



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES  
Miami-Dade Military Affairs Board**

Fire Fighters Memorial Building Corp.  
8000 NW 21 Street  
Miami, FL 33122

October 1, 2014  
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners

Christopher Agrippa, Director  
Clerk of the Board Division

Alan Eisenberg, Commission Reporter  
(305) 375-2510



**CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD**  
**October 1, 2014**

The Military Affairs Board (MAB) convened in a meeting on October 1, 2014 at 6:10 p.m. at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building, 8000 NW 21 Street, Doral, FL 33122.

The following voting Board members were present: Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman; Dr. Anthony Atwood; Ms. Rosa Brito; Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert; Mr. Sergei Michael Kowalchik; Mr. Eduardo Lombard; Mr. Joseph Martory; and Retired Lt. Colonel Jorge Sibila.

The following voting Board members were absent: Mr. Alex Acosta; Mr. Mario Alvarez; Mr. Mark Blumstein; Mr. Thomas Davis; Mr. David Blake; Ms. Diana Gonzalez; Mr. Manuel Gonzalez; Mr. Kevin Humes; Mr. Charles Johnson; Mr. Phil Lyons; and Mr. Keith Whitbeck.

The following non-voting Board members were present: Major Brooke Cortez; Gunnery Sergeant Eddy Fonseca, Jr.; Mr. Shane Suzuki for Mr. Paul Russo; and Officer Victor Milian,

The following non-voting Board members were absent: Ms. Glorianne Amor; Captain Benjamin Davis; Mr. Ed Haynes; Colonel Greg Julian; City of Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz; Ms. Joanna Sandstrom; and Lt. Colonel Son Vo.

The following staff members were present: Mr. Gustavo Cruz, MAB Director; Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez; Antonio Crawford, Commission Auditor Office; and Deputy Clerk Alan Eisenberg.

The following guests were present: Mr. Thomas Hastings, Mastel Day, LLC; and Ms. Barbie Hernandez, City of Doral.

❖ **Welcome**

Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and welcomed MAB members and guests to tonight's (10/01) meeting.

❖ **Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance**

Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert led the MAB in a moment of prayer followed by Mr. Joseph Martory in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## ❖ Board Member Roundtable

The following introductions and updates were made by MAB members:

Major Brooke Cortez, representing the United States Air Force Base (Homestead), commented that over \$94 million was spent in operations/maintenance and \$28 million in reserve personnel appropriations for Fiscal Year 2014 and anticipated a 30 percent budget decrease for Fiscal Year 2015. She pointed out that the Air Force celebrated its 67<sup>th</sup> birthday and Colonel Chris Funk, 482<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing Commander; Homestead Air Reserve Base threw out the first pitch at a recent Miami Marlins baseball game. Major Cortez announced that NASCAR Sprint Cup driver, Aric Almirola recently visited the troops at the base.

Gunnery Sergeant Eddy Fonseca, Jr. representing the United States Navy & Marine Corps Reserves announced that the troops would be going to Camp Blanding on October 16, 2014. He added that the annual ball would be held November 15, 2015 at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Mr. Eduardo Lombard, representing District 11, noted that the PFC. Bruce W. Carter Young Marines would be holding their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Young Marine Ball on Sunday, October 19, 2014 at the Signature Grand of Davie from 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Joseph Martory, representing District 6, commented that he discussed the Toys for Tots program at a recent Veteran of Foreign Wars meeting, noting that he would assist their Ladies Auxiliary with collection efforts.

Professor Anthony Atwood, representing District 9 and the South Florida Military Museum and Veterans Memorial (SFMMVM), reported that the exterior shell of the SFMMVM was complete; that the one and a half acre cantonment area was now fenced in; and that this area was just an empty space four years earlier. He announced that a food distribution event would be held on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at the SFMMVM. Professor Atwood reported that U.S. Senator Bill Nelson presented a state of the nation address at today's (10/01) Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce luncheon and Mr. Mike Fernandez, a local philanthropist, spoke about his desire to erect the largest American flag on earth in Miami at that event. He said that he attended the meeting in order to support this project and to advise Mr. Fernandez about the half-finished project at the SFMMVM. Professor Atwood pointed out that he was able to obtain a Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device (Medal of Valor) from the U.S. Army on behalf of Private First Class Nicholas Brecher; for saving another soldiers life in the Battle of Sicily in 1943, noting he was now 99 years old.

Discussion pursued among Board members on the American flag project and Chairman Diaz suggested that Mr. Fernandez be encouraged to consider erecting an American flag at

the SFMMVM and that he would discuss the possibility of Florida Power and Light Company placing a large pole at the SFMMVM for this purpose.

Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert, representing District 13, announced that the Veteran's Day parade would be held Sunday, November 9, 2014. He mentioned that Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart was asking for veteran nominations for the 2014 Congressional Veteran Commendation; a program designed to recognize the wartime sacrifices and peacetime community involvement of veterans residing in Florida's 25<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, noting the submission deadline was October 24, 2014.

Mr. Sergei Kowalchik, representing District 7, noted discussions with Gunnery Sergeant Eddy Fonseca, Jr. related to Toys for Tots collections at the Freedom Flight Chili Cook-off event in December 2014. He reported that the American Legions Post holds an annual Veterans Day memorial event at the village green on Key Biscayne.

Ms. Rosa Brito, representing the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce announced that the Veterans Day Parade, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, would be held on November 11, 2014, with ceremonies beginning at 11:00 a.m. and the parade at noon. She noted that the Chamber was accepting nominations for its annual awards to be presented on October 30, 2014. Ms. Brito also noted that applications were being accepted for the Young Entrepreneurs Academy program until October 15, 2014; that classes begin November 3, 2014; and that discounts were being offered to military families. She reported that the Chamber's Military Affairs Committee was sponsoring a golf tournament on October 10, 2014 and proceeds would support the U.S. Air Force Base. Ms. Brito advised that the new name for the Chamber of Commerce was now the South Dade Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Diaz emphasized that Veterans Day Parade dates needed to be coordinated so that they did not conflict with one another so that people could attend as many parades as possible. He indicated that the City of Doral was now planning a parade and that this would be discussed later in today's (10/01) meeting.

Retired Lt. Colonel Jorge Sibila, representing District 5, indicated that he was involved in the development of the Veterans Court.

Officer Victor Milian, Miami-Dade Police Department Military Affairs Board liaison.

Mr. Shane Suzuki, representing Mr. Paul Russo, Miami Veteran's Affairs (VA) Healthcare System's Medical Center Director. He reported that the VA served approximately 60,000 veterans in South Florida during the previous fiscal year, representing a three percent service increase. He said that Homestead was the fastest growing area; that efforts to expand that facility were underway; and that other opportunities for future growth were being pursued. Mr. Suzuki discussed efforts being undertaken in relation to the Veterans

Choice Act designed to help ease VA access issues and explained that additional policy guidance needed to comply with this legislation was pending. He indicated that the VA had approximately 2,600 local employees and continually hired 100 to 150 employees to replace and expand its staff.

❖ **Old Business**

➤ **Veterans Court**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz mentioned that he was in the process of planning a visit to the Veterans Court in Buffalo, NY for the subcommittee members to gain insights from this program.

Chairman Diaz noted that Officer Victor Milian was looking into issues pertaining to the Arrest Form (A-Form) and that a meeting with the State Attorney was scheduled for October 29, 2014. He said that Chief Judge Bertila Soto was supportive of the Veterans Court and was considering bringing in Judge Jeri Cohen from the Drug Court and Dr. Giovanna Delgado from the Miami VA for this effort. Chairman Diaz indicated that he would follow-up with the Veterans Court in Buffalo regarding the upcoming visit and would meet with Officer Milian to discuss his concerns. He pointed out that an ordinance to make the requested changes to the A-Form was approved by the County Commission at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 and that the ordinance was co-sponsored by Commissioner Sally Heyman.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez explained that the A-Form contained a box to indicate whether the person being arrested was a veteran and that the concern was whether this should be a mandatory field. He indicated that the ordinance authorized the expenditure of up to \$5,000 for the additional work required.

Chairman Diaz pointed out Miami-Dade Corrections Department Director Marydell Guevara was ready to do whatever necessary to implement the required changes. He said that the court system in conjunction with the State Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office was in charge of leading this effort and the County was only in a supportive role.

Officer Victor Milian reported that there were multiple definitions of who was considered a veteran; that appropriate designations on the A-Form were needed; and that an unknown option was needed in the event that the individual was unconscious, in addition to the yes/no option.

Chairman Diaz stated that he believed all issues were resolved and asked Officer Milian to meet with Mr. Gustavo Cruz no later than Thursday, October 2, 2014 to identify all remaining concerns. He stressed the importance that these changes be incorporated into the work already being done so that the County would not incur any additional cost.

Mr. Joseph Martory noted the definition of a veteran was someone who served one day active duty or in the American Legion.

Officer Milian explained that the definition of a veteran could be changed or was different based upon the various agencies you dealt with. He suggested that the question whether you have ever served in the U.S. military, and if so, whether you are a combat veteran needed to be addressed on the A-Form.

Mr. Shane Suzuki reported that the Veterans Administration initially asked whether the individual was a member of the military or a veteran and acquired the additional information used to determine military status later.

Chairman Diaz indicated that the intention was to identify on the A-Form whether the individual was a member of the military, rather than just the U.S. military, noting that there were dangerous individuals who served in the military of other countries. He said that the purpose of asking these questions was to ensure that law enforcement officers and other first responders were protected.

Officer Milian pointed out that the information being requested on the A-Form could not be stored in the police department's computerized database and used to identify veteran or the veteran's address because it was considered profiling. He clarified that an officer who recognized a name or address being announced over the dispatch radio system could verbally inform fellow officers of known information about the veteran.

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Suzuki to take part in tomorrow's (10/02) meeting with Officer Milian and Mr. Cruz on this issue.

Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez clarified that the resolution approved by the County Commission requested that Mayor Gimenez worked with the MAB to develop an appropriate question for the A-Form. He noted that the question suggested in the resolution was whether the individual served in the U.S. military and not whether they were a veteran.

Mr. Edwardo Lombard commented about the continued request for veterans to produce a Report of Separation (DD 214) in order to be recognized as a veteran.

There was further discussion between Mr. Joseph Martory, Mr. Suzuki Officer Milian and Chairman Diaz about who was considered a veteran and eligible for veteran benefits.

Mr. Suzuki recommended that the VA be responsible for determining benefits after receiving the initial information contained on the A-Form as to whether the arrested individual was a veteran. He said that the VA had direct access to military records and was able to verify the legitimacy of the DD 214.

Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez explained that the original resolution was designed to collect information rather than to decide what to do with that information.

Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert reminded MAB members that these questions were being asked on the A-Form to protect first responders as well as the individual being dealt with. He said that first responders were not aware of the person's mindset when being approached; that it should not matter what country's military that person served; and that benefits could be determined later.

Chairman Diaz suggested keeping the question basic as to whether the individual served in the military. He said he wanted to make sure that the individual was not scared about secondary repercussions from their military unit or the United States Code of Justice. Chairman Diaz also asked Lt. Colonel Sibila and Councilman Daubert to participate in the meeting to discuss this issue as well. He indicated that this County was fortunate to have the VA locally within our system.

➤ **Veterans Parade**

Chairman Diaz apologized that he was not able to devote the time needed to plan and obtain sponsorships for the Veterans Day Parade, largely due to his focus on his family, work and the past election. He explained that efforts to ensure that MAB programming did not totally depend upon one individual needed to be developed for the future. Chairman Diaz said that the costs to produce a parade at this time would be excessive; that the MAB did not currently have sufficient funds for the parade; and that an attempt to begin now would not result in the desired outcome. He indicated that it was almost impossible to secure funding since this was an election year. Chairman Diaz noted that he did not like the idea of cancelling the parade; however, believed it was the best decision under the circumstances. He suggested that a fundraising subcommittee be immediately established to start soliciting funding for next year's parade. Chairman Diaz emphasized the need to regroup, and secure the needed assets for the future.

Retired Lt. Colonel Jorge Sibila suggested that all cities and municipalities worked together to produce a single annual parade, noting the parade could be located at various locations throughout the County.

Chairman Diaz voiced his support for Colonel Sibila's suggestion, noting that every city was invited to participate in last year's parade.

Professor Anthony Atwood also noted support for Colonel Sibila's idea.

Chairman Diaz asked MAB members wanting to assist with future planning to communicate with Mr. Gustavo Cruz.

Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert expressed his disappointment that the parade was not being held, noting he did not want this to happen again the future. He said he did not want people to say that the MAB was not organized enough to put together the event, noting that a schedule with deadlines were necessary.

Chairman Diaz supported the development of a schedule.

Councilman Daubert also commented that MAB members needed to show up and participate in Board meetings, noting it was unacceptable that there were an insufficient number of members present for a quorum and to vote on Board business for at least the past three meetings.

Ms. Rosa Brito suggested changing the focus of the Veteran's Day parade to a September 11 Memorial remembering all the fallen, first responders and the military, with an organized run event, similar to the Boston Marathon.

Chairman Diaz responded that the MAB was already participating in several running events and a bicycle ride for veterans.

Mr. Joseph Martory inquired whether MAB members could have an alternate member to secure a quorum in the event they were not able to attend a meeting.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez clarified that only non-voting Board members were allowed to have an alternate member on their behalf, pursuant to County ordinance.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz encouraged MAB members to forward the names of potential MAB members to him so that he could forward these names to the County Commissioners needing to make Board appointments. He said that MAB members did not need to live in the district that they were representing; however the Commissioner would want to meet with potential recommendations before they were nominated.

Chairman Diaz added that it was unacceptable that there was not a quorum at MAB meetings, noting that most members always made the effort to support the Board.

Mr. Sergei Kowalchik inquired whether MAB members could participate in Board meetings by phone or by GoToMeeting technology.

Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez responded that members could participate; however, it would not count toward the number of members needed to establish a quorum.

Chairman Diaz asked whether the MAB supported the suggestion to postpone the parade and to proceed with the suggestions discussed. He said he would create committees, each with three MAB voting members, noting that federal partners could also participate but

could not vote. Chairman Diaz noted that an event calendar would be available on the County's MAB website.

Upon being put to a hand vote, it was unanimously approved that the Veterans Day parade not be held this year and that adequate planning be immediately implemented for next year's event.

➤ **Freedom Ride**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz announced that the 2014 Freedom Ride would be held on October 19, 2014 at the Homestead-Miami Speedway, noting that Chairman Diaz would be the official Honorary Ride Leader for this event. He noted the ride would begin at 7:30 a.m. and the festival would start at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Cruz added that riders could cycle anywhere from a 1.5 mile lap around the speedway track, through the Homestead Air Reserve Base, and up to a 100 miles to Key Largo and back. He explained that proceeds from the event would go to Achilles International Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans to provide hand cycles for disabled veterans. Additional details can be found at [www.EvergladesBC.com](http://www.EvergladesBC.com).

➤ **Ruck Run**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz announced that the 5K Ruck Run would be held on November 10, 2014 at the North Shore Park Band Shell on Miami Beach beginning at 7:30 p.m. Additional details can be found at [www.ruckrum.com](http://www.ruckrum.com)

➤ **Toys for Tots**

Chairman Diaz commented that he did not want to wait until the last minute to begin collection efforts and asked Mr. Cruz to coordinate efforts with GS Fonseca, Jr.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz expressed the need for a more visible collection center at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, noting that he was ready to assist Gunnery Sergeant (GS) Eddy Fonseca, Jr. to coordinate the upcoming collection efforts.

Chairman Diaz said that he would schedule a Toy for Tots presentation at the Tuesday, October 7, 2014 Board of County Commissioners meeting and asked GS Fonseca, Jr to attend this meeting with a U.S. Marine detachment. Chairman Diaz noted that he would work with Mayor Gimenez to request County employee participation and would also communicate the message to the various cities and municipalities.

GS Fonseca, Jr pointed out that all events associated with the Toys for Tots program could be located at [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org), noting that the kickoff would be November 6, 2014 at the International Mall.

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Cruz to create a direct link from the MAB page on the County website to the Toys for Tots program.

❖ **Comments and/or input from the public**

Chairman Diaz opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Barbara Hernandez, Parks and Recreation Department Director, City of Doral (Doral) explained that Doral held an annual Veterans Day ceremony in Veterans Park and decided to expand the scope of that event into a parade. She said that the parade route would begin at Tony Roma's restaurant and travel westbound on NW 33 Street, ending at the Veterans Park on 97 Avenue. Ms. Hernandez pointed out that the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) was located within the City of Doral's boundary.

Chairman Diaz indicated that efforts were underway to ensure that new parades did not conflict with previously scheduled parades, noting that he would speak with the Doral's City Manager to develop solutions. He stressed the importance that the City of Doral was the home of SOUTHCOM; that it was located within District 12 which he represented; and that all these events needed to be well attended.

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Gustavo Cruz to compile a list of all Veteran's Day events for all MAB members by Thursday, October 2, 2014.

❖ **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the May 7, 2014; the July 2, 2014; and the August 6, 2014 MAB meetings were not approved due to the lack of quorum.

❖ **Next meeting date is scheduled for November 5, 2014 at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz announced that the next MAB meeting would be held on Wednesday, November 5 at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building.

❖ **Discussion items for the next agenda**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz asked MAB members to provide him with agenda items for the next meeting.

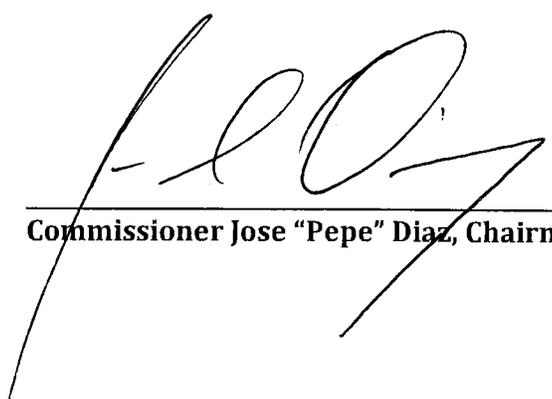
Chairman Diaz encouraged MAB voting and non-voting members to present items for discussion at MAB meetings, noting that this Board was designed to present ideas and to develop solutions. He said that he expected more participation from MAB members in the future. Chairman Diaz indicated that meetings could be scheduled at locations throughout the County if desired, noting his appreciation to the IAFF Metro-Dade Fire Fighters Local 1403 union for the use of the Fire Fighters Memorial Building.

Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert commented that he believed the Fire Fighters Memorial Building was a centralized location, yet there was not a quorum.

Chairman Diaz said he would ensure that there would be a quorum at future MAB meetings.

❖ **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Military Affairs Board meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.



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**Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman**



Miami-Dade Military Affairs Board  
October 1, 2014

Prepared by: Alan Eisenberg

**EXHIBITS LIST**

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	10/01/14		Meeting Agenda
2	10/01/14		2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Young Marines Ball Information
3	10/01/14		Sign-In Sheets
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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE CHAIR  
MILITARY AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD  
MONTHLY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014  
6:00 PM

FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL BUILDING  
8000 NW 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Doral, FL 33122  
AGENDA

- ❖ **Welcome**
- ❖ **Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance**
- ❖ **Board Member Roundtable**
- ❖ **Old Business**
  - **Veterans Court (G. Cruz update)**
  - **Veterans Parade (Commissioner Diaz update)**
  - **Freedom Ride 2014 (G. Cruz update)**
  - **Ruck Run 2014 (G. Cruz update)**
  - **Toys for Tots 2014 (G. Cruz update)**
- ❖ **Comments and or input from the public**

❖ **Approval of Minutes**

❖ **Next meeting date is scheduled for November 5th, 2014 at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building**

❖ **Discussion items for the next agenda**

❖ **Adjournment**

**From:** Eduardo A. Lombard <elombard47@aol.com>  
**To:** mariaangeles119 <mariaangeles119@aol.com>  
**Subject:** PFC Bruce W Carter 2nd Annual Young Marines Ball \*\*\*PLEASE PRINT\*\*\*\* THANKS  
**Date:** Sat, Sep 20, 2014 1:43 pm

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines <youngmarinesmd@gmail.com>  
**To:** Marine Eduardo <elombard47@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sat, Sep 20, 2014 12:59 pm  
**Subject:** PFC Bruce W Carter 2nd Annual Young Marines Ball

PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines Invitation to the Young Marines  
Annual Ball.

[View this email in your browser](#)



**PFC. Bruce W. Carter**  
**Young Marines**



## 2nd Annual Young Marines Ball

Please join us for our 2nd Annual Young Marine Ball. We look forward to celebrating this special occasion surrounded by parents, grandparents, family members and our very proud Young Marine's and recruits. Invite family and friends to come celebrate with us. This event will support our Young Marine program. We will have local guest speakers and special invited guests. The cost of the event \$35 per person advance purchase or \$45/ person at the door and it will include dinner, music and activities.

**Location:**

*Signature Grand of Davie*  
6900 State Road 84  
Davie, FL 33317

**Directions:**

[Google Map](#)

**Date:**

Sunday, October 19th, 2014

**Time:**

1pm- 5pm

**Attire:**

Semi-Formal:

Young Marines- Cami's Uniform with Ribbons

Recruits- Suit or Slacks with Shirt and Tie

Staff- Men- Suits Ladies- Semi Formal Dress

Absolutely no jeans or t-shirts

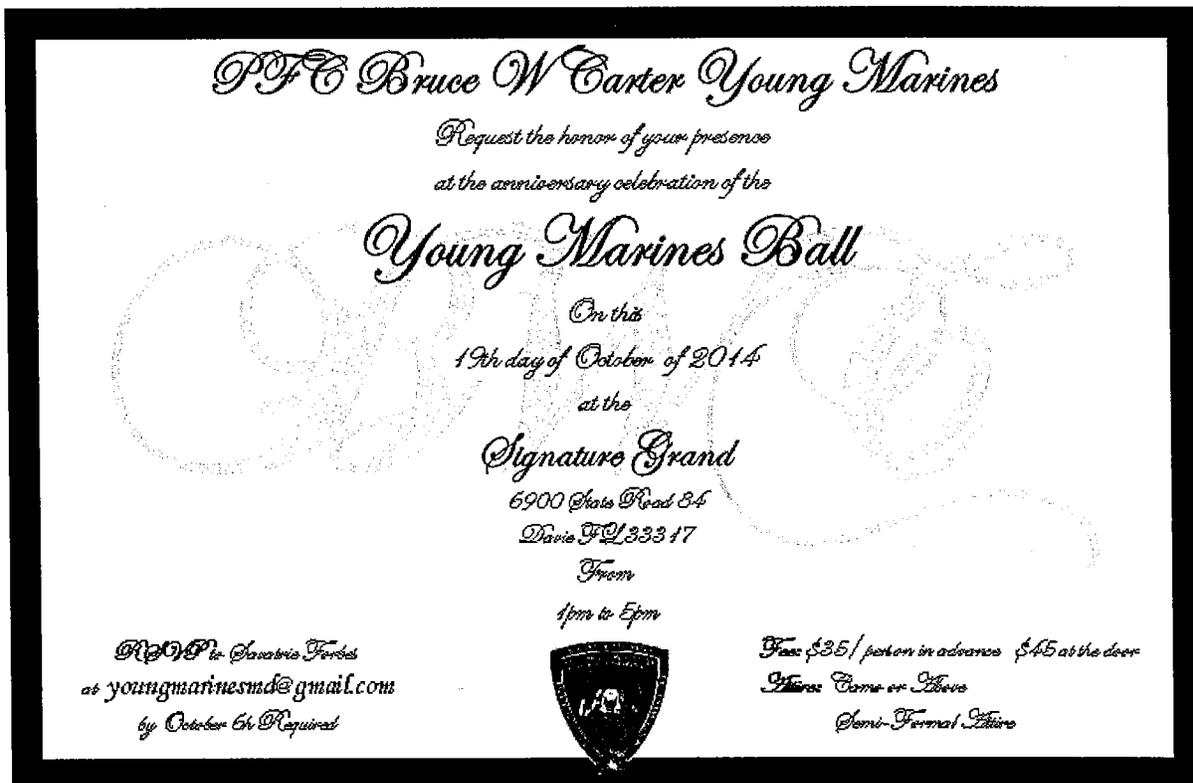
**RSVP:**

Rsvp by October 6th to Savatrie Forbes ([savatrie\\_forbes@yahoo.com](mailto:savatrie_forbes@yahoo.com)) or [youngmarinesmd@gmail.com](mailto:youngmarinesmd@gmail.com)

**Pay Here:**

[Click Here to buy your tickets](#)

**Invitation:**



Come celebrate with us!

PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines Staff

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**Our mailing address is:**

PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines

4011 SW 99 Avenue

Miami, FL33174

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# GUESTS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Barbie Hernandez	City of Dorca	Barbara.Hernandez	3/593-6600
Thomas Hobbs	Marstel-Day	City of Dorca, CA Thomas@marstel-day.com	
Antonio Crawford	OCAO	antonio@bellsouth.net	