

**THIS JOURNEY ENDS  
RETIRED LIFE BEGINS**



**SEMPER FIDELIS!**

**Retirement Ceremony**  
**Master Gunnery Sergeant**  
**Paulette Melton**  
**United States Marine Corps**



**12 September 2025**  
**Marston Pavilion**  
**Camp Lejeune, North Carolina**

# SEQUENCE OF EVENTS



*Invocation*

*Sound Attention*

*National Anthem*

*Retirement of Master Gunnery Sergeant*

*Paulette Melton*

*Remarks from Col NaTasha Everly*

*Remarks by Master Gunnery Sergeant*

*Paulette Melton*

*Anchors Aweigh*

*Marines' Hymn*

*Conclusion of Ceremony*

*Old Glory*

*The Watch*

*Ceremony Narrated by:*  
*Sara Price*  
*GySgt, USMC*

# SNCO CREED



I am a Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in the United States Marine Corps. As such, I am a member of the most unique group of professional military practitioners in the world. I am bound by duty to God, Country, and my fellow Marines to execute the demands of my position to and beyond what I believe to be the limits of my capabilities.

I realize I am the mainstay of Marine Corps discipline, and I carry myself with military grace, unbowed by the weight of command, unflinching in the execution of lawful orders, and unswerving in my dedication to the most complete success of my assigned mission.

Both my professional and personal demeanor shall be such that I may take pride if my juniors emulate me and knowing perfection to lie beyond the grasp of any mortal hand, I shall yet strive to attain perfection that I may ever be aware of my needs and capabilities to improve myself.

I shall be fair in my personal relations, just in the enforcement of discipline, true to myself and my fellow Marines and equitable in my dealings with every man.







# THE WATCH

*For years this Marine has stood the watch.*

*While many of us lay about our bunks at night,*

*this Marine stood the watch.*

*While others of us were attending schools,*

*this Marine stood the watch.*

*And, yes, even before many of us were born,*

*this Marine stood the watch.*

*As our families watched the storm clouds of war*

*brewing on the horizons of history,*

*she stood the watch.*

*This Marine looked ashore and saw her family often*

*needing guidance, but she knew that she must stay*

*because she had the watch.*

*For years she stood watch so that our fellow countrymen*

*could sleep soundly, in safety,*

*knowing that this Marine would stand the watch.*

*Today we are here to say - the watch stands relieved.*

*Relieved by those you have led, guided and trained.*

*Marine, you stand relieved.*

*We have the watch.*



U.S. Marines  
@USMC

Master Gunnery Sgt. Paulette Lora with @2ndMLG is pinned during a frocking and reenlistment ceremony on @camp\_lejeune. "It truly feels humbling to become the first female Master Gunnery Sergeant in the 3051 supply field. I'm hoping to inspire the young female Marines".

#USMC



11:09 AM · Jan 10, 2022 · Sprinkl Publishing



**MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT  
PAULETTE MELTON  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**



Master Gunnery Sergeant Melton was born in Stamps, Arkansas on June 25, 1978.

She enlisted in the Marine Corps on 19 February 1997 and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island South Carolina. Upon graduation, Private Melton reported to Marine Combat Training.

Upon completion of Marine Combat Training Camp Geiger, North Carolina, she then attended the Basic Supply Warehouse School in Camp Johnson, North Carolina. Upon graduation, Private Melton was promoted to Private First Class. She reported to her first duty station during August 1997 and was assigned to 7<sup>th</sup> Motors Transport Battalion, Camp Pendleton, California where she served as the Issue and Receiving Clerk. Private First Class Melton was promoted to Lance Corporal on 1 May 1998 and meritoriously promoted to Corporal on 2 November 1999 where she served as the Mechanized Allowance Listing Noncommissioned Officer. In February 2001, Corporal Melton reported to 3<sup>rd</sup> Material Readiness Battalion, Okinawa, Japan where she served as the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Deployed Support Unit and the Barracks Wing Noncommissioned Officer. In February 2002, Corporal Melton reported to Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Georgia and served as the Platoon Sergeant for the Fleet Support Division and Sassy Retrograde Unit. She was promoted to Sergeant on 1 April 2002 and served in numerous billets to include Chief Instructor for Corporal's Course.



**MARINES' PRAYER**



*Almighty Father whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones, and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm*

*Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold. If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me the courage to try again.*

*Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.*

*Amen.*



# MARINES' HYMN



*From the halls of Montezuma  
to the shores of Tripoli,  
We fight our country's battles,  
in the air, on land and sea  
First to fight for right and freedom  
and to keep our honor clean,  
We are proud to claim the title of  
United States Marine.  
Our Flags unfurled to every breeze,  
from dawn to setting sun;  
We have fought in every clime and place,  
where we could take a gun.  
In the snow of far off northern lands  
and sunny tropic scenes,  
You will always find us on the job,  
the United States Marines.  
Here's health to you and to our Corps,  
which we are proud to serve;  
In many a strife we've fought for life  
And never lost our nerve.  
If the Army and the Navy  
Ever look on heaven's scenes,  
They will find the streets are guarded by  
United States Marines.*

In June 2005, Sergeant Melton reported to 2d Marine Logistics Group, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and served as the Supply Administrative and Fiscal Chief. In January 2007, Sergeant Melton deployed with Combat Logistics Regiment 27 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and served as the Supply Chief. In November 2007, she was promoted to Staff Sergeant. In February 2008, she was reassigned to Headquarters and Service Battalion and served as the Supply Warehouse Chief. Staff Sergeant Melton reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina in June 2008. She was assigned to Headquarters and Service Battalion, Supply and Services, Depot Clothing. During her tenure, Staff Sergeant Melton served as Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Female Clothing and Recruit Initial Issue. In July 2011, she reported to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California and was assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1<sup>st</sup> Supply Battalion where she served as the Storage G-Lot Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge.

In January 2012, Staff Sergeant Melton reported to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, California Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38 and served as the Supply Chief, Warehouse Chief, and Squadron Uniformed Victim Advocate. In August 2013, Staff Sergeant Melton was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant. In January 2014, she was reassigned to Combat Logistics Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Supply Battalion and served as Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Initial Issue Provisioning.

From July 2014 to February 2018, Gunnery Sergeant Melton was assigned to The Basic School, Quantico, Virginia. During her tenure, she served as Regimental Corporals Course Assistant Director, Battalion Operations Chief, Headquarters Company First Sergeant and Company Gunnery Sergeant. In March 2018, Gunnery Sergeant Melton reported to Officer Candidates School, Quantico, Virginia and served as the Supply Chief. On 1 January 2019, she was promoted to Master Sergeant.



From August 2019 to June 2021, Master Sergeant Melton was assigned to Marine Corps Installations Pacific, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan and 3d Marine Logistics Group, 3<sup>rd</sup> Supply Battalion. During her tenure she served as Base Warehouse Chief, Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Storage Bins and Operations Section.

In July 2021, Master Sergeant Melton reported to 2d Marine Logistics Group, 2d Combat Readiness Regiment, Supply Company, Supply Management Unit and served as Storage Bulk Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge.

On 7 January 2022, Master Sergeant Melton was promoted to Master Gunnery Sergeant and served as Storage Operations Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge until March 2024.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Melton is currently assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Readiness Regiment Supply Company serving as the Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Storage Platoon.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Melton's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal gold star in lieu of fourth award, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal gold star in lieu of fourth award, and the Good Conduct Medal with one silver star and three bronze stars. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business and Management.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Melton is married to Master Sergeant Kenneth A. Melton, United States Marine Corps Retired, and has two daughters, Audrey and Brianna Lora, and three stepsons Kennedy, Quindin, and Kendell Melton.



Colonel Everly has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Naval Academy and a Master of Science degree in Military Studies from the Marine Corps University. She has also completed resident Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS), Marine Corps Command and Staff College (CSC), and was a Commandant of the Marine Corps Fellow to the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.

Colonel Everly is married to Brigadier General David R. Everly. They have four children: Aubrey Maya, Elijah James, Faith Liberty, and Grace Justice. Her personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with three gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Currently, Colonel Everly is serving as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3/5 for Marine Corps University, as well as the Director of the Lejeune Leadership Institute.





# COLONEL NATASHA M. EVERLY UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



Colonel NaTasha M. Everly was born and raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina to James and Mary McEachin along with three brothers and a twin sister. After graduating from Cape Fear High School, she attended the United States Naval Academy where she was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on May 24, 2002.

Colonel Everly then attended The Basic School (TBS) where she received the MOS of Communications Officer. After TBS, she graduated with honors from the Basic Communications Officer Course in June of 2003.

Since 2003, Colonel Everly has deployed forward on multiple occasions and served with units across the country. Her operational units include 8th Communication Battalion, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Fwd), and II MEF Information Group (II MIG).

In garrison, she has served as a staff officer with Training and Education Command (TECOM) HQ, Marine Corps Cyberspace Operations Group (MCCOG), TBS, and Marine Corps University.

She has also been privileged to command at the platoon level, company level, and most recently at the battalion level as the Commanding Officer of Weapons Training Battalion, MCB Camp Lejeune, from June 2020 to June 2022.



## MARADMIN

092/23

17 FEB, 2023

### 2023 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

celebrating the contributions, achievements, and milestones of women in the United States.

3. Master Gunnery Sergeant Paulette Lora is the first female Master Gunnery Sergeant in the Military Occupational Specialty 3051 - Supply Inventory Management Specialist.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Lora was born in Stamps, Arkansas. She enlisted on 19 February 1997 and attended boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina. Master Gunnery Sergeant Lora has served successfully in key billets to include: Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge of the Corporals' Course and Chief Instructor, Supply Chief, Staff Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge, Company First Sergeant, and Battalion Operations Chief. In August 2019, Master Gunnery Sergeant Lora reported to Marine Corps Installations Pacific, Marine Corps Base, Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan where she served as the Base Warehouse Chief. On 1 November 2022, Master Gunnery Sergeant Lora was promoted to her current rank. Master Gunnery Sergeant Lora currently serves in 2d Supply Battalion, 2d Marine Logistics Group, Supply Management Unit as the Storage Operations Staff Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge. Master Gunnery Sergeant Lora has positively influenced and inspired many Marines throughout her career. "The rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant is not easy to obtain, but with hard work, sacrifice, and commitment, the goal is achievable. It is truly humbling to be the first female Master Gunnery Sergeant in my MOS, and I am hoping to inspire all ranks across the Marine Corps, especially the female Marines" said Master Gunnery Sergeant Lora.

4. As a Service, we seek to take full advantage of the talents, strengths, skills, and perspectives of every Marine. Our talent management system supports this imperative



