



LISTEN UP!

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

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XIII, Number 4

APRIL 2001



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

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Jr. VICE COMMANDANT:
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ADJUTANT:
GARY SMITH

PAYMASTER:
ROBERT C. CODY

JUDGE ADVOCATE:
BOB MOMORELLA

CHAPLAIN:
FRANK YOHE, PC

QUARTERMASTER:
ROBERT DUFF

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:
ROBERT A. SUNDLING

MESS SERGEANT:
WIL HAAS

WEBMASTER:
TRACY BROCKMAN

MARINE OF THE YEAR:
BOB MOMORELLA

No More 'Mess Duty' for Marines

GAITHERSBURG, MD, Mar. 15-- Sodexho Marriott Services has been awarded two contracts of up to eight years each to provide food and related facilities services at all Marine Corps garrison messhalls within the Continental United States. The two contracts are currently valued at more than \$850 million.

Sodexho Marriott Services will serve 55 garrison messhall location in Arizona, California, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Washington, DC.

"We are proud to have been selected by the U. S. Marine Corps," said **Tom Mulligan**, President of Corporate Services for Sodexho Marriott. "We believe the cost savings we will provide the Marine Corps and our leadership in food technology and food safety made us the leading company in the selection process."

Mulligan notes that quality of life issues have become increasingly important as the U. S. military competes with private employers to attract and retain the most highly skilled workers.

"Sodexho Marriott's mission is to create and offer services that improve the quality of daily life for our clients and customers and we believe our services play a role in helping companies attract and retain skilled employees," said Mulligan. "We will bring the same

high quality of service and expertise we provide at other military bases such as Kwajalein Atoll Army Base and the Guam Navy Base to benefit the Marine Corps."

Sodexho Marriott Services, Inc., is the largest provider of food and facilities management in North America with \$4.7 billion in annual sales.

Headquartered here, the company has 111,000 employees at 5,000 locations across the U. S. and Canada.

Nation's Oldest Veteran Dies

The man recognized as the nation's oldest veteran, whose life took him from the hills of Tennessee to the front lines of France and back again, has died at the age of 112. **John Painter** fought World War I with horses, then shod them as a blacksmith when he got back home. He died Mar. 1 of a heart attack at his home in the north-central Tennessee community of Hermitage Springs.

He enlisted in the Army in 1917 and his war service including leading horse-driven ammunition wagons to the front lines of World War I.

"He should be best remembered for having a long, rich life," said **W. H. Gilbert**, commissioner of Tennessee's Department of Veterans Affairs.

(See **VETERAN**, Page 5)

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT
1930 ON 11 APRIL 2001 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315
NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines.

For those of you who didn't make it to the March meeting, I was reelected Commandant for another year. For those of you keeping score, this makes 9 out of the last 10 years. Think about that for a moment--9 of 10. You would think someone other than **Don Gee** would want to try the job for a while. Oh, well, I'm here and I'll do my best for you. I truly thank the Detachment for having so much confidence in me. I am overwhelmed by your outstanding show of support. I do like the job but, as I have said in the past, young blood is good, too. We do have some young blood coming up. **Don Parzanese Jr.** has been elected Junior Vice Commandant. I want to welcome Don to the other side of the table and I look forward to work-

ing with him this year.

The highway clean-up was called due to bad weather. It wasn't raining but the roadway was extremely wet and muddy. The members came out to Tilley's for breakfast anyway. We had seven or eight Marines at breakfast. I also had calls from several members before I left for Tilley's. Al together, we would have had about 14 people for the clean-up. Thanks, Marines; let's do it next month. The new date for the highway clean-up is Saturday, April 14, This will be announced at the April meeting.

Speaking of the April meeting, we have the Installation of Officers at this meeting. Southeast Division Vice Commandant Ray Devlin will be the Installing Officer. I don't know yet if there will be any other Department Officers at-

tending. Since this is a special meeting, I ask all of you who have uniforms to wear them. If you don't, please don't worry about it--just come anyway. If you have any interest in serving as Chaplain for this year, please see me at the meeting. I'm sure our new Junior Vice Commandant would be glad to hear your ideas and opinions about this year's Birthday Ball. If we are going to have a Ball this year, you might even be asked to help by being part of the Birthday Ball Committee. That will be up to Junior Vice Commandant Parzanese. However, it wouldn't hurt you to volunteer for something! See you at the meeting! Semper Fi,

Budd France

Guest Editorial

May I Salute You?

by Patricia Salwei

I approached the entrance to Ft. Belvoir's (VA) medical facility last year as an old veteran pattered towards me. Easily more than 80 years old, stooped and slow, I barely gave him a second glance because on his heels was a "full bird" Colonel. As they approached, I rendered a sharp salute and barked, "Good morning, Sir!". Because they were heel to toe, I began my salute as the old veteran was about two paces from me. He immediately came to life!

Transformed by my greeting, he rose to full height, returned my salute with pride, and exclaimed, "Good morning, Captain!" I was startled, but the "full bird" behind him was flabbergasted.

The Colonel stopped mid-salute,

smiled at me and quietly moved on. As I entered the clinic, the utter beauty of the encounter preoccupied me.

What prompted the old man to assume I was saluting him? Perhaps he thought, "It's about time!" After all, doesn't a World War II vet outrank us all?

I turned my attention to the Waiting Room, taking a moment to survey the veterans there.

Service people rushed around, loud-speakers blared, the bell for the Prescription Window kept ringing. It was a whirl of activity and the older veterans sat quietly on the outside seemingly out of step, patiently waiting to be seen. No one was seeing.

My old friend stayed on my mind. I began to pay attention to the military's attitude towards its veterans. Predominately, I witnessed indifference:

Impatient soldiers and airmen plowing over little old ladies at the Commissary; I noticed my own agitation as an older couple cornered me at the Officers Club and began reminiscing about their tour in Germany. To our disgrace, I have also witnessed disdain.

At Ramstein AFB terminal, an Airman was condescending and borderline

cruel to a deaf veteran flying "Space A." An ancient woman wearing a WACS button was shoved aside by a cadet at the Womens Memorial dedication in Washington, DC.

A member of the Color Guard turned away in disgust from a drunk Vietnam vet trying to talk to him before the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Vietnam Wall.

Have you been to a ceremony at "The Wall" lately? How about a Veterans Day Parade in a small town? The crowds are growing sparse.

Why do we expect the general public to care if we don't? We are getting comfortable again. Not many of us around that have been forced to consider making the ultimate sacrifice.

Roughly 60 percent of today's active duty Air Force did not even participate in Desert Storm.

I always lament about the public's disregard for the military.

I do not count all the days I stayed in bed instead of going to a ceremony or parade.

It was my day to be honored and I deserved to sleep in.

(See EDITORIAL, Page 5)



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.

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, was held March 14, 2001, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 20 members present including all officers except the Quartermaster and Chaplain. Distinguished members in attendance included National Public Relations Officer and **Past Commandant Don Gee, Past Commandants Don Parzanese Sr. and Bill Plant, Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth, and Marine of the Year Bob Momorella.**

The Minutes of the February Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The Paymaster's Report was presented by **Paymaster Bob Cody**. The report was unanimously accepted.

Commandant Budd Pearce announced the Detachment had received a check from ACME Markets for the grocery receipts we collected during 2000. He also announced we had received correspondence from the Department of Pennsylvania setting March 16 as the date for the quarterly Staff & Member Meeting. He reminded the members there would be a Memorial Day Parade Meeting at the Legion Post on Mar. 21 at 7 p.m. followed by a meeting of the United Veterans of Doylestown Council.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment strength at 55, including 15 Life Members, 36 Regular Members, and 4 Associate Members. There are two Delinquent Members. He announced he would be submitting the names of members who were qualified for Marine Corps League "Length of Service Awards" to the Department.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, announced that all monies and tickets for the Department Raffle must be turned in at the June Meeting.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no additional correspondence for the Detachment.

Judge Advocate Bob Momorella reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling reported he had received no requests for the Detachment Color Guard.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POW/MIA Committee--POW/MIA Committee Chair Bill Plant, PC, related an article about POWs in Iraq from the VFW Magazine.

Young Marines--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling briefed the members about the group's plans and activities.

Adopt-A-Highway--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce set Saturday, March 16, as the date for the highway clean-up.

Public Relations Committee--The Public Relations Officer set Mar. 20 as the deadline for submitting articles for the April issue. "Listen Up!" **Advertising Coordinator Bob Momorella** reported he had received 15 ads for the newsletter--13 of which came from **Marine Bill Plant**.

Rifle & Pistol Team--Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger reported the Department Pistol Match is set for the first weekend in June. Anyone interested in joining the team should contact him by the end of April.

Nominating Committee--Nominating Committee Chair Don Gee announced the slate of officers to be voted upon. The nominees included **Budd Pearce** for Commandant, **Bill Miller** for Senior Vice Commandant, **Don Parzanese Jr.** for Junior Vice Commandant, **Gary Smith** for Adjutant, **Bob Cody** for Paymaster, and **Bob Momorella** for Judge Advocate.

NEW BUSINESS

Chapter Election--The annual Chapter Election was conducted by **Junior Past Commandant Don Gee**. The slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee was elected unanimously.

Commandant Pearce announced he was looking for someone to replace him as Adopt-A-Highway Committee Chair. **Marine Bill Plant, PC,** volunteered to take over the position.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Dental Plan added to TRICARE for Military Retirees

by Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, DC--Military retirees asked for a more comprehensive dental plan, and now they have one.

As a result of retiree feedback, the enhanced TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) went in effect Oct. 1 and adds more than 100 new procedures and extends eligibility criteria, said Navy Capt. Lawrence McKinley, TRICARE senior consultant for dentistry.

The new program supersedes one started in February 1998 that augmented "space-available" retiree dental care at military hospitals and clinics.

"The basic TRDP didn't cover all the dental needs of the retired community," McKinley said. After listening to retirees and cataloging their needs and requests over the past two years, he said, Delta Dental Plan of California, the insurance administrator; the TRICARE Management Activity; and the dental service chiefs worked together to determine the best program possible while keeping the premium costs affordable.

Eligible beneficiaries include:

- * Military retirees, including those over age 65;
- * Reserve members entitled to retired pay, but under age 60;
- * Spouses of retirees;
- * Children under age 21, or full-time students under age 23;
- * A nonremarried surviving spouse or eligible child of a deceased member or member who died while on active duty for more than 30 days and who aren't eligible for the TRICARE Dental Program.

The enhanced dental program also offers expanded eligibility. McKinley said. Now, members can enroll a spouse or child without enrolling themselves provided that have documented proof that they are:

- * Eligible to receive dental care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- * Enrolled in an employer's dental plan that isn't available to family members.
- * Unable to obtain benefits from the TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan due to a current and enduring medical or dental condition.

McKinley, a Navy Dental Corps officer since 1971, said the 114 new procedures make the enhanced TRICARE plan "a very comprehensive dental program now." New services include crowns and bridges, full and partial dentures, orthodontics, and allowance for composite-resin--"white"--fillings in the back teeth, a second annual cleaning, and dental accident coverage for traumatic injury.

About the only things not covered in the new program are certain extremely expensive procedures such as dental implants, he added.

The new services come at a price. Beneficiaries will pay about double for the enhanced coverage under the new dental plan, McKinley said. Monthly premiums, dependent upon geographic region, range from \$21 to \$34 for one person; \$40 to \$65 for two; and \$62 to \$105 for a family of three or more.

The rates are good until Jan. 31, 2003, when new contract bids are scheduled. However, additional DoD-directed enhancements could increase these premiums.

"We asked beneficiaries through surveys whether they would be willing to pay more for an enhanced program and 62 percent said yes," McKinley said. "In fact, more than 20 percent said they would be willing to pay more than double the old premium for an enhanced program.

"The benefit package doubles the number of procedures found in the basic plan. This is a very good value and is very comparable to the best of the civilian programs," he added.

Enrollment in the new program began Sept. 1, and should top the 500,000-plus beneficiaries that participated in its predecessor, McKinley said. Expanded eligibility rules should reach an estimated 4.2 million retirees and family members, he added.

So far, 45,000 people have signed up for the enhanced program, McKinley said. Those enrolled agree to stay with the program for at least 24 months. New enrollees who change their minds can quit within the first 30 days provided they haven't used any program benefits.

McKinley said enrollment in the basic dental program ceased Aug. 31. Basic program beneficiaries, he said, may continue coverage under the old program with no change in terms or upgrade to the enhanced program.

The retired military beneficiaries who will use the enhanced dental program range in age "from 38 to 108" and are a very significant part of our business," McKinley said.

"We value the retiree community and are concerned about their overall dental health," he added. "I think they have confidence that Uncle Sam, that DoD, that TRICARE are looking out for their best interest" to establish the best retiree dental program possible.

"And we have worked very hard to do that," he concluded.

To determine eligibility for the enhanced TRICARE Retiree Dental Program, or monthly premium rates per region, call Enrollment Services toll-free at (888) 838-8737. Visit the TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan Website at www.ddpdelta.org for more information.

2001 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
&
OFFICER
INSTALLATION
APRIL 11**

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 14**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
MAY 9**

**MEMORIAL DAY
PARADE
DOYLESTOWN, PA
MAY 28**

EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 2)

It's just like a 28-year-old, whose weapon was "Microsoft PowerPoint Slide Presentation" during the last conflict, to complain about recognition.

Sometimes I wonder who is going to come to our parades in 20 years; will anybody look me up in the Womens Memorial Registry? The answer lies in the present. We will be honored as we honor those who have gone before us. The next generation is watching.

It is not my intention to minimize the selfless service of our modern military. My Comrades are the greatest people I know (and, frankly, should be treated better). But, lately, I'm wondering if the public's attitude towards the military isn't just a reflection of the active duty military's attitude towards its own veterans.

It's time to ask, "Do we regard them? Do we consider them at all? How does our attitude change when the hero is no longer wearing a uniform?" I was proud to wear my uniform. Can I admit that I thought I was cool? There is no denying that there is something about our profession, combined with youth, that feeds the ego a little.

We have all seen a young pilot strut into the Officers Club with his flight suit on. He matters' he takes on the room; he knows he can take on the world. But, one day he will leave his jet for a desk, and eventually he will have to hang up his flight suit--a super hero hanging up

his cape. How will we measure his value then? He will no longer look like a pilot, an officer, a Colonel.

He'll just look like an old man coming out of the clinic with his prescription. But, is he less a hero? Will anyone remember or care about the months he spent away from his newborn daughter while making peace a possibility in the Balkans? Probably not.

Our society has a short memory. Maybe it is not for the protected to understand. Rather, it is my hope that when a young Lieutenant walks by him they will each see themselves reflected in the other--one's future, the other's past. In that moment, perhaps, the Lieutenant will also see the hero, disguised as an old man, and thank him.

The truth is, there are heroes in disguise everywhere. I used to wonder why people would want to chat with me when I was in uniform--telling me about their four years as a radio operator in Korea. So what? I wasn't impressed, relative to my own experiences.

Now I understand that they were telling me because no one else cared. Proud of their service, no matter how limited, and still in love with our country, they were trying to stay connected. Their stories were code for: "I understand and appreciate it you. Can you appreciate me?"

VETERAN

(Continued from Page 1)

"He served his country with great distinction. He was a very patriotic American."

A representative of the Bush administration attended his Mar. 4 funeral, along with Gilbert and members of both of Tennessee's congressional delegation and General Assembly. Gov. Don Sundquist also attended.

The Department of Veterans Affairs said Painter was believed to be the nation's oldest surviving veteran.

Painter's longevity earned him various honors, including France's Order of the Legion of Honor--that country's highest honor.

Painter was born Sept. 20, 1888, and grew up working as a blacksmith and farmer in the Keeling Branch community of Jackson County, TN. He and his

The answers is "Yes!"

I separated from the Air Force two months ago. I'm out of the club. Still, I want you to know I'll attend the parades, visit the memorials, and honor you. All this while my kids and your kids are watching. Then, maybe, someday when I'm an old woman riding the metro, a young airman will take a moment of her time to listen to one of my war stories. I, in turn, will soak in her beauty and strength, and remember.

Today, as I reflect on my adventures in the Air Force, I'm thinking of that ancient warrior I collided with at Ft. Belvoir. I'm wondering where he is, if he's still alive, it's too late to thank him. I want to start a campaign in his honor--"Salute A Veteran."

What a great world this would be if all our elderly veterans wore recognition pins and we would salute them even if we were out of uniform and saw them coming out of a 7-11.

Yes, this started out as a misunderstanding on my part. But, now I get it. That day was the first time in my life that I really understood what it meant to salute someone.

Dear Veteran, I recognize and hail you! I do understand what I have and what you have given to make it possible. So, I'm wondering, if we meet on the street again--may I salute you?

brother enlisted in the Army together and were sent to France.

The brothers were discharged in 1919. Painter returned to blacksmithing.

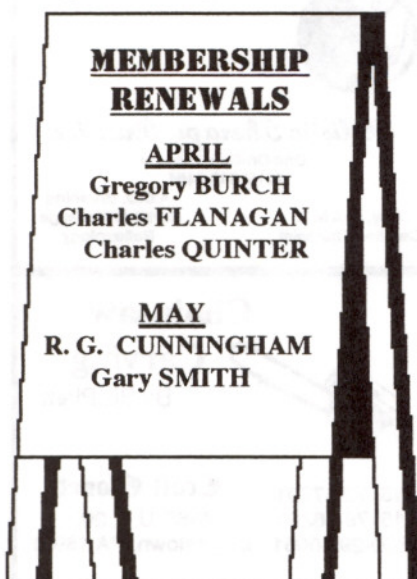
Painter rarely spoke of his experiences at war, but he treasured the awards he was given through the years.

Did You Know...

No piece of paper can be folded more than seven times

Mosquito repellents don't repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so he can't find you.

Michael Jordan makes more money from Nike annually than all of the Nike factory workers in Malaysia combined.



Navy Christens Guided USS SHOUP (DDG-86)

The new Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, SHOUP (DDG-86), was christened Feb. 24 at a 10 a.m. ceremony at Little Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, MS.

The ship honors the 22nd Commandant of the Marine Corps and Medal of Honor recipient **Gen. David M. Shoup** (1904-1983) for his actions during the initial landings on Betio, Tarawa Atoll, in the Pacific on Nov. 20 to 22, 1943. While in command of the 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, he carried out his leadership duties and exposed himself to withering enemy fire despite suffering a serious, painful leg wound which had become infected.

Shoup received the Medal of Honor for his actions on Jan. 22, 1945. The citation reads in part: "By his brilliant leadership, daring tactics and selfless devotion to duty, Colonel Shoup was largely responsible for the final decisive defeat of the enemy." He was also awarded the Purple Heart (oak leaf cluster), Legions of Merit with combat "V" and the British Distinguished Service Order. Shoup has been described as "the bravest Marine who ever wore a uniform."

In 1959, **President Dwight D. Eisenhower** appointed Shoup the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Later, he was known as **President John F. Kennedy's** "favorite General." When **President Lyndon Johnson** pinned the Distinguished Service Medal on Shoup in 1964,

Johnson described him as "strong enough to prevent a war and wise enough to avoid one."

Shoup died Jan. 15, 1983, at the age of 78. No previous ship has been named for Shoup.

Marine Major General William A. Whitlow, Expeditionary Warfare Division Director, delivered the ceremony's principal address. **Zola Shoup**, widow of the ship's namesake, and **Claudia Natter**, wife of **Admiral Robert J. Natter**, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, both served as the ship's sponsors. In the time-honored Navy tradition, each broke a bottle of champagne across the bow to formally christen SHOUP.

SHOUP is the 36th of 58 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers currently authorized by Congress and the 16th of this class to be built by Ingalls Shipbuilding. These multi-mission ships can conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection, in support of the National Military Strategy. These

combatant ships are equipped with the Navy's Aegis combat systems, which combines space-age communication, radar and weapons technologies in a single platform for unlimited flexibility while operating "Forward..from the Sea."

Commander E. Bernard Carter, a native of Hopkins, SC, is the Commanding Officer of SHOUP with a crew of 383. Upon its commissioning in 2002, SHOUP will be homeported in Everett, WA, as an element of the U. S. Pacific Fleet. SHOUP is 509.5 feet in length and has a waterline beam of 59 feet. Four gas-turbine engines power the 9,300-ton ship to speeds in excess of 30 knots.

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Name _____

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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"