



# LISTEN UP!

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636**  
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

**Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III**

**Editor: DON H. GEE**

VOLUME XII, Number 4

APRIL 2000



**CENTRAL BUCKS  
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636**  
P. O. Box 1372  
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372

**Meets**  
7:30 p.m.,  
2d Wednesday of Month  
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## NEW SYSTEM SPEEDS PAY CHANGES

WASHINGTON, DC--Military and DoD civilian employees and retirees will soon be able to make many routine changes to their official pay accounts whenever they want by phone or via World Wide Web.

The Defense and Accounting Service is in the process of implementing the Employee/Member Self Service program. DFAS officials project the program will be available for some customers in February 2000.

The officials said defense payroll customers using the round-the-clock Web and phone systems will be able to change

their federal income tax withholding; start, stop or change allotments; change their correspondence address; and update information for their financial institution electronic fund transfers.

DFAS officials said the self-service program should improve the processing of pay changes by saving time and reducing the current paper trail. Now, customers may have to wait weeks for action because they must visit a finance customer service representative and submit written forms that have to be proc-

*(See PAY SYSTEM, Page 5)*

## Navajo Code Talker G.I. Joe Doll Honors Marines Who Translated Radio 'Codes' in WWII

A new G.I. Joe is heading for kids' playrooms, and he's a Navajo-speaking Marine whose ancestors were here before the place was called America.

It is the latest in a long line of military action figures from the Hasbro toy company. Lift his arm and he speaks in the Navajo language, then provides an English translation.

The foot-tall Marine comes with a short history of the Code Talkers, a group of Navajo Marines who translated radio communications into and out of the Navajo language during World War II. The Japanese couldn't break this Navajo "code."

"Request air support" and "attack by

machine gun" are among the seven Navajo phrases the toy Marine speaks. They're in the voice of **Sam Billison**, a delegate to the Navajo Tribal Council who was a Code Talker during the war.

Mr. Billison, who lives in Window Rock, AZ, was visited by a Hasbro design team last fall.

"They came out and recorded me," he said. "I talk slow, so they increased my speed."

Mr. Billison, 74, laughs every time he pokes the toy and hears his voice.

"But the main thing is that this will let people know about the Code Talkers," he said.

*(See G. I. Joe, Page 5)*

**THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON 12 APRIL 2000  
AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN**



# COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

The Detachment held its annual election of officers at the March Meeting. All the officers remained the same except our new Junior Vice Commandant is **Don Gee, PC**. I really want to thank Don for volunteering for this office, as no one else seemed to want to give it a try. I would like to see some of the members, new and old, decide to take a more active role in the running of the Detachment. Our turnout for meetings and events is exceptional, but the turnout to be an officer is not nearly as good. I know everyone thinks being an officer will take a lot of their time or interfere in some way with their busy schedules. That need not be the case. In upcoming issues of Listen Up! the job descriptions of each elected officer will be printed. This may help you in deciding which office you want to run for next year. In the meantime, all of our officers will do the best job they can to ensure the Detachment is still around when you finally decide to take your turn on this side of the front table. I truly do thank you for having enough confidence in me to elect me Commandant again, though. I really like doing the job, no matter how my complaining sounds.

We will have a number of guests at our April Meeting. This is the night for the Installation of Officers. **Department of Pennsylvania Commandant Terry Bergman** will be here to conduct the installation. He has told me he is planning to bring a number of Department



## LISTEN UP!

**LISTEN UP!** is the internal information publication of the **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636, Inc.** of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc. It is published monthly by and for the members of the Central Bucks Detachment.

Officers with him. Commandant Bergman has wanted to visit us for quite a while and I am glad he accepted my invitation to officiate at our installation. Since the installation is such an important part of the League's procedures, and since so many Department Officers will be on hand, I would appreciate it if you could wear your uniform. Which ever uniform fits, or whichever you feel most comfortable in will be fine. If you don't have anything except your red cover, then wear it...after all, that's the only required MCL uniform. No matter what you wear, come out and show the "big wigs" how strong the Central Bucks Detachment can be.

I want to thank every one who came out on a damp, chilly Saturday to pick up trash., We had about 12 members and/or family members come out to help. The breakfast still takes longer to eat

## Selling Insurance to New Inductees; It's All in the Presentation

Pvt. Jones was assigned to the Army Induction Center where he was to advise new recruits about their government benefits, especially their Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI). It wasn't long before Lt. Smith, the Center's Officer-in-Charge, noticed that Jones had an almost 100% record for insurance sales, which had never happened before. Rather than ask about it, Lt. Smith stood in the back of the room and listened to Jones's sales pitch.

Jones explained the basics of the SGLI to the new recruits and then said, "If you have SGLI and go into battle and are killed, the government has to pay \$200,000 to your beneficiaries. If you don't have SGLI and you go into battle and get killed, the government only has to pay a maximum of \$6,000.

"Now," he concluded, "which bunch do you think they're going to send into battle first?"

than the trash took to pick up. Our next highway clean-up will be in June. The exact time and date will follow. Keep watching Listen Up! You don't want to miss all of the fun.

Speaking of fun, don't forget to get in touch with **Bob Momorella** and let him know what day or days you will be available to man the parking lot for "A-Day." Some of you have already given me your name and a day. I will be talking to Bob in the near future and will fill him in so he won't be bugging you when he doesn't hear from you. This is the big one for our Detachment and we need your help. Don't leave your Marine brothers hanging out there alone! Full details for this major fund raiser will be given at the April Meeting.

I don't want to forget to say "Thanks" to **Past Commandant Bill Plant** for coming to the March Meeting. It has been quite a while since he has been able to make it to the meetings and he has been greatly missed by all. Welcome back, Marine!

That's it for now. I'll see you on April 12.

Semper Fi,

*Budd Plance*

### **2000 MEETING SCHEDULE**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**APRIL 12**

**A-DAY FUND RAISER**  
**APRIL 29-30**

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**  
**JUNE 21-25**  
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Nominating Committee--Nominations Committee Chair Don Gee , PC, presented the slate of officers nominated for the coming year.

### NEW BUSINESS

Elections--Nominations Committee Chair Gee conducted the elections. Unanimously elected to office were: **Budd Pearce as Commandant; Bill Miller as Senior Vice Commandant; Don Gee as Junior Vice Commandant; Gary Smith as Adjutant; Bob Cody as Paymaster; and, Bob Momorella as Judge Advocate .**

**Marine Mike Waldron** reported the Marine Band will be on tour in our area during 2002. He will get specific information about sponsoring a concert by the band for the next meeting. Estimated cost: \$10,000.

**Commandant Pearce** announced all items to be placed in the Detachment Scrapbook for submission to the Department "Americanism" Committee must be received by the May Meeting.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Detachment would purchase a \$100 Commemorative Brick for the Korean War Memorial. P-R Officer Gee will compose inscription.

### GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

**Commandant Pearce** announced that **Department Commandant Terry Bergman** will officiate at next month's Officer Installation Ceremony. Uniform-of-the-Day will be Red Blazers (for those who have them).

**P-R Officer Gee** thanked those Detachment members who donated money to the Louie Epps Benefit last month. He especially thanked **Marine Greg Burch** who donated a Marine Corps watch for the event.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

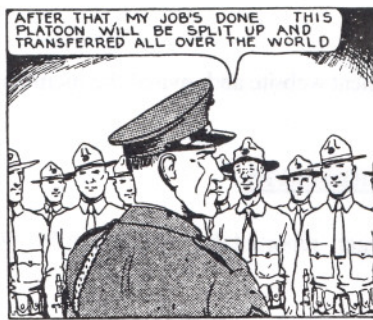
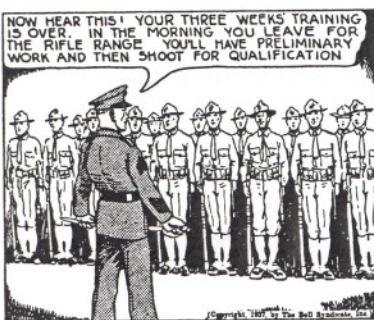
On June 3, "Rolling Thunder" will sponsor a motorcycle ride from Schnecksville to Allentown.

The Census Bureau is hiring temporary help for Census 2000. The Bureau pays \$14 per hour and 32-1/2 cents a mile for people to hand deliver questionnaires for the census. Anyone interested should call: 1-888-325-7733.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until April 12 at 7:30 p.m.

### **SERGEANT STONY CRAIG—End of Boot Camp**

**By Frank H. Rentfrow and Don Dickson**



### **SERGEANT STONY CRAIG—Off to the Rifle Range**

**By Frank H. Rentfrow and Don Dickson**





# Pensacola Building Named for Slain Gen. Marion E. Carl

by Larry W. Kachelhofer  
NAS, Pensacola

PENSACOLA, FL--The Marine Aviation Training Support Group (MATSG), located aboard the Naval Air Station here, will dedicate Building 52, the current MATSG headquarters, in honor of the late **MajGen. Marion E. Carl** in a ceremony May 5.

The ceremony was part of the Naval Aviation Symposium/Convention '00, to be held May 3-5 in the "Cradle of Naval Aviation." Marines have been present at NAS Pensacola since 1825. The unit was originally known as the Pensacola Marines. Their purpose was to defend the Pensacola Navy Yard from an amphibious assault, primarily from pirates that plagued the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico. NAS was never attacked, but the Marines were used to control the frequent disturbances of the civilian work force hired to build the Navy Yard.

The Marine section of the Navy Flying School was established in February 1914. World Wars I and II increased the Marine Corps' aviation commitment, causing the section to become a Marine aviation detachment. The unit's name was changed to Marine Aviation Training Support Group (MATSG) in 1972. The unit has grown from its original two officers and 10 enlisted personnel to more than 3,000 Marines.

MajGen. Marion E. Carl was born

Nov. 1, 1915, and became a Naval Aviator in the Marine Corps in December 1939. He was known as a man of "firsts." He shot down two Japanese aircraft during the Battle of Midway and later shot down 11 enemy planes during the battle for Guadalcanal, making him the first Marine Corps Ace.

While a Lieutenant Colonel, he became the first Marine helicopter pilot in 1946.

Also, in 1946, MajGen. Carl was the first pilot to be catapulted in a jet aircraft from the deck of an aircraft carrier. In 1947, he set the world speed record while flying a Douglas Skystreak.

In 1948, the General became the leader of the first Marine jet acrobatics team.

During his career, Gen. Carl flew 30 different experimental aircraft and a total

of 260 different types and models of aircraft. His last assignment was an Inspector General of the Marine Corps. He retired in June 1973 with 14,000 flight hours. He destroyed 18 enemy aircraft, received two Navy Crosses, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, four Legions of Merit, 14 Air Medals, and an Octave Chanute Award for notable contributions to the Aeronautical Sciences.

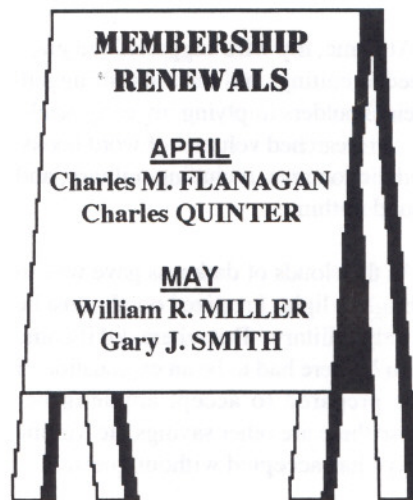
The memorial at Pensacola is to be three-fold. The first portion will be a 16-foot-long glass encasement. The second portion will be a granite and bronze monument on the building's lawn. The final portion is a copy of the painting "First Marine Ace," signed by the artist and MajGen. Carl. The painting was donated by the General's widow, Mrs. Edna Carl, with the framing donated by the Roy S. Geiger Squadron of the Marine Corps Association.

## G. I. JOE

(From Page 1)

The Navajo G.I. Joe, shipped to stores in February, is one of 22 G.I. Joe figures. Others include a female Army helicopter pilot, Japanese-American Soldiers in World War II, and future **President John F. Kennedy** as a PT boat commander.

"They may be relatively unsung heroes, but their role was very important, Hasbro spokeswoman **Holly Ingram** said.



## PAY SYSTEM

(From Page 1)

essed by a string of clerks, they explained.

"Employee/Member Self Service provides an alternative to completing and submitting forms and will provide reliable and accurate information," DFAS Project Officer **Gloria Cranford-Bates** said. "Most importantly, E/MSS will be a fast, easy and secure way for customers to update payroll-related transactions at their convenience."

The system will allow customers to make changes nearly instantly. Officials explained that no written confirmation will be received, by members can check changes by re-accessing the

system in a week. Changes will also be annotated on the customer's next Leave and Earnings Statement.

A personal identification number will control customer access. DFAS plans to mail letters to eligible customers with a temporary PIN they can customize the first time they use the system, officials said. The letter will also give customers the Web site address and the toll-free number to access the system.

The DFAS plan calls for E/MSS to become available in two phases. DFAS representative **Cathy Ferguson** said letters are being mailed to DoD retirees and surviving annuitants, Marines and civilian employees, the first group of people who will have system access. Soldiers,

sailors and airman will gain access a few months later.

The military services' current telephone systems for their members will eventually be rolled into the DFAS self-service system.

E/MSS Internet transactions will be encrypted using 128-bit encryption and Secure Socket Layer technology, DFAS officials said. This will prevent information from being read by others while being transmitted from the customer's personal computer to the E/MSS Web site. Also for security reasons, officials recommend against using cellular phones to access the IVRS system.

Additional information can be obtained on the DFAS Web site: [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil).



# To Oorah Or Not To Oorah

Story and Illustration by Ed Vasgerdsian

I was a Marine before they got rid of the M-1 rifle, .45-caliber pistol and C-rations and, these things notwithstanding, there have been other changes in the Corps as well. As a former Marine, try as I may to keep up with change, it is neither easy nor possible. Reunions aren't any help since they reinforce what I already know or remind me of what I've forgotten. Most former Marines can find old duty stations and a few friends and that's about it.

For the most part we're condemned to whimsical attempts of sounding like we know what we're talking about when we are confronted by our modern Marine Corps. Based upon a recent experience, I've now decided to face reality and admit the truth: I don't know what "oorah" means.

I overheard a couple of young Marines talking and, as they parted company, one said to the other, "Oorah!" What a strange word! I guessed it was a food, a drink, a new weapon, or a foreign word that had a universal meaning. You know, "Hey, don't forget to bring the oorah." "Why don't we barbecue an oorah?" "I broke my oorah." "The Gunny wants to see the oorah!" "Oorah for the Red, White and Blue." (May the latter was Hooray--for the red, White and Blue.) I recalled words from my own Marine Corps experience, like slopchute, pogy bait, shelter half and Mickey Mouse boots never oorah--or is it oorah?

Later, a Marine at Quantico used the word with me during a telephone conversation. "Oorah, sir," he said, as he hung up. I couldn't respond by saying, "Eh, what was that you said?" Out of desperation I almost said, "Haroo," hoping it meant something like, "The same to you, buddy," or "See you later." Over a period of two months, I heard oorah used several times. If there was an appropriate response, what was it? Had the Marine Corps been modernized to the point of using an east Indian mantra?

I live in a large metropolitan city where there are several colleges and universities; surely someone could explain oorah. My plan was to simply say, "Oorah" and wait for a reaction.

Winkie's Wine & Spirits Shop told me they were out of oorah but Ouzo, the Greek stuff, was just as good. I asked for an oorah at a coffee shop and I was told if it wasn't on the menu, they didn't have it.

At a clothing store, I was told lambswool held up better than oorah, and an anthropologist said oorahs have been extinct for thousands of years.

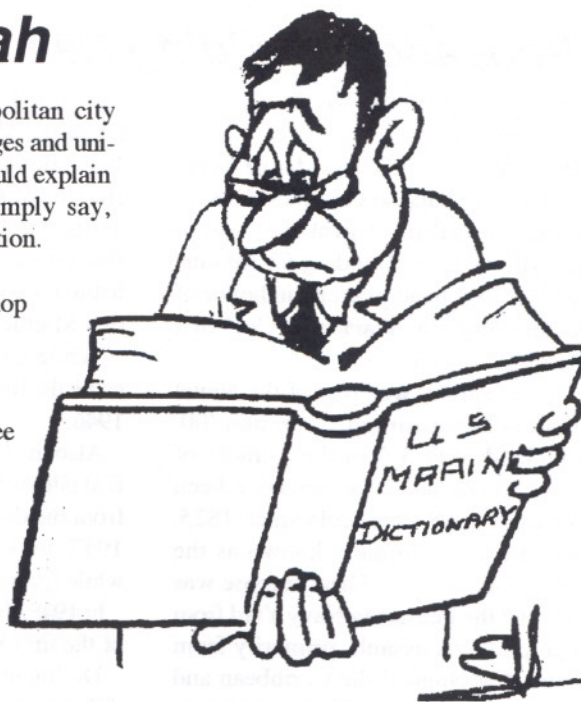
At home, my wife suggested the grass needed cutting, and the kids shrugged their shoulders implying my early senility. I researched volumes of word books and dictionaries, including military, and found nothing.

As the clouds of darkness gave way to a brighter light, I realized oorah must be strictly military. But where did it come from? There had to be an explanation. I was prepared to accept anything because there are other sayings the Marine Corps has accepted without question.

"Semper Fi," short for Semper Fidelis, is Latin and it means "always faithful." To my knowledge there were no Marines attached to the Roman Legion, yet we use it. "Gung ho" is a Chinese expression that translates into "working together." It became popular when movie actor Randolph Scott portrayed Marine Raider Lieutenant Colonel Evans F. Carlson in the movie of the same name.

"Saddle up" is a cavalry term that John Wayne overused in a portrayal of a Marine Sergeant in the award-winning movie, "Sands of Iwo Jima."

Historically, there were Marines on



horseback but not on Tarawa or Iwo Jima. There were expressions used as part of the Marine Corps I knew, and I never challenged their origins because they were real words, be they Latin, Chinese or U.S. Cavalry.

Ultimately, I gave up pursuing the origin of oorah. After all, there are other things about life and the Marine Corps I don't understand, so I need not get hung up on this word. I never knew why I didn't make General, and I don't understand how I never shot Expert on the rifle range. Oorah would be another unknown factor in my life.

Meanwhile, I promise never to use oorah before shaving, after driving, while watching TV or after Thanksgiving dinner. Further, I will never speak of oorahs in mixed company, be they men, women, republicans or democrats. Should I encounter an oorah, I will not challenge its authority, intimidate it or imitate its behavior.

This I promise, so help me, Chesty Puller.

*(Editor's Note: Ed Vasgerdsian, a retired law enforcement officer who served in the Marine Corps from 1953 to 1959, is a free-lance writer.)*



# THE 21-GUN SALUTE

Gun salutes are fired by naval guns and/or by saluting batteries with artillery pieces. Twenty-one guns are a national or royal salute. The only individuals entitled to this salute are Presidents or former Presidents of the United States, heads of foreign states and members of a reigning royal family. That's it. Some other personal gun salutes rated are 19 guns for the Vice president of the United States and the same for the Secretary of the Navy. The Commandant of the Marine Corps and Chief of Naval Operations also rate 19 guns while other Generals and Admirals rate 17. Lieutenant Generals rate 15, Major Generals 13, and Brigadier Generals rate 11. That is a very short, partial explanation of gun salutes for individuals. The real question who rates the three volleys fired at a military funeral. Anyone entitled to military honors is entitled to the volleys, subject to the availability of a firing detail. Somehow this has become confused with

a 21-gun salute. The three volleys fired at a funeral are just that, nothing more. They are not a 21-gun salute or any other gun salute. The funeral volleys are believed to have originated as an ancient superstition where fire arms were discharged to frighten evil spirits away from the grave. Why then are so many people confused and erroneously call the three volleys a 21-gun salute? Who knows? Because someone saw a seven-member detail fire three rounds at a funeral. He may have multiplied the three rounds by seven and decided this was a 21-gun sa-

lute.

And this caught on and it spread and spread. In case you forgot when you were in Boot Camp you were taught that a rifle is not a gun. A rifle detail can consist of any number of riflemen.

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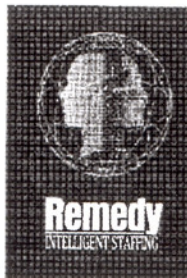
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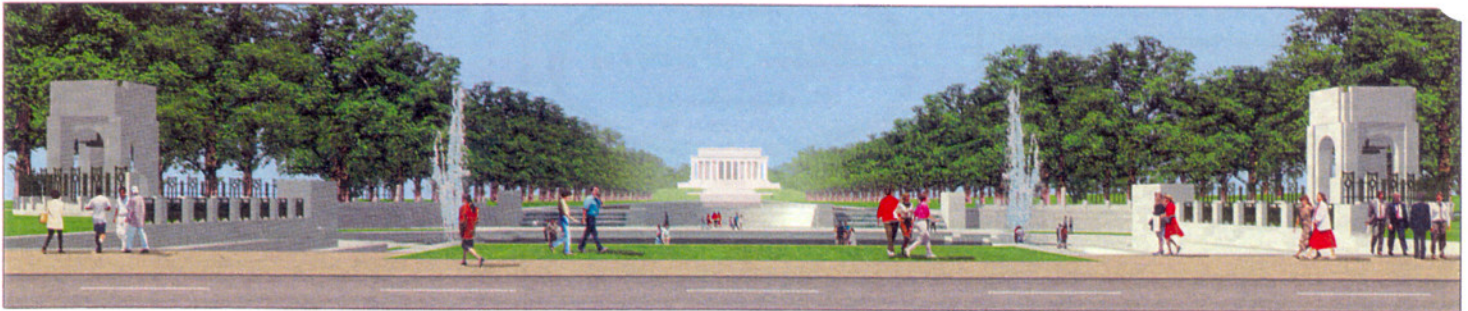
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## Application for Membership Marine Corps League

\_\_\_\_\_ (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 (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for membership in the **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT**, Marine Corps League, and enclose \$30.00 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**  
**Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 1372**  
**Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**



**"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"**



# A MARINE NEEDS OUR HELP!

## MEMORIES



### Auction Roast & Raffle for Louie

at the Pt. Pleasant Fire House  
*'50's Theme*

February 27th, 2000  
12-5p.m. • \$25 Per Person  
*Beer & Wine Included ... It's A Screaming Bargain!*

DJ, Door Prizes, TV, Sports,  
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All the Food You Can Eat *Without*  
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*Let the Fun, Games & Bidding Begin!*

Please Respond to:  
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**LOUIS EPPS IS A FORMER MARINE AND A POPULAR, LONGTIME BARTENDER AT THE PLUMSTEADVILLE INN AND OTHER BUCKS COUNTY GATHERING PLACES.**

**HE IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF A VERY EXPENSIVE LUNG TRANPLANT. AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE NEWSPAPER CLIPPING ABOVE, THE BENEFIT FOR HIM WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, AT THE POINT PLEASANT FIRE HOUSE.**

**ADMISSION IS \$25 PER PERSON (PAYABLE ONLY AT THE THE DOOR). HOWEVER, YOU MUST CALL (215) 348-5844 TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE. PLEASE CALL TODAY.**

**THIS MARINE NEEDS OUR HELP!**