

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League 0f Pennsylvania, Inc.

VOLUME XVIII, Number 4

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Editor: DON H. GEE

Commandant: WILLIAM R. MILLER



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

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Jr. VICE COMMANDANT JAMES McCOMB

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<u>WEBMASTER</u> JAMES E. PEARCE

MARINE OF THE YEAR ELLIS M. (BUD) PEARCE III

CMC May Retire Early, DoD Seeks Successor

Gen. Michael W. Hagee, who is challenging Pentagon plans to cut his service's end strength by 5,000 Marines, may step down as Marine Corps Commandant months before his four-year term expires next January.

By law, Hagee will no longer be commandant Jan. 13, 2007. But in a brief inter-

view last week with Inside the Navy, Hagee signaled the change could come sooner. He said he would step down as Commandant "sometime between now and the 13th of January."

Service and defense industry sources tracking the issue said Hagee is likely to step down by this summer or early fall.

Hagee said the exact timing is up to **Defense** Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who must pick the new commandant in consultation with the President. "That will be up to the Secretary of Defense as he looks as to who the individual will be who relieves me, and then of course he'll talk to the President about that," Hagee told ITN March 8.



Gen. M. W. HAGEE
Commandant

Rumsfeld is interviewing candidates for Hagee's job and other senior positions, according to military and industry sources. But the Pentagon is not discussing that process publicly.

"When we have something to announce, we will," said Defense Department spokesman Bryan Whitman.

Hagee is not known for publicly fighting with Pentagon leaders, but at a recent breakfast with reporters he voiced his disagreement with the Quadrennial Defense Review's recommendation to slash Marine Corps end strength from 180,000 to 175,000 by fiscal year 2011. Hagee reiterated his views when senators questioned him at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing March 9.

When Hagee took the reins of the Marine Corps from then-Commandant Gen. James Jones in January 2003, the standard practice of changing Commandants during the summer was ignored. This coincided with the unprecedented decision to put the outgoing Commandant in charge of U.S. European Command.

In the interview, Hagee acknowledged hearing talk of restoring a summer turnover schedule, but he added there is no "magic date." For about three decades, up until then-Commandant Gen. Robert Cushman stepped down in the summer of 1975, the Marine Corps used to change Commandants on Jan. 1, he noted.

(See HAGEE, Page 4)

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Our March 8 meeting began by introducing the Director of Veteran Affairs of Bucks County, former Marine and Vietnam Vet., Dan Fraley. Dan talked about changes that are taking place within the Department of Veterans Affairs as well as benefits and entitlements that are being offered. Also discussed were the problems that have occurred with Toll Brothers and the new veterans cemetery in Bucks County which is turning out to be a real headache for all those involved, and the on going quest of getting the Medal of Honor presented to Marine Rich Gresko of Newtown. I'm sure that everyone by now is aware of that situation. That's truly a chain of events that fell through the cracks of the bureaucracy and the responsibility of a noncaring commanding officers who wouldn't follow through with some necessary paper work.

It's official! We had our annual election of Detachment officers.

I will continue on as Commandant and **Budd Pearce**, **PC**, will assume the position of Junior Vice Commandant. The other elected positions will remain as is.

We have a couple of changes in appointed officers. Bob Sundling, PC, will take over as Sergeant-at-Arms. Wil Haas will take over his old job as Mess Sergeant.

Thank you all for answering the call, and thanks to Jim McComb and Bill Mickelson for a job well done during their time in office.

The installation of officers will take place at our next meeting on April 12. The dress code will be casual uniform (red blazer).

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.

Family and friends are invited to attend. There will be refreshments served after the meeting.

Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell and I recently attended the department quarterly meeting held at the Dept. Hq. Indiantown Gap. It was a full day of business on Saturday. This was the meeting to prepare for the Department Convention in June.

A plea was made by the Department Junior Vice Commandant that if you have a lot of sold raffle tickets on hand to please send them in before the convention. It's too overwhelming to have to deal with so many tickets at the last minute. I can see his point. If you have sold a good amount of tickets then give them to me and I will take care of them. Also Leadership School is being held at the Department Headquarters on Saturday, May 6. Anyone caring to attend please see me for further details. This is a worthwhile experience everyone should consider and it's free except for

\$5.00 for lunch.

We have committed to hosting a Southeast Division meeting to be held on Sunday, Apr. 30 at 2 p.m. The American Legion has made the hall available to us for that time.

Also that same week end we have our fund raiser parking cars at Delaware Valley College's "A-Day." We need as many volunteers as we can get to help out at both events. I will be at A-Day all day Saturday and until noon on Sunday when I will have to leave to set up the Legion for the Southeast Division meeting. So, anyone willing to give up a few hours on those two days--the 29th and 30th--please put your name on the list or see me or Budd.

That's all I have for this month Marines. Enjoy the warm weather we're having and I'll see you in April.

Semper Fi!

a worthwhile experience everyone ould consider and it's free except for Buglers Return To Marine Barracks

Morning colors started the day on a historical note at Marine Barracks, Washington, DC, Jan. 19. Sgt. Clint Owens of Arlington, TX, rang the bell and sounded the familiar tune using a valveless bugle - the first time the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps has used this traditional type of horn since after the Korean War.

"We've reinstated these straight bugles for the same reason we still fly the 1801 flag at Evening Parades here at the 'Oldest Post of the Corps,'" said Chief Warrant Officer Brian Dix, D&B director. "The Marine Corps boasts tradition. This is our heritage, and it represents where we have come from."

Owens, who auditioned for the honor, said it was a priviledge to be the Marine chosen to reinstate this tradition.

"I love playing on that horn," said the soprano bugler. "The sound is completely determined on how fast you blow the air through it and the movement of your lips. It's loud; it looks cool, and it takes us back to the old days."

GOODIES FOR THE TROOPS

Peggy Sundling, who continues to send "Goodies to the Troops," has provided a sampling of items which are needed for the shipments. She cautions, "NO CHOCOLATE!!" Items include: Moist Wipes--with and without aloe (some people are allergic); Beef Jerky/Slim Jims-very popular; Hard Candy-no lollipops; Lotions and Moisturizers; Lip Balm; Chewing Gum; Crackers/Snacks/Granola Bars - in individual packages for easy toting; Fruit Snacks/Raisins--in individual packages; Writing Tablets Envelopes/Pens; Crossword Puzzles; Magazines - military, automotive, hunting, etc. (used are fine); Drink Mixes - individual envelopes. Thanks for your continued support!

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held March 8, 2006, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 21 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included Past Commandant and Marine of the Year Budd Pearce, Past Commandants Don Gee, and Bob Sundling and Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth. Bucks County Director of Veterans Affairs Dau Fraley addressed the members about veterans benefits and activities being conducted by his office to support country veterans.

The Minutes of the February Meeting were unanimosuly approved.

The Paymasters Report was delivered by Paymaster Bob Cody. The Paymasters Report was unanimously approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment will host the Department Southeast Division Meeting on Apr. 30 at the Legion Post. Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell reported the strength of the Detachment at 53 including 25 Regular Members, 23 Life Members, 4 Associate Members and 1 Honorary Member.

Junior Vice Commandant Jim McComb reminded the members about the Department raffle. He has raffle tickets available.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no communications from either the National Headquarters or the Department since the last meeting.

Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom reported the Detachment had no legal problems and that the annual Non-Profit Statement had been filed.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Mickelson reported the Color Guard had not been requested since the last meeting.

Public Relations Officer set Mar. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the April issue of Listen Up!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RIFLE & PISTOL TEAM--The Department Pistol Match is set for June 2-4. Anyone interested in joining the team should contact Team Captain Bill Rosenberger or Past Commandant Budd Pearce.

ADOPT-A-HGHWAY-- Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce, PC, scheduled Apr. 15 as the date for the next highway clean-up.

UNG MARINES--Young Marines Coordinator Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Unit underwent C-P-R training.

OLD BUSINESS

ELECTION--Nominations Committee Chair Budd Pearce conducted the election of Detachment officers for the coming year. Elected to office were Bill Miller, Commandant; Jim Powell, Senior Vice Commandant; Budd Pearce, PC, Junior Vice Commandant; Gary Smith, Adjutant; Bob Cody, Paymaster, and Bill Jerrom, Judge Advocate. The newly elected officer will be installed at the April Meeting

MEMORIAL DAY FUND RAISER-Past Commandant Budd Pearce announced the Detachment will hold its annual Memorial Day Fund Raiser at the State Store from Thursday, May 25, through Sunday, May 28. Detachment members will be needed to man the donation table during those dates.

FUND RAISERS--Junior Vice Commandant (Elect) Budd Pearce, PC, reported on progress for the A-Day Fund Raiser at Delaware Valley College on Apr. 29- & 30 and the Memorial Day Fund Raiser at the State Store in Cross Keys.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The P-R Officer advised the members to beware of Marine Corps Pins.com soliciting Marine Corps League Departments and Detachments to sell Marine Corps as fund raisers. The pins are being advertised at highly inflated prices.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 8.

A LETTER FROM THE FRONT:

Ms Sundling,

Thank you for all your support and packages throughout this deployment. I will be redeploying back to the states in a matter of days now, and any packages sent will not arrive in time at this point. I would like the MCL and Liberty Young Marines to know how much everyone appreciated the care packages, and while we are going back, there are many Marines who are just coming out or are staying out here who need their support and prayer. Semper Fidelis

Cpl Richard L Coogan

MNF-W CE IA JSN (318) 3401328

Marine Combat Artist Keeps Traditon Alive

By MICHAEL M. PHILLIPS

RAMADI, Iraq -- On the rooftop of the combat base here, Michael Fay sat with his sketchbook on his lap, admiring the gentle sweep of camouflage netting and the textured interplay of stacked sandbags in the winter sunlight.

He was happily penciling in the first few strokes when his idyl was interrupted by Cpl. Steven Varao, the Marine in charge of security on the roof.

"Hey, sir, I don't think that's a very good position," the corporal advised him. "We get mortared out here."

Reluctantly, Warrant Officer-1 Fay, the Marine Corps' official Combat Artist, folded his wood and leather painter's stool, picked up his rifle and began heading for cover — until he got distracted by the striped pattern dripping black tar had made on the gray concrete roof.

"Ever heard of a French painter named Dubuffet?" he asked, referring to Jean Dubuffet. "These images remind me of him -- primitive, almost abstract."

Cpl. Varao thought about that for a moment. "You guys like sunsets?" he asked. "We get nice ones from Post Charlie."

Such is the avant-garde life of Warrant

Officer Fay. While other countries, such as Australia and Britain, send civilian painters to bring home their interpretations of war, Warrant Officer Fay is a rarity because he is both front-line warrior and front-line artist. He is, as far as he knows, the only active-duty combat artist in the world today.

"If you're engaged as a landscape artist, you're expected to go look at landscapes," he says. "If you're a still-life artist, you're expected to set up a Cezannelike sening, perhaps with some interesting fabric, some peaches and a skull or two. A combat artist is expected to go into combat."

Compared to Civil War artist Winslow Homer

The result is work that does in images what Ernie Pyle did in his World War II newspaper columns: Convey the experiences, both frightening and mundane, of the common man thrust into war.

HAGEE (From Page 1)

Asked during the interview if he is ready to retire this summer, Hagee simply repeated that he would depart between now and Jan. 13.

According to active-duty and retired service officials, as well as industry sources, Hagee's potential successors include LtGen. Robert Blackman, Commanding General of Marine Corps Forces Command in Norfolk, VA; LtGen. James Conway, Director of Operations for the Joint Staff at the Pentagon; and LtGen. James Mattis, Commanding General of Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico, VA.

Some sources said Gen. James "Hoss" Cartwright, an aviator now in charge of U.S. Strategic Command, also might be considered. Cartwright is said to be tight with Rumsfeld. The Marine Corps has never before had an aviator as Commandant. This would be a big departure from

the tradition of picking a ground officer, but Rumsfeld has a penchant for breaking traditions, a retired military officer noted.

According to the book "Commandants of the Marine Corps" by Allan Millett and Jack Shulimson, published in 2004, an officer selected to be Commandant has usually served as a Lieutenant General and must have the support of political leaders, particularly the Defense Secretary. The incumbent Commandant typically suggests the names of three individuals to the Navy Secretary, who also discusses the matter with the chief of naval operations.

Members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, particularly the Chairman, may weigh in too, more than likely casting a negative vote, according to the book. Though the President makes the final nomination, the decision almost always rests with the Defense Secretary.

There is a pencil portrait of LCpl. Nicholas G. Ciccone, tired after a long patrol, still suffering from helmet hair. "All Eyes Down," is an oil painting of Marines trudging across a field in Afghanistan, watching for landmines with each step. One of the men is heading out of the picture, a Degas touch that Warrant Officer Fay favors. Columns of smoke rise from barrel fires in "Some Things Never Change"; any infantryman will recognize they're burning the waste from the plywood outhouses.

"What is more elemental, what is more connected to the complete flow of history, than this?" Warrant Officer Fay asks, sitting in the gloom of Observation Post Horea, a Stalingradesque ruin in the center of Ramadi, where Marines and Iraqi soldiers face frequent rocket and mortar attacks.

Warrant Officer Michael Fay, in Ramadi, Iraq, draws inspiration from Ernie Pyle — and Vermeer.

Christopher B. Crosman, the former director of the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland, ME, compared Warrant Officer Fay's approach to that of Winslow Homer, who painted scenes of camp life during the Civil War. "Fay puts a human face on war," Mr. Crosman wrote in the catalog for an exhibit of his paintings and drawings that the museum put on last year.

Britain began putting artistic soldiers to work in World War I, and the practice soon caught on in the U.S. The Pentagon sent close to 70 combat artists to depict the Vietnam War, according to Warrant Officer Fay. The Marine Corps Combat Art program began in 1942 and is now part of the History and Museums Division of the Marine Corps University in Quantico, Va., which owns everything the artist produces. The practice has faded in the Army and other services, but the Corps remains uniquely obsessed with its own history and image. Its art collection holds more than 7,500 pieces, a tally that grows every day Warrant Officer Fay puts pencil to paper or brush to linen.

"I prefer to think of myself as the keeper of the flame, rather than just as the last unicorn," he says.

A few antiwar demonstrators peacefully

protested his Farnsworth exhibit; he ran into them when he arrived for the opening in his dark green dress uniform. But in the view of the museum's Mr.

sman, up-close military painting remains a social necessity even in a world
of live television coverage and embedded news photographers. "Because satellite television has the capability to transmit to us on a daily basis galvanizing and
unsettling images of the death and destruction of war, it is profoundly affecting and, in a way, reassuring to see individual interpretations by combat artists
like Michael Fay," Mr. Crosman wrote.

A 52-year-old who wears a toothy smile, a salt-and-pepper moustache and a fleece cap with a Bohemian floppiness, Warrant Officer Fay grew up in Allentown, Pa. He snagged an art scholarship, but, as a self-described "hippie kid" in the 1960s, flailed in the confines of academia. In 1975 he dropped out of his third art school and enlisted in the Marines, "the world's finest finishing school for young men," as he calls it.

After serving as a mortarman, he left the Corps and finally got his degree in art education from Penn State University. But the pull of the military was strong,

J the job market weak, so he soon returned to the Marines, this time repairing helicopter electronics in Desert Storm and in operations in Somalia and the former Yugoslavia, all the while doing art on the side.

With a daughter in grade school and the military shrinking, he left active duty in 1993 and kicked around Fredericksburg, VA, selling insurance, teaching school, restoring old homes and making furniture out of hickory twigs. Four years later, he met the then-Marine Corps artist, a reservist who owned a gallery in town. They hit it off, and, since she was retiring, she helped arrange for Mr. Fay to get back into the Marines and take over her job -- despite his age of 46 years.

Shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, the Marines sent him to Afghanistan, with no orders other than to do art. He was deployed twice to Afghanistan and twice to Iraq. In the battle for Ubaydi, near the Syrian border, he was hit by shrapnel, a wound that was, to his good fortune, both 3ht and in his left, nondrawing arm. rainting combat "is the real deal, and I

consider myself a realist," he says.

In the field, Warrant Officer Fay often sketches in pencil or takes photographs to use as models for paintings, especially if the firing is heavy. He grants himself painterly license to create an image that is authentic, but not always literal. Once he used dirt from the battlefield to make the proper colored pigment for a water-color of a Humvee ambulance churning its way through the historic Iraqi city of Babylon.

Warrant Officer Fay sees beauty where others might see just destruction. During three days at Observation Post Horea, he hung out with the grunts, the front-line infantrymen, and reveled in the brass spiral of machine-gun belts, the subtle green-on-green jigsaw puzzle of a sandbag wall, and the hidden stories of spent bullet casings in the concrete rubble. The sun streaming through the IV bottles, as they awaited wounded men, reminded him of the glistening quality of Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring."

In the outpost's front compound, an area the infantrymen cross at a sprint to avoid Iraqi sharpshooters, he crouched behind a generator to sketch the sandbagged guardpost at the main gate and the crumpled building beyond it. "This is about as far out on the tip of the spear as you can get -- Post One at O.P. Horea," he said. He was drawn to the landscape of mud and broken pallets, sand bags and shattered walls. "I was sort of hoping there were no snipers," he said after completing his sketch.

The infantrymen consider him something of a curiosity on the battlefield, but they generally like his work. "Did you go to school for that, sir?" asked Cpl. Jonhatan Covarrubias, peeking at the sketches.

Warrant Officer Fay did, of course, but at the same time, he remains very much a Marine. He was eating a ready-to-eat chicken-and-noodles meal for dinner recently when the outpost came under attack, from suspected rocket launchers on one side and automatic weapons fire on the other. He hurriedly put on his helmet and flak vest and raced to the roof with his assault rifle, but not his sketchpad.

"When it's hitting the fan, you don't want to miss out on the opportunity to fire back," he said.

Georgia Senate Defeats Fonda Resolution

ATLANTA--Jane Fonda's 1972 trip to North Vietnam is haunting her again.

The Georgia Senate last month nearly unanimously defeated a resolution that would have honored the actress' charity work in the state.

The Democratic sponsor had tried to withdraw the resolution after a rocky reception from colleagues and a phone call from Fonda's office, but a Republican leader forced a vote, saying members of his caucus wanted to go on record against it

Fonda, who is out of the country, had asked for the resolution to be withdrawn to avoid the controversy, said the sponsor, Sen. Steen Miles of suburban Atlanta. The effort was defeated 38-1, with even Miles voting against it.

The resolution cited the Atlanta resident's work as founder of the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, donations to universities and cha! rities, and role as goodwill ambassador for the United Nations. But Fo nda's political activities protesting the Vietnam War, including a trip to North Vietnam in 1972, have long made her a target of veterans."

I can think of no living American who is less worthy of this honor," Republican Sen. John Douglas declared. "She is as guilty of treason as Benedict Arnold and Tokyo Rose."

Miles argued that Fonda's good works should outweigh the negatives.

8th & I Bus Trip

The Liberty Bell Chapter, 1st Marine Division Associon, is sponsoring a Bus Trip to 8 and I, Washington DC June 9, 2006.

Includes Lunch, Dinner at Barracks; stop at Army Museum, Aberdeen, MD; Vietnam Memorial; Arlington National Cemetery; Marine Corps Memorial; and the Evening Parade

Cost is \$60.00.

See Mike Waldron for more information

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS 2 APRIL

<u>DETACHMENT MEETING</u>
12 APRIL

EASTER SUNDAY 16 APRIL

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
COMMITTEE MEETING
19 APRIL

<u>"A-DAY"</u>
FUND-RAISER
29-30 APRIL

SOUTHEAST DIVISION MEETING 30 APRIL

DETACHMENT MEETING 10 MAY

> MOTHERS DAY 14 MAY

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE 29 MAY

DETACHMENT MEETING
14 JUNE

<u>INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE</u>

<u>4 JULY</u>

DETACHMENT MEETING
12 JULY

DETACHMENT MEETING 9 AUGUST

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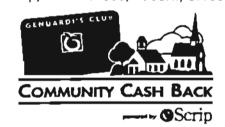
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THE FEW, THE PROUD

In the beginning was the word, and the word God. In the beginning was God, and all , was darkness and void, and without form. So God created the heavens and the Earth. He created the sun, and the moon, and the stars, so that light might pierce t. The darkness. The Earth, God divided between the land and the sea, and filled with many assorted crea-

And the dark, salty, slimy creatures that inhabited the murky depths of the oceans, God called sailors. And he dressed them accordingly. They bad little trousers that looked like bells at the bottom. And their sharts had cute little flaps on them to hide the hickeys on their necks.

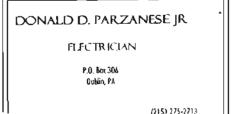
He also gave them long sidebums and shabby looking beards. God nick named them "squids" and banished them to a lifetime at sea, so that normal folks would not have to associate with them. To further identify these unloved creatures, he called theren "petty" and "commodore", instead of titles worthy of redblooded men.

And the flaky creatures of the land, God called soldiers. And with a twinkle in his eye, and a sense of humor that only he could have, God made their trousers too short and their covers too large. He also made their pockets ersized, so that they might warm their

And to adom their uniforms, God gave them badges in quantities that only a dime store owner could appreciate. And he gave them emblems and crests... and all sorts of shiny thing that glittered... and devices that dangled. (When you're God you tend to get carried

On the 6th day, he thought about creating some air creatures for which he designed a Greyhound bus driver's uniform, especially for Air Farce flyboys.

But he discarded the idea during the first week, and it was not until year later that some apostles resurrected this theme and established what we now know as the "wild blue yonder wonders."



danporate principal, net

On the 7th day, as you know, God rested.

But on the 8th day, at 0730, God looked down upon the Earth and was not happy. God was not happy! So he thought about his labors, and in his divine wisdom God created a divine creature. And he called this creature a Marine.

And these Marines, whom God had created in his own image, were to be of the air, and of the land, and of the sea. And these he gave many wonderful uniforms. Some were green, some were blue with red trim.

And in the early days, some were even a beautiful tan. He gave them practical fighting uniforms, so that they could wage war against the forces of Satan and evil. He gave them service uniforms for their daily work and

And he gave them evening and dress uniforms... sharp and stylish, handsome things, so that they might promenade with their ladies on Saturday night and impress every-

He even gave them swords, so that people who were not impressed, could be dealt with

And at the end of the 8th day, God looked down upon the Earth and saw that it was good. But was God happy? NO! God was still not bappy!

Because in the course of his labors, he bad forgotten one thing. He did not have a Marine uniform for himself.

But he thought about it, and thought about it, and finally satisfied in knowing that, well ... not everybody can be a MARINE.

Submitted by Bill Quigley

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