankful to all who have given so generously of their time and effort to advance our worthy causes.

Jenna Bias

David Blair

Lee Busby

Diane Buttram

Terry Cade

Dennis Dahl

PFC Justin Davis, USMC

Vickie Dobbs

Doris Dobbs

LtCol William Dobbs, USMC (Ret)

Will Dobbs

Mike Everett

Forrest Fitts

Melody Gardner

Bobby Howard

Beverly James

Col Pete James, USMC (Ret)

Danica Lauman

Heather Leach

MSgt Ryan Leach, USMCR

Janice Looney

Ray Looney

Deb Lowther

Ron Lowther

Doyle Love

Jack Mason

GySgt Joseph McCartney, USMC

Kyleah-Mae McCloud

Jim McLean

Sharon McLean

Sgt Xavier Montaie, USMC

Don Odum

Linda Odum

Sean Pribanic

Phyllis Rudowski

Amanda Sloat

SSgt Christopher Tate, USMC

GySgt James Thornbrough, USMC

Peggy Turner

Stephanie Thornbrough

Calvin Vreeland

Hays Webb

LtGen Willie Williams USMC (Ret)

Martha Willingham

Maj Jason York, USMC (Ret)

Larry Turner

Karen Vice

Glenda Webb

Samuel Webb

Carolyn Willingham

Elden Willingham

Bryant H.S. MCJROTC

CONTACT INFORMATION

There are several ways to reach the Foundation.

You may send correspondence to the Foundation mailing address at:

**The Alabama Marines Foundation
1655 McFarland Blvd. N., PMB 155
Tuscaloosa AL 35406**

You may use the “Contact Us” button on the Foundation website:

www.alamarinesfoundation.org, or

You may send an email to the Foundation at:

info@alamarinesfoundation.org