




# GREATER ROCHESTER U.S. MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST

## SUNDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 0800

Retired Marine Corps MSgt. Bruce Van Apeldoorn, who started this new tradition here back in 2015, is now enjoying his well deserved retirement near family in North Carolina. He entrusted the Marine Corps Coordinating Council to carry on this very successful Birthday observance. Cooper Marine American Legion Past Commander Ray Melens, like Bruce a Vietnam War Vet, has taken the reins. We're good to carry on.

All over the nation Birthday Breakfasts have gained in popularity including ours

here. Year to year sees increased attendance and participation. This year's observance will again be at Red Fedele's Brook House on West Ridge Road. They have been great hosts.

This year our Guest of Honor is Marine Veteran and Director of Monroe County's Veterans Service Agency Nick Stefanovic. He was recently inducted into the New York Senate's Veterans Hall of Fame.

Don't miss this time with your fellow Marines on our day.

**WHO:** Marines of any age or period. FMF Corpsmen, Sea Bees and Chaplain's staff are also welcome. And significant others.

**WHAT:** Breakfast with your fellow Marines. Cost: \$25 pre-purchased on line at:

<https://www.mccrochester.org/birthday-breakfast-2024>

**WHERE:** Red Fedele's Brook House, 920 Elmridge Center Dr., Rochester, NY.

**DRESS:** Casual or period uniforms.

**WHEN:** Sunday 10 November 2024.

0800 Greetings and Coffee.

0900 Birthday Ceremony

0915 Buffet Breakfast

**WHY:** Because it's Marine Corps Birthday!

**BUT YOU NEED TO** get on line and purchase a ticket as soon as possible. At least by 1 November 2024.

**Pass this on to another Marine. Semper Fi!**

### 2024 Honorees: Operation Enduring Freedom Vets



It is a mystery of warfare. How can the saddest defeats become defining moments for warriors? For a generation of Marines it was the Chosen Reservoir March to the Sea. Our British cousins still celebrate the HMS Hood battleship loss. The French Foreign Legion annually observes a glorious defeat in Mexico. It has to be a realization that they were at their best and they did their best.



So it is with our effort in Afghanistan. The Afghan people now live with failure. It's theirs. The Marines who served there did not fail to give them a real chance for freedom. Which sometimes is all that is possible. 🇺🇸