

Published for the friends of "The President's Own"

# notes

July  
August



*Marine Band Historian Master Gunnery Sergeant  
Michael Ressler at Marine Barracks Annex  
Washington, D.C.*

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# HISTORIAN RETIRES

BY MASTER SERGEANT KRISTIN DUBOIS

In a formal ceremony on Aug. 23, Marine Band Historian Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael Ressler will retire from the U.S. Marine Corps after 39 years of active duty service. He has served as a euphonium player, librarian, chief librarian, support staff section commander, and, since 2008, the band's first-ever historian.

His childhood in Lancaster County Pennsylvania and the subsequent journey to his career with "The President's Own" seems almost predestined. "I first heard the Marine Band perform on television for President Kennedy's funeral," Ressler recalled. "It was a very special moment that I will never forget." By the time he was a fifth grader he had been playing trombone for one year and discovered the 1959 National Geographic magazine article that featured the band. A year later, a graduate of his hometown high school named John Zimmerman [former Marine Band Operations Officer] joined the Marine Band as a euphonium player and further fueled his interest in the organization. It was halfway through his freshman year in high school, however, when he decided once and for all that the Marine Band was where he wanted to be someday.

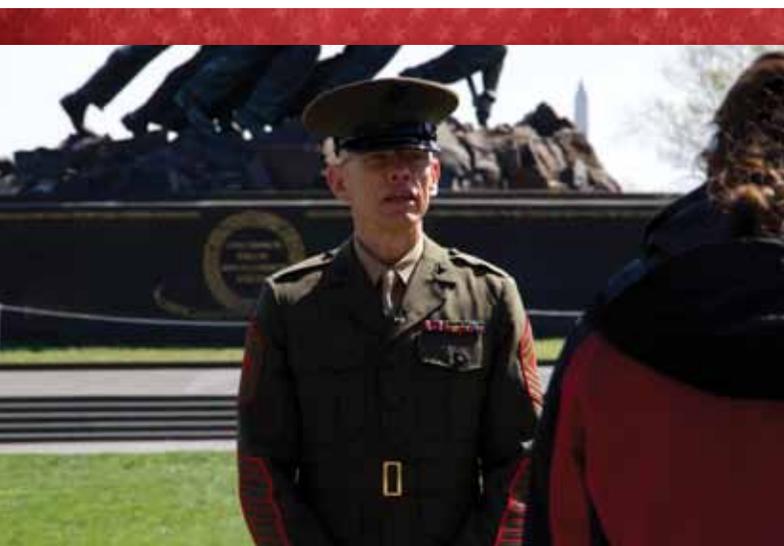
Ressler remembered that Southeastern Pennsylvania was fertile ground for bands, band music, and band musicians, and his hometown community band, the New Holland Band, was the catalyst. The band included a mix of ages and abilities and there was no generation gap. Ressler was the youngest player when he joined at age 15 and quickly befriended the oldest player, bass drummer and published archeologist Mr. Arthur Futer. The two would drive to concerts together and Ressler would help him distribute the music and set up chairs, stands, and percussion equipment while soaking in Futer's stories about the history of the New Holland Band and its successful "graduates." At one point in the early 20th century, five Lancaster natives were members of the Marine

Band after receiving training and experience in the area. According to Ressler, "In the musical culture I grew up in, there was no greater calling than to become a member of the Marine Band." He went on to say that the New Holland Band's musical leadership saw the value in bringing in young people to teach and train who could carry on the musical tradition. "I'm convinced I wouldn't have had the career I've had in the U.S. Marine Band if I hadn't had that experience with the New Holland Band."

After graduating high school in 1970, Ressler worked as a musician and music teacher and auditioned unsuccessfully twice for a trombone opening in the Marine Band. In June 1974 he came in second in an audition for euphonium and was asked if he would be interested in working in the Marine Band's music library due to his experience in New Holland. Shortly after he arrived in Washington, his hometown friend Zimmerman moved into the Operations Office, creating another opening in the euphonium section. Ressler moved to the euphonium section and on Sept. 6, 1974 he performed presidential honors for the first time for then-President Gerald Ford in Philadelphia at the Bicentennial of the First Continental Congress. "It was the culmination of 11 years of dedicated preparation and focused effort to become a member," Ressler said. His interest in the band started with a state funeral and his last commitment playing with the band was as a euphonium player during President Ronald Reagan's state funeral procession on June 9, 2004.

As much as he relished his time as a playing member of the band, he returned to the library in 1978 because he felt he could make a more substantial impact as a member of the support staff. He enjoyed being behind the scenes and involved in the day-to-day support of the band's activities. Ressler gradually worked into the role of unofficial historian starting in the early 1980s. After becoming chief librarian in 1988, he discovered that his duties morphed into wearing "two hats:" managing the activities of the library and librarians; and caring for the band's historical assets, doing research, and preserving material history. He is proud to have served as the librarian for President Ford's state funeral in January 2007, as well as the episode of "In Performance at the White House: 'The President's Own'" filmed at the White House during President George W. Bush's first term in 2001. A few weeks after that filming, he prepared the band's music for the Sept. 12, 2001, Congressional Prayer Vigil in the Capitol Rotunda following the attacks on Sept. 11.

Marine Band Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn asked him to transition from chief librarian to historian at the conclusion of the 210th Anniversary Living History Showcase Series on Sept. 1, 2008. His appointment to historian was a small but important step to dedicating himself full time to the band's history.



*Historian Master Gunnery Sergeant Michael Ressler is filmed for a segment with the National Park Service about the The Marines' Hymn*

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## WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS



Recent appearances by “The President’s Own” at the White House include:

- Event for NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion Brad Keselowski
- Greek Independence Reception
- Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony
- Joining Forces CEO Event
- National Medal for Museum and Library Services
- Mother’s Day Tea
- Top Cops Ceremony
- Gershwin Performance and Reception
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Month Reception

## MARINE BAND ANNIVERSARY CONCERT CANCELLED

The United States Marine Band’s 215th anniversary concert scheduled for Saturday, July 6, 2013, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has been canceled due to sequestration. This event will not be rescheduled.

## FEATURED DOWNLOADS



### JULY

#### March of the Month

“The President’s Own”

MSgt Ollie Zinsmeister, USMC (Ret.)\*

#### Director’s Choice

Stephen Foster Medley  
arranged by Sammy Nestico\*

### AUGUST

#### March of the Month

“King Cotton”

John Philip Sousa\*

#### Featured Soloist

*Kol Nidrei*, Opus 47

Max Bruch

MGySgt Marcio Botelho,  
cello soloist

\*Member, U.S. Marine Band



Scan the QR code for the July/August  
Featured Downloads or visit  
[www.marineband.usmc.mil/audio\\_resources](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil/audio_resources).

## ANNIVERSARY FANFARE

By Staff Sergeant Brian Rust

Two hundred and fifteen years ago, on July 11, 1798, President John Adams signed an Act of Congress which reestablished the United States Marine Corps and authorized a drum major, a fife major, and 32 drums and fifes. This Act planted musical roots that would grow from a small group of fifers and drummers into a world-class military musical organization with the mission to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

In celebration of more than two decades of tradition and Presidential musical support, “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band performed a series of *Living History* concerts in the spring which musically recounted the band’s journey to where it is today. To culminate the celebration during its outdoor summer concerts, the Marine Band will perform anniversary programs at 8 p.m., July 10, on the west terrace of the U.S. Capitol and at 7:30 p.m., July 11, on the boardwalk of The Yards Park on the Capitol Riverfront, just east of Nationals Park. Both concerts are free and no tickets are required.

“We are especially excited to open the concerts with a new work written in honor of our anniversary by the incomparable John Williams,” said Marine Band Director Col. Michael J. Colburn.

Williams’ new piece is a fanfare written specifically for the Marine Band’s anniversary year and is aptly titled “For ‘The President’s Own.’” Williams, the Academy Award-winning composer and Conductor Laureate of the Boston Pops, has a special relationship with the Marine Band, having conducted the ensemble on the band’s 2003 and 2008 anniversary concerts, and in 2009 during a tour concert at Royce Hall in Los Angeles. “The United States Marine Band is one of the finest music ensembles that our country has produced,” Williams said in 2008. “The band consistently matches the highest artistic standards of our finest symphony orchestras, and it is to the everlasting credit of the Marine Corps that it has maintained and nurtured its beloved band over so many glorious years.”

Another highlight of the anniversary concerts is a new arrangement by Marine Band Staff Arranger Staff Sgt. Ryan Nowlin of music from the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *Ragtime*. Featuring the vocal and acting talents of mezzo-soprano Gunnery Sgt. Sara Dell’Omo and baritone Gunnery Sgt. Kevin Benear, the musical panorama, subtitled “An American Story,” includes several selections from the production as well as some dialogue to help establish the personalities and circumstances of the show’s characters. The setting for *Ragtime* takes place in the early 20th century, during the Industrial Age, and looks at the American dream through the eyes of three groups: African-Americans, upper-class suburbanites, and Eastern European immigrants.

“This musical is really about how several different cultures come together because of America’s promise,” Nowlin said. “Our country’s identity very much came from this time—a time that defined American ingenuity.”

In addition to Williams’ fanfare and Nowlin’s *Ragtime* panorama, Col. Colburn noted that “as you might expect in a Marine Band anniversary concert, there is plenty of traditional American music, including favorites from composers such as Morton Gould, Leonard Bernstein, Charles Ives, and of course, John Philip Sousa.”

For more information on the summer outdoor concerts, including directions, visit [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil) or call (202) 433-4011. 🇺🇸

## ACE OF MACES

By Master Sergeant Kristin duBois

While the Director of “The President’s Own,” Colonel Michael J. Colburn, will mark the Marine Band’s 215th birthday using a maple baton weighing less than an ounce to conduct the band, Drum Major Master Gunnery Sgt. William L. Browne will lead the band on the parade deck with a different kind of wooden stick. This summer at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Master Gunnery Sgt. Browne will take charge of the band on the parade deck with the mace that changed the way America’s military bands are led on the march. For the four Friday Evening Parades in July, Drum Major Browne will honor the band’s early history by using the mace that was designed by the 28th Drum Major, Edmond DeMar in 1953.

“I thought it would be appropriate for the band’s 215th anniversary to showcase the mace first used by Drum Major DeMar and give it some fresh air on the parade deck at Marine Barracks,” Drum Major Browne said. “It’s a chance for us to recall how the style of drum majoring has changed in America’s military bands and celebrate those that have changed it.”

The earliest known staff dates from 1671 and is preserved at the Honorable Artillery Company of London. Drum majors used the staff to communicate to the drummers, fifers, and buglers in battle assigned to sound specific musical signals designed to move troops into position. In addition, the staff provided silent, visual cues to the musicians to keep time as the troops marched.

From the earliest days of the fledgling Marine Band in 1798, the drum major used a signal baton to lead the band. It was roughly 36 inches in length with a rounded, unadorned bulb at one end and a pointed ferrule tip at the other. It was called a cane because the mark of a gentleman was the cane he carried. Following the French tradition of drum majoring, he held the rounded end close to his body and communicated commands with the ferrule tip extended up in the air. The result was showy and fast-paced, with twirls of the wrist and jabs into the air. These spectacular and attention-grabbing mannerisms—the French style—were adopted by military bands, and eventually school bands, becoming the American standard.

Although many Marine Corps customs and courtesies followed the Royal Marine Corps model, the Marine Band continued to feature the French-American manner of drum majoring. Following World War II, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Vivian Dunn and the Royal Marine Band from Portsmouth, England, toured Canada and the



Marine Band Drum Major Master Sergeant Edmond DeMar, June 12, 1956

United States and performed at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., on Sept. 12, 1949. Master Sgt. DeMar was the Marine Band’s drum major at that time and the performance had a tremendous impact on him and the future of Marine Band drum major traditions.

In 1953 Master Sgt. DeMar traveled to Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth, and spent two weeks studying and training with Royal Marine Drum Major Geoffrey Knox. Along with Marine Band percussionist Master Sgt. Charles Owen, they reviewed the Royal Marines’ equipment and how they marched and performed. By this time, Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn had been appointed Principal Director of Music for the Royal Marine Band Service but he was still in Portsmouth to oversee and observe the training sessions. Former Royal Marine Drum Major Colin Bowden recalled, “On the final morning of their visit, Eddie DeMar was invited to take the drum major’s position at the head of a massed band for a short marching display. He used Geoff Knox’s staff to give the necessary signals.”

The British staff, commonly referred to as a mace, measures roughly five feet in length and is held with the tip pointed to the ground. The much larger globe features regimental identification and decorations and is carried upright as opposed to the French style. The moniker “mace” is a bit of a misnomer. According to Anthony B. Kirkland in his article “Historical Roots of the Modern Drum Major,” some experts “believe it is related to the shorter mace used in royal ceremonies in Europe, or

*continued on page 6*

# FEATURED PROGRAMS

**Please note: no concerts will take place on July 3 or 4**

## MARINE BAND

**8 pm | Wednesday, July 10**  
**U.S. Capitol, West Terrace**

**7:30 pm | Thursday, July 11**  
**The Yards Park, Capitol Riverfront**

*Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting*  
**\*Marine Band 215th Anniversary Concerts**

John Williams  
"For 'The President's Own'"\*

Morton Gould/trans. Lang  
"American Salute"

Erik Leidzén/arr. Bulla\*  
A Happy Day  
*MGySgt Andrew Schuller, cornet soloist*

Jacques Offenbach/ed. Bourgeois\*  
Galop from *Geneviève de Brabant*

Leonard Bernstein/trans. Stith  
Three Dance Episodes from *On the Town*

Stephen Flaherty/lyrics Ahrens/arr. Nowlin\*  
*Ragtime: An American Story*  
*GySgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano*  
*GySgt Kevin Benneer, baritone*

Charles Ives/trans. Elkus  
Finale from Symphony No. 2

John Philip Sousa\*  
March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"\*

## MARINE BAND

**8 pm | Wednesday, July 17**  
**U.S. Capitol, West Terrace**

**7:30 pm | Thursday, July 18**  
**The Yards Park, Capitol Riverfront**

*Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting*

W. Paris Chambers  
March, "The Boys of the Old Brigade"

Isaac Albéniz/trans. Cailliet  
"Feast Day in Seville" from *Iberia*

Carl Maria von Weber/trans. Brown  
Allegro from Clarinet Concerto No. 2 in E-flat  
*GySgt Harry Ong, soloist*

Percy Grainger/ed. Rogers  
Colonial Song  
*SSgt Robert Singer, conducting*

John Williams/arr. Lavender  
"Adventures on Earth" from *E. T. (The Extra-Terrestrial)*  
*SSgt Robert Singer, conducting*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart/trans. Basta\*  
Aria, "Non più andrai" from *The Marriage of Figaro*  
*GySgt Kevin Benneer, baritone*  
*SSgt Robert Singer, conducting*

Alexander Glazunov/trans. Kline\*  
Finale from Symphony No. 5, Opus 55

## MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

**7:30 pm | Saturday, July 20**

**Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NOVA, Alexandria, VA**

*Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting*

Sir Malcolm Arnold  
Symphony for Strings (1946)

Sir Malcolm Arnold  
Concerto for Flute and Strings, Opus 45 (1954)  
*SSgt Ellen Dooley, soloist*

Benjamin Britten  
*Phaedra*, Opus 93 (1975)  
*GySgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano*

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
Five Variants of "Dives and Lazarus" (1939)

## MARINE JAZZ COMBO

**8 pm | Wednesday, July 24**  
**U.S. Capitol, West Terrace**

**7:30 pm | Thursday, July 25**  
**The Yards Park, Capitol Riverfront**

Joe Sample/arr. Ragsdale  
"Put It Where You Want It"

Charlie Parker  
"Billie's Bounce"

Peter Erskine  
"Sweet Soul"

MSgt Glenn Dewey\*  
Rhythm Vamp in the Style of "Miles Electric"

Randy Brecker/arr. Holmes  
"Some Skunk Funk"

MGySgt Robert Boguslaw\*  
"White Out"

Pat Metheny  
"Have You Heard"

## MARINE BAND

**8 pm | Wednesday, July 31**  
**U.S. Capitol, West Terrace**

**7:30 pm | Thursday, August 1**  
**The Yards Park, Capitol Riverfront**

*Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting*

Steven Reineke  
*Portrait of Freedom*

Emmanuel Chabrier/trans. Patterson\*  
Fête Polonaise from *Le Roi Malgré Lui*

 All concerts are free and open to the public. Schedule is subject to change. For complete program, concert information, and inclement weather announcements, please call (202) 433-4011 or visit [www.marineband.usmc.mil](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil).



\*Member, U.S. Marine Band

\*Available for download on the Marine Band's website

Franz Krommer/trans. Crusell  
Concertante in E-flat for Two Clarinets, Opus 35  
*MSGt Deborah Hanson-Gerber and  
SSgt Shannon Coleman, soloists*

Sir Charles Mackerras/based on music of  
Sir Arthur Sullivan/trans. Duthoit  
Suite from *Pineapple Poll*

Luigi Arditi/trans. Patterson\*  
"Il Bacio"  
*GySgt Sara Dell'Omo, mezzo-soprano*

John Philip Sousa\*  
March, "The Daughters of Texas"

## MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, August 7

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

7:30 pm | Thursday, August 8

The Yards Park, Capitol Riverfront

*Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting*

Steven Bryant  
Ecstatic Fanfare (2012)

George Whitefield Chadwick/arr. Bourgeois\*  
March of the Pasha's Guard from *Tabasco*

Eric Richards  
"A Klezmer Tribute"  
*MSGt John Norton, clarinet soloist*

ZeZ Confrey/arr. Ripley  
"Kitten on the Keys"

Frank Ticheli  
"Shenandoah" (1999)

Donald Grantham  
*J'ai été au bal*

John Philip Sousa\*  
March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"\*

## MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, August 14

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

7:30 pm | Thursday, August 15

The Yards Park, Capitol Riverfront

*Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting*

John Philip Sousa\*  
March, "The Belle of Chicago"

Frank Ticheli  
*Vesuvius* (1999)

Richard Wagner/trans. Patterson\*  
Prelude to Act III from *Lohengrin*  
*GySgt Brian Turmire, conducting*

Aaron Copland/arr. Hilliard  
Scenes from *Billy the Kid*  
*GySgt Brian Turmire, conducting*

arranged by Stephen Bulla\*  
*American Spirituals*  
*GySgt Kevin Bennear, baritone*

Kenneth Hesketh  
*Masque* (2000)

## MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

7:30 pm | Saturday, August 17

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and  
Arts Center, NOVA, Alexandria, VA

*Major Jason K. Fettig, conducting*

Vittorio Giannini  
Prelude and Fugue for String Orchestra (1955)

James Adler  
Suite Moderne for Strings (1982)

Edvard Grieg  
Suite for Strings, Opus 40, "From Holberg's Time"

Alexander Glazunov  
Alto Saxophone Concerto in E-flat, Opus 109 (1934)  
*SSgt Jacob Chmara, soloist*

Moisey Weinberg  
Chamber Symphony No. 1, Opus 145 (1987)

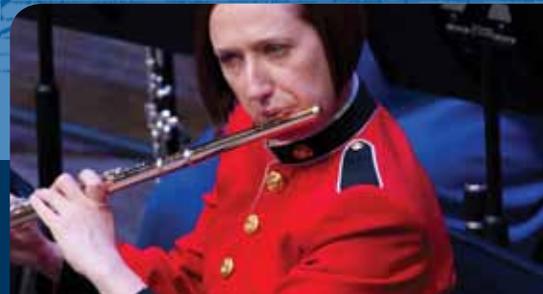
## MARINE JAZZ COMBO

8 pm | Wednesday, August 21

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

7:30 pm | Thursday, August 22

The Yards Park, Capitol Riverfront



*Staff Sergeant Ellen Dooley will perform Sir Malcolm Arnold's Concerto for Flute and Strings Opus 45 (1954) with the Marine Chamber Orchestra on Saturday, July 20.*

John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie and Walter  
Gilbert "Gil" Fuller  
"Manteca"

Nova & Jory  
"Aprovecha"

Mario Bauzá, Bobby Woodlen, and Grace  
Sampson  
"Mambo Inn"

Cal Tjader  
"Viva Cepeda"

Isham Jones (as performed by Chick Corea)  
"Spain"

Calvin Harris (as performed by Rihanna)  
"We Found Love"

## MARINE BAND

8 pm | Wednesday, August 28

U.S. Capitol, West Terrace

7:30 pm | Thursday, August 29

The Yards Park, Capitol Riverfront

*Colonel Michael J. Colburn, conducting*

John Philip Sousa\*  
March, "On the Campus"

Johann Strauss Jr./trans. Patterson\*  
Overture to *The Gypsy Baron*

Donato Lovreglio/trans. Kidd  
Fantasia on Themes from Giuseppe Verdi's  
*La traviata*  
*SSgt Jonathon Troy, clarinet soloist*

Eric Coates/trans. Williams  
*London Suite*

Thomas Knox\*  
"American Pageant"

John Philip Sousa\*  
March, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"\*

 The Evening Parades at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., take place at 8:45 p.m., Fridays through Aug. 31. The parades are free; however, reservations are recommended. Please visit <http://www.mbw.usmc.mil/RequestReservation.aspx> or call (202) 433-4073 for reservations and parade information.

*Historian continued from page 1*

“It was a daunting task, there weren’t a lot of resources; information on our earliest history was difficult to find,” Ressler said. But he and Assistant Chief Librarian Gunnery Sgt. Kira Wharton found some important new information as they scoured the Commandant of the Marine Corps’ correspondence from 1798-1810 and other sources.

“Discovering new things about the band’s history sheds light on the path of development the band has taken,” he said.

He found out just how important music was to the Marine Corps at that time. Recruiting officials found it impossible to meet quotas when musicians weren’t on hand to literally drum up support and excitement. The correspondence also revealed how vital the Marine Band was to the Marine Corps, as it moved with Marine Corps Headquarters battalion from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., in July 1800, along with President John Adams and his Cabinet.

In addition, Ressler’s research uncovered a Baltimore newspaper article about the laying of the cornerstone of the first lock of the C&O Canal. The report explained that as President Andrew Jackson departed the ceremony the Marine Band performed “Hail to the Chief” in his honor and the crowd erupted in acclamation. This is the earliest known performance of “Hail to the Chief” by the Marine Band to honor a president. Another newspaper article provided clues to track down the band’s earliest known photograph. As the article described the scene from President Abraham Lincoln’s first inauguration on March 4, 1861, it mentioned that the musicians were seated on the President’s left. The poor quality of the photo made the musicians difficult to see initially and the article provided the final proof of the Marine Band’s location at the ceremony.

The role of the Marine Band historian, Ressler pointed out, involves more than just doing research. It requires an enormous amount of time to respond to questions that come from the Marine Band Directors, members of “The President’s Own,” reporters, scholars, and researchers. In addition, many hours and days have gone into photographing and cataloging assets and working with conservators on the band’s most important textiles, uniforms, music, books, photos, and instruments. Many interesting and high profile projects have come up along the way, including curating the National Museum of the Marine Corps’ inauguration exhibit “Hailing the Chief: The United States Marine Band and Presidential Inaugurals” (now on display until September), managing the production of uniform replicas from 1798, 1828, 1863, and 1892; working with PBS’ History Detectives on a show investigating a manuscript of The National Anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and overseeing the creation and dedication of a statue of the Marine Band’s 17th Director John Philip Sousa.

“It has been a dream to spend these last five years focusing on the history full time. I can’t imagine a better way to end my career,” he said. When he retires at the end of August, Master Gunnery Sgt. Ressler will have served 39 years, 1 month, and three days on active duty, making him the most senior enlisted active duty Marine in the entire Marine Corps.

Ressler’s mixture of feelings as his retirement ceremony draws closer includes a sense of accomplishment and the relief of “finishing the race.” “I will miss the music and the people tremendously and will be the band’s number one fan,” he said. “I will continue to attend concerts and read ‘Notes’ and hope to be available to assist with some unfinished work, such as identifying photographs and answering historical questions.”

“I hope the work I’ve done stands the test of time.” 🍷

*Maces continued from page 3*

descended from the Medieval weapon known by the same name.”

When DeMar returned to the States, he immediately procured a new mace, the design of which has remained virtually unchanged since 1953. The most noticeable modification is the miniature replica of the Capitol dome that was added by 31st Drum Major James Donovan in the late 1960s. Drum Major Donovan also ceased wearing a sword sash over his right shoulder and instead created a baldric worn over his left shoulder. This matched the Royal Marine Band’s baldric with its list of battles or “tribal trappings,” according to Major George Carroll, founder of the Army Fife and Drum Corps and expert on military band traditions. This was the first time an American drum major wore a British-style baldric and employed a mace with the corresponding mace techniques. Charles James wrote in “The Regimental Companion of 1811” that the drum major “raises his staff, the head of which he will turn (with an easy air) once round, so as to keep time, and plant it every fourth place.” Major Carroll speculated that following the Royal Marines’ performance in 1949, the Marine Corps leadership liked what they saw and chose to adopt the British style of drum majoring due to its elegance, stateliness, and conservative use of movement.

Decades passed before other bands across the Department of Defense began to accept and implement the changes DeMar instituted. Marine Band Drum Majors have used a variety of different sized and shaped maces throughout the band’s history, but the British-style of drum majoring is now the American standard. It all began with “The President’s Own.” 🍷

## FAREWELL

After serving three years with the Marine Band, **Assistant Drum Major Gunnery Sgt. Duane F. King** is returning to Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) Band in New Orleans to serve as the drum major. After graduating from Terry Parker High School in Jacksonville, Fla., in 1994, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and attended recruit training at Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Beaufort, S.C. Following recruit training, he attended the basic course at the Armed Forces School of Music in Little Creek, Va., as a trumpet player then received orders to the MARFORRES Band in October 1995. In 2000, he received orders to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band in Twentynine Palms, Calif., then returned to the School of Music where he completed the Ceremonial Conductor/Drum Major course in 2002. After completing the course he reported to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Band and remained there until 2005 when he returned to the MARFORRES Band, serving as the drum major.

## RETIREMENTS

**Principal tuba Master Gunnery Sgt. Cameron Gates** retired on April 11 after serving 20 years with "The President's Own." He performed during five Presidential Inaugurals, the State Funeral for President Gerald R. Ford, as a tour soloist, and innumerable educational outreach programs. In addition to his duties as a musician, Gates also offered his superior skill as an instrument repair technician, having voluntarily performed more than 900 repairs to government-owned instruments.

Former **Administration Chief Gunnery Sgt. Lacey Reid** retired on April 12 after 20 years in the Marine Corps. Following recruit training in Parris Island, S.C., he attended Marine combat training in Camp Geiger, N.C., and the Basic Administration Course in Camp Johnson, N.C. Prior to joining the Marine Band, he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, 2d Division in Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.; and the Military Entrance Processing Station in Detroit.

**Solo piccolo player Master Gunnery Sgt. Cynthia Rugolo** retired on April 19 after 20 years in the Marine Band. Rugolo has been performing the famous piccolo solo in John Philip Sousa's legendary march "The Stars and Stripes Forever" for two decades. In addition to her tour performances, she estimates that she performed the solo more than 500 times for events ranging from summer concerts on the lawn of the Washington Monument to President Barack Obama's 2009 inaugural before 1.8 million people.

## NEW MEMBER

### Assistant Drum Major Staff Sergeant Steven

**F. Williams** began his musical training on trumpet at age 8. After graduating from Lampeter-Strasburg High School in Lampeter, Pa., in 2002, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in Beaufort, S.C. Following recruit training, he attended the basic course at the Armed Forces School of Music in Little Creek, Va., as a trumpet player then received orders to the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing Band in Cherry Point, N.C. In 2003, he received orders to the Albany Marine Band in Georgia and prior to joining "The President's Own" he was stationed with the 2d Marine Division Band at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. As Assistant Drum Major for "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Williams leads the band in ceremonial commitments and, as the company gunnery sergeant, he is responsible for unit and new member training.



## VACANCIES

"The President's Own" announces auditions for the following vacancies:

**French horn:** Aug. 19-20

**Cello:** Aug. 26-27

For information contact the Marine Band Operations Officer at [marineband.operations@usmc.mil](mailto:marineband.operations@usmc.mil) or (202) 433-5714.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Gunnery Sergeant Francis "Frank" Cocuzzi**, originally of Rochester, N.Y., passed away May 2, 2013. He joined the band as a percussionist on June 12, 1962, after graduating from the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester. He was a 1968 tour soloist and was one of the drummers in the funeral cortege for President John F. Kennedy.

## MARINE BAND CONTACT INFORMATION

Marine Band Public Affairs Office  
Marine Barracks  
8th & I Streets, SE  
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