

LISTEN UP!



CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.**

VOLUME XXI, Number 5/6

APRIL/MAY 2008

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

BERKELEY PROTESTS COST CITY BIG BUCKS

Berkeley, California, is finding that opposing the Marine Corps can be an expensive ordeal.

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the recent controversy over whether a Marine recruiting station should be allowed in Berkeley is cost the left-leaning city more than \$200,000.

That's on top of the \$1 million the city spends annually on foreign and domestic policy concerns ranging from animal issues to Iranian politics. "We in Berkeley have one of the top universities in the world, which brings in people from more than 100

countries. Delving into foreign policy is unavoidable," Mike Sherman, a longtime member of the Peace and Justice Commission, told the *Chronicle*.

Berkeley sparked a national uproar two months ago with a resolution telling Marines they were unwelcome in the city.

Code Pink, an anti-war group that

led the charge against the Corps in Berkeley, also came under fire after playing a hoax on April Fools Day, according to the *San Jose Mercury News*.

The group angered some after sending out a false press release saying the Berkeley recruiting center was closing under the pressure of weekly protests.

GULF VETERANS BONUS APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS

by Dan Fraley
Director

Bucks County Veterans Affairs

The Bucks County office of Veteran Affairs now has the Persian Gulf Veterans Bonus applications available.

If more convenient, you can download the application from the Pennsylvania Department of Veterans Affairs @ www.persiangufbonus.state.pa.us.

Any questions, please call 1 - 866-458-9182.

Applications should be mailed to:

**Persian Gulf Veterans
Benefit Program**

Post Office Box 1109

Harrisburg, Pa. 17108-1109

On April 24, 2006, Governor Edward Rendell signed House Bill

1820 into law as Act 29 of 2006. This Bill establishes the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Act.

On November 7, 2006, Pennsylvania voters gave overwhelming approval to a ballot question to fund the program.

The bond issue created a fund for the payment of compensation to, on behalf of, eligible current and former members of the United States Armed Forces, a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces or the Pennsylvania National Guard

Deadline:

The deadline for submitting applications for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program is August 31, 2015.

LISTEN UP! Seeks Editor

We still need someone familiar with desktop publishing to edit our Detachment newsletter. If you're interested in serving your Detachment as its P-R Officer, contact **Commandant Jim Powell** (215-662-6280) or **Adjutant/Paymaster Don Gee** (215-622-6898).



COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

As I begin my second term as your Detachment Commandant, I'd like to thank those Marines that stepped up to represent your Detachment.

Our new slate of officers have some old reliable faces and some new ones too. **Bill Mickelson** is your new Senior Vice Commandant. He served as your Paymaster this past year when **Bob Cody** experienced some health issues. Your new Junior Vice Commandant is first year Leaguer, **Ben**

Jones. In the short time that Ben has been a Detachment member, he has stepped forward on several occasions and I believe that he will be a very big asset during the coming year.

Don Gee will be performing as your Adjutant/Paymaster. Most every Marine in the Detachment knows Don and he deserves our deep appreciation as he continues to serve honorably and unselfishly.

Jim McComb will again hold an office after a three year hiatus. He will serve as your Judge Advocate. As for our appointed offices; **Bob Sundling**, **Corey Fisher**, and **Don Gee** will continue in their roles as Sergeant-at-Arms, Quartermaster and Public Relations, respectively. Our new Chaplain will be **Budd Pearce**. Our new Mess Sergeant will be **Vince Hagan** and **Joe Doherty** will be our Web Sergeant.

I'd like to personally thank all of these Marines for their dedication and the support they have shown for the Central Bucks Detachment. I'd like to especially thank **Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller** and **Past Commandant Don Gee** for their mentoring this past year. They were an unbelievable source of knowledge, support and guidance.

This past year was busy for the Detachment as we participated in many different functions throughout the year. We participated in Color Guards, Flag-Folding Ceremonies, fund raising and scholarship ticket sales, funerals, highway clean-ups and parades. I'm sure there's more I could list, but it would take up too much column space.

I think the biggest success for our Detachment was the recruitment of seven new members. I cannot stress more strongly that recruitment is the

single most important job anyone can perform for the Detachment. I encourage everyone to continue the great job that was done this past year.

As for myself, this past year I attended the Department of Pennsylvania quarterly meetings in Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, my MODD Growls at the Chester County Detachment in Downingtown, PA, and the National Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I got to learn a lot about the Marine Corps League, in general, and to meet many Leaguers at the State and National level. I think it has helped me to understand how the important we at the Detachment level are to the overall Marine Corps League success. As we go, so does State and National.

There are plenty of upcoming events that we will need help with.

A-Day is just around the corner on April 26-27. **Budd Pearce** heads up this committee so, if anyone can help, please contact Budd at (215) 343-5609.

The Youth Scholarship Raffle tickets are still available. If you need more please contact Budd or **Junior Vice Commandant Ben Jones**. Remember that the Detachment gets 40 cents for every ticket sold.

Once again we will be doing our Memorial Day weekend fund-raiser at the State Store in Doylestown followed by our participation in the parade. If you can volunteer for any of these activities, please contact Budd or me.

Again, Thank you and congratulations to our new slate of officers.

Semper Fi,



CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372
Meets
7:30 p.m.
2nd Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
315 North Street, Doylestown, PA

Sr. VICE COMMANDANT
WILLIAM L. MICKELSON

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
BEN JONES

ADJUTANT-PAYMASTER
DON H. GEE, PC

JUDGE ADVOCATE
JAMES McCOMB

QUARTERMASTER
COREY A. FISHER

CHAPLAIN
ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE, PC

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
BOB SUNDLING, PC

MESS SERGEANT
VINCENT J. HAGAN

WEB SERGEANT
JOSEPH F. DOHERTY

MARCH & APRIL DETACHMENT MEETINGS



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The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held March 12, 2008, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were nine members present including all officers except the Paymaster and Judge Advocate. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese, Budd Pearce, and Bob Sundling; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth; and Past Commandant, Department Assistant Southeast Division Vice Commandant and Marine of the Year Bill Miller.**

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported the Detachment had received a letter from the Anthracite Detachment thanking us for our donation for **Cpl. Derek Sharp.**

Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, reported the Detachment strength at 53 including 26 Life Members, 22 Annual Members, and 1 Honorary Member. There are 4 members delinquent in their dues.

Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC, charged the members to put forth an extra effort this year in selling Department Raffle tickets. The more tickets we sell, the higher the percentage of our commission.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no communications from either the Department or National organizations.

Chaplain Ed Hoth, PDC, reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported there were no requests for the Detachment Color Guard.

Quartermaster Corey Fisher reported about QM sales and reminded the members that he is accepting requests for "special items."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Budd Pearce reported the Department Pistol Match will be held May 30- June 1 at Ft. Indiantown Gap.

Nominations Committee Chair Bill Miller presented the slate of nominees for 2008-2009 Detachment elected officers.

Adopt-A-Highway Chair Budd Pearce announced the next highway clean-up would be on Saturday, April 12.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Election--Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller conducted the annual election. Elected were **Commandant Jim Powell, Senior Vice Commandant Bill Mickelson, Junior Vice Commandant Ben Jones, Adjutant-Paymaster Don Gee, and Judge Advocate Jim McComb.** The elected and appointed officers will be installed at the April Meeting.

Marine Mike Waldron stated we should find a new meeting place until the American Legion's remodeling is completed. **Commandant Powell** requested members look for a new meeting place and report back to the Detachment at the April Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9.

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held April 9, 2008, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 23 members and 1 guest present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Budd Pearce and Bob Sundling; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth; and Past Commandant, Department Assistant Southeast Division Vice Commandant and Marine of the Year Bill Miller.**

Sick Call: Marine Mike Waldron reported his wife Dot will be entering the hospital for a cholesterol procedure.

The Minutes of the March meeting were distributed and were unanimously accepted by the members.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported he had attended the Department Staff Meeting and reported about it. He announced there would be a "Heroes Welcome" on Apr. 12 from 3-5 p.m. in Conshohocken; a "Flag Retirement" ceremony at Yorktown Manor on May 17; the Chester County Detachment "Roast" for their Marine of the Year on May (\$15 per person); the National Northeast Division Meeting on Apr. 19 in Woodbridge, NJ;

and the Department Leadership Course at Ft. Indiantown Gap at 8:30 a.m. on May 3. He also announced the V-A Cemetery at Washington Crossing has been approved and will open in 2009. An A-A-R-P Driver Safety Program for drivers more than 50 years old will be conducted at the Legion Post in the near future. The VFW Post is sponsoring it.

The Commandant reported that **PDC Pomeroy** reported casinos are trying to shut down non-profits (MCL Detachments, American Legion and V-F-W posts) which serve liquor. A bill (H-R 169) has been introduced which will stop this effort. He is asking Leaguers to contact their State Senators and have them contact **State Sen. Armstrong**, in whose committee H-R 169 is stalled, and tell him to let it go to the House for a vote.

He reminded the members that nominations for Department awards are due at Department Headquarters by May 1. Anyone can make a nomination. Contact Commandant Powell for details.

Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, reported the Detachment strength at 53 including 26 Life Members, 22 Annual Members, 4 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member. He reminded the Detachment the dedication of the Doylestown Township Community Service & Veterans Memorial will be dedicated on Saturday, May 17, at 11 a.m. at Triangle Park (southern entrance to the township on Route 611 just north of Furlong Rd. across from Tabor Home). He urged the members to attend this dedication since the Detachment provided the impetus for the monument, which took eight years to achieve. He also reported he had been informed by **Past Commandant Don Parzanese** the Detachment had formally severed its relationship with eScrip.

Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC, urged the members to sell as many Department Raffle Tickets as they could. The Detachment earns an increasingly sizable percentage based upon the number of tickets sold. He also noted we need volunteers to help with the annual A-Day Parking fund-raiser on Apr. 26-27. He also reminded the members that volunteers will be needed to help with the Memorial Day Weekend Fund-Raiser at the State Store in Doylestown (Cross Keys).

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no communications from either the Department or National organizations. The Paymaster's Report was deferred until the May Meeting.

Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom reported the Detachment had no legal problems. He also reported receiving a "Thank You" note from the "Make-A-Wish Foundation" for the Detachment's donation.

Chaplain Ed Hoth, PDC, reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting.

Sergeant-at-Arm Bob Sundling reported he had received no request for the Color Guard since the last meeting but he was seeking volunteers for the Color Guard for the Memorial Day Parade.

Quartermaster Corey Fisher reported he had "Central Bucks Detachment" strips for MCL covers (\$5 each) and that sweatshirts were on sale this month at 25 percent off. He also reported he would be reducing the non-MCL-related items and increasing the MCL items in QM stock. He will have a Quartermaster inventory completed for next month's meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adopt-A-Highway Committee Chair Budd Pearce announced the next highway clean-up would be on Saturday, Apr. 12. Participants were to meet at "Back to the 50s" Restaurant at 8 a.m. for breakfast on the Detachment.

Young Marines Coordinator Bob Sundling reported the Young Marines would be holding a "Coin-Toss" in New Hope on Apr. 12-13.

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Budd Pearce announced the Department Pistol Match will be held May 30-2 Jun at Ft. Indiantown Gap.

OLD BUSINESS

Marine Ben Jones reported he had found a possible new meeting place for the Detachment at Advanced Medical Solutions, 54 E. Oakland Ave., Doylestown. He will e-mail photos shortly.

NEW BUSINESS

Officer Installation--Department Assistant Southeast Division Vice Commandant Bill Miller installed the officers for the coming year. Installed were: **Commandant Jim Powell**, **Senior Vice Commandant Bill Mickelson**, **Junior Vice Commandant Ben Jones**, **Adjutant-Paymaster Don Gee**, **Judge Advocate Jim McComb**, **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling**, **Chaplain Budd Pearce**, **Quartermaster Corey Fisher**, **Mess Sergeant Vincent Hagan**, **Web Sergeant Joseph Doherty**, and **Public Relations Officer Don Gee**.

Commandant Powell appointed the Annual Audit Committee. **Chaplain Budd Pearce** was appointed Chairman. **Adjutant-Paymaster Don Gee**, **Senior Vice Commandant Bill Mickelson**, and **Commandant Jim Powell** will serve as members. The Committee will meet at 7 p.m. on May 14.

Commandant Powell presented the Distinguished Service Medal to **Marine Gary Smith** for his nine years service as Detachment Adjutant.

The Commandant also presented Elected Staff and Appointed Staff Medals to the newly installed first-time officers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Junior Vice Commandant Jones announced he would like to organize a bus trip to Washington to visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps and attend a Sunset Parade. **Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling** stated the Young Marines were planning a similar trip and suggested combining the two efforts.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14.

THE ORIGINS OF MEMORIAL DAY

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of former Union soldiers and sailors--the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)--established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate graves of the war dead with flowers. MajGen. John A. Logan declared it should be May 30. The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, DC. The cemetery already held the remains of 20,000 Union dead and several hundred Confederate dead.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant and other Washington officials presided. After speeches, children from the Soldiers and Sailors Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, MS, April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, GA, claim the title, as well as Richmond, VA. The village of Boalsburg, PA, claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, IL, cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866.

Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon B. Johnson declared Waterloo, NY, the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There a ceremony on May 5, 1866, was reported to have honored local soldiers and sailors who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-mast. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day. The Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971 Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Con-

gress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day the last Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

Gen. Logan's order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 "with the choicest flowers of springtime" urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ...Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave--a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.



SEMPER FI FAMILIES OF CENTRAL BUCKS

Proud Parents
of those defending our freedom

Our mission is to share the pride, the concerns, and the fear of the unknown. Also the love we all share for our family member who is doing the noblest thing by serving their country. With this group we can hopefully learn together, pull each other through the tough times, cheer each other on, laugh and bond with each other. Everyone is welcome. Our groups asks those attending to contribute what you can, take what you need and help someone else along the way.

Our monthly support meetings are held
The 3rd Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm
At the American Legion Post 210
315 North Street, Doylestown PA

For more information contact:

Eileen – 215-766-8218

Mary – 215-489-1533

Or by e-mail: semperfidoylestown@yahoo.com

All families from all branches of the military are welcome!



2007 DARWIN AWARDS

---- It's that time again...

The 2007 Darwin Awards—the annual honor given to the persons who did the gene pool the biggest service by killing themselves in the most extraordinarily stupid way.

Last year's winner was the fellow who was killed by a Coke machine which toppled over on top of him as he was attempting to tip a free soda out. This year's winner was a real rocket scientist... HONEST ! Read on...And remember that each and every one of these is a TRUE STORY.

And the nominees were:

Semifinalist #1

A young Canadian man, searching for a way of getting drunk cheaply, because he had no money with which to buy alcohol, mixed gasoline with milk. Not surprisingly, this concoction made him ill, and he vomited into the fireplace in his house. This resulting explosion and fire burned his house down, killing both him and his sister.

Semifinalist #2

Three Brazilian men were flying in a light aircraft at low altitude when another plane approached. It appears that they decided to moon the occupants of the other plane, but lost control of their own aircraft and crashed. They were all found dead in the wreckage with their pants around their ankles.

Semifinalist #3

A 22-year-old Reston, VA, man was found dead after he tried to use octopus straps to bungee jump off a 70-foot rail road trestle. Fairfax County police said **Eric Barcia**, a fast food worker, taped a bunch of these straps together, wrapped an end around one foot, anchored the other end to the trestle at Lake Accotink Park, jumped and hit the pavement. **Warren Carmichael**, a police spokesman, said investigators think Barcia was alone because his car was found nearby. "The length of the cord that he had assembled was greater than the distance between the trestle and the

ground," Carmichael said. Police say the apparent cause of death was "Major trauma."

Semifinalist #4

A man in Alabama died from rattlesnake bites. It seems that he and a friend were playing a game of catch, using the rattlesnake as a ball. The friend--no doubt a future Darwin Awards candidate--was hospitalized.

Semifinalist #5

Employees in a medium-sized warehouse in west Texas noticed the smell of a gas leak. Sensibly, management evacuated the building extinguishing all potential sources of ignition; lights, power, etc. After the building had been evacuated, two technicians from the gas company were dispatched. Upon entering the building, they found they had difficulty navigating in the dark. To their frustration, none of the lights worked. Witnesses later described the sight of one of the technicians reaching into his pocket and retrieving an object that resembled a cigarette lighter. Upon operation of the lighter-like object, the gas in the warehouse exploded, sending pieces of it up to three miles away. Nothing was found of the technicians, but the lighter was virtually untouched by the explosion. The technician suspected of causing the blast had never been thought of as "bright" by his peers.

Now Marines, the winner of this year's Darwin Award (awarded, as always, posthumously):

The Arizona Highway Patrol came upon a pile of smoldering metal embedded in the side of a cliff rising above the road at the apex of a curve. The wreckage resembled the site of an airplane crash, but it was a car. The type of car was unidentifiable at the scene. Police investigators finally pieced together the mystery. An amateur rocket scientist .. had somehow gotten hold of a JATO unit (Jet Assisted Take Off, actually a solid fuel rocket) that is used

to give heavy military transport planes an extra "push" for taking off from short airfields.

He had driven his Chevy Impala out into the desert and found a long, straight stretch of road. He attached the JATO unit to the car, jumped in, got up some speed and fired off the JATO!

The facts as best as could be determined are that the operator of the 1967 Impala hit the JATO ignition at a distance of approximately 3.0 miles from the crash site. This was established by the scorched and melted asphalt at that location.

The JATO, if operating properly, would have reached maximum thrust within 5 seconds, causing the Chevy to reach speeds well in excess of 350 mph and continuing at full power for an additional 20-25 seconds. The driver, and soon to be pilot, would have experienced G-forces usually reserved for dog fighting F-14 jocks under full afterburners, causing him to become irrelevant for the remainder of the event. However, the automobile remained on the straight highway for about 2.5 miles (15-20 seconds) before the driver applied and completely melted the brakes, blowing the tires and leaving thick rubber marks on the road surface, then becoming airborne for an additional 1.4 miles and impacting the cliff face at a height of 125 feet leaving a blackened crater three feet deep in the rock.

Most of the driver's remains were not recoverable. However, small fragments of bone, teeth and hair were extracted from the crater, and fingernail and bone shards were removed from a piece of debris believed to be a portion of the steering wheel.

Epilogue: It has been calculated that this moron attained a ground speed of approximately 420-mph, though much of his voyage was not actually on the ground.

You couldn't make this stuff up, could you?



Application for Membership Marine Corps League

_____ (Date)

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning _____

Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement _____ SSN _____

Type of Application -- New () Renewal () Associate () Phone (____) _____

E-mail: _____

I hereby apply for membership in the **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT**, Marine Corps League, and enclose **\$35.00** for one year's membership (which includes subscription to **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MAGAZINE**).

I hereby certify I have served as a U.S. Marine for more than 90 days, the character of my service has been honorable and, if discharged, I am in receipt of an Honorable Discharge. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of Honorable Discharge/service upon request.

(Sponsor - where applicable)

(Applicant's Signature)

Remit this form with check or money order (made payable to **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MCL**)
to: **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, P. O. Box 1372, Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"