

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

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Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

COMMANDANT STANDS AGAINST GAYS IN MILITARY

by Julian E. Barnes
Los Angeles Times

The Commandant of the Marine Corps said Feb. 25 that gays should not be allowed to serve openly in the military, becoming the most senior commander to break from **President Barack Obama's** goal of lifting the ban.

Gen. James T. Conway, testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the policy known as "don't ask, don't tell" should be left alone.

"I think the current policy works,"

he said. "My best military advice to



Gen. JAMES T. CONWAY

this Committee, to the Secretary, to

the President, would be to keep the law such as it is."

Conway's stance is considered crucial because it shows there are sharp disagreements among top officers and within the Joint Chiefs of Staff about whether to allow gays and lesbians to serve openly. Opposition from military leaders helped derail earlier efforts to lift the ban, most notably former **President Bill Clinton's** effort in 1993.

Unlike previous attempts to ease

(See **COMMANDANT**, Page 5)

League Joins Marine Identity Cause

The Marine Corps League sponsored a Press Conference at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington on Feb. 25. The purpose of the Press Conference was to kick off the "grass-roots" campaign to get the "Marine Identity Cause" Project signed into law.

"We had an "all-star" cast of speakers and guests present," explained **Marine Corps League Executive Director Mike Blum**, "including **Congressman Walter Jones, Senator Pat Roberts, R. Lee Ermy**, former Commandant of the Marine Corps **Gen. Al Gray**, former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps **Gen. Robert Magnus**, **Gen.**

Tony Zinni, the League's Legislative Liaison **LtGen. Stephen Olmstead**, former Director of the Marine Corps' Office of Legislative Affairs **BrigGen. Terry Paul**, **Sgt. "Eddie" Wright**, a Marine who lost both his hands in Iraq, and others including a father who had lost his Marine son in Iraq and the Marine Mom who founded **MarineParents.com**.

H.R. 24 now has 368 co-signers in the House of Representatives.

"The problem is in the Senate," says Blum. "**Sen. Pat Roberts** of Kansas (a Marine Corps Veteran) has in-

(See **IDENTITY**, Page 5)

'IWO JIMA' MEMORIAL NEEDS REPAIR & EXPANSION

The Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation is calling on Marines for help.

On the morning of Feb. 23, 1945, AP photographer **Joe Rosenthal** captured an image of five Marines and a Sailor struggling to raise an American flag atop Mount Suribachi following four days of intense fighting on the Japanese-held Pacific island of Iwo Jima. It has been said that in that moment, Rosenthal's camera recorded the soul of a nation. His Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph forever immortalized the strength and determination of Marine forces that struggled for victory in one of the most intense and cost-

(See **IWO JIMA**, Page 6)



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COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Spring is just about here and that means it's time to start getting busy.

We had the Detachment elections and the slate of officers has been filled. All of the current elected officers have been reelected into their current offices. **Ben Jones** will continue as Senior Vice Commandant and **Jack Gentile** was elected to the Junior Vice Commandant position. As you may already know Ben and Jack were appointed to their respective positions last year. So, I'd like to thank them for again stepping up. **Bill Mickelson** will again be our Judge Advocate. And the omnipresent **Don Gee** will again be out Adjutant/Paymaster.

I would like to thank those who again have offered their services to our Detachment. We couldn't do it without those who selflessly give of their time and talents to serve us.

Our April meeting will be the installation of officers meeting and I hope everyone that can attend will do so. Our **Department Commandant Leanna Dietrich** will be performing the Installation Ceremony and her assistants are scheduled to be Department of **New Jersey Commandant Bob Fackina** and **Southeast District Vice Commandant Bill Miller**.

Those attending should also wear their Marine Corps League causal uniform which includes the red blazer if they have one. For those that attend, it will be a good time to get a perspective on what's happening in our Department from Commandant Dietrich and also to get a perspective from another Department from Commandant Fackina.

As for myself, I attended the National Mid-Winter Staff Meeting and MODD Growl in Falls Church, VA,

in February. It was a very informative and the continuing theme is retention.

The League is making a big push to get back, those Marines and Associates who have been dropped from the rolls. So, if you happen to personally know someone in that situation, please make every effort to speak to that person and see if there is anything that we can do to help him or her see the benefits of belonging to the League and recruit him or her back in.

Our quarterly highway cleanup will be on April 16. As usual we will meet at "Back to 50's" diner on the corner of Route 263 and Edison-Furlong Road at 8 a.m., so come on out and lend a hand.

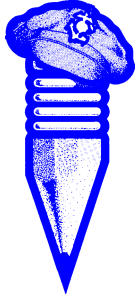
The Youth Scholarship Raffle tickets are available; **Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile** along with **Marine Ken Murray** are setting up dates to sell them at different locations before the June Department Convention when the tickets are due in to the Department. If you need tickets or are available to help Junior Vice Commandant Gentile, please contact him at 856-229-4805. Remember the Detachment gets a cut of the proceeds for every ticket sold.

Once again we will be doing our Memorial Day weekend fundraiser at the State Store in Doylestown (Croos Keys) followed by our participation in the parade. If you can volunteer for this activity, please contact **Chaplain Budd Pearce** at 215-262-2015.

Again, my sincere thanks to those who stepped up and continue to support our Detachment.

Semper Fi,

MARCH DETACHMENT MEETING



M I N U T E S

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held March 10, 2010, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 14 members present including all officers except the Chaplain. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee and Bob Sundling, Past Commandant & Department Southeast Division Commandant Bill Miller and Past National Northeast Division Commandant/Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth.**

The **Minutes** of the January Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The **Paymaster's Report** was presented and was unanimously accepted.

Visitors: John Kerr (Bedminster).

Transfer: Marine Phil Emery of Perkasio transferred from the defunct Hidden Bell Chapter.

Sick Call: Marine Chuck Flanagan is in Doylestown Hospital recovering from a burst bladder.

Marine Mike Waldron's wife, Dorothy, is in Doylestown Hospital recuperating from major heart surgery.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported March 29 is Vietnam Veterans Day in Pennsylvania. The first "National Vietnam Veterans Homecoming" will be held Apr. 17 & Apr. 21-25 in Columbia, SC. He also reported on Gen. Conway's testimony before Congress concerning gays in the military. He announced the film "Severe Clear" has opened in New York City at the Angelica Theater (Mar. 12-18). Producer asks League support by members going to see the movie about a Marine unit in Iraq. The Commandant also reported on the movement to have the Department of the Navy changed to the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. He reported the concern of Marine Corps League Headquarters with the serious decline in League retention. He asked the members to contact any former members they know and try to get them to rejoin the League. This decline is adversely affecting Marine Corps League finances. He also reported he had received an e-mail from the Department Adjutant requesting Detachments donate "liquid refreshments" to the local Convention Hospitality Room Committee. The Commandant reminded the members about the Department Convention in June in New Cumberland, PA, the Northeast Conference will be held Mar. 26-27 in Scranton. Anyone interested in attending either should contact the Commandant. He also reported he had received an e-mail from the Wyoming Detachment about its buffalo meat fund raiser. He noted it was too late to take advantage of it this year but we might keep it in mind for next year. He also reported on a request to participate in the July 4th Revolutionary War Ceremony at Ft. Mifflin. He discussed the National Mid-Winter Conference he attended.

Senior Vice Commandant Ben Jones reported the Detachment strength at 61 members including 28 Life Members, 26 Regular Members, 2 Dual Members, 4 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member. He thanked the Detachment for the items he received for his new daughter.

Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile discussed a possible Breakfast Fund-Raiser at Appleby's in Newtown. More on this at the April Meeting. He also discussed the Rose Program Fund Raiser for charitable causes. He distributed Department Raffle tickets.

The Adjutant/Paymaster reported the Detachment received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Philadelphia Veterans Comfort House in acknowledgement of our donation to it. He announced there would be a "Support the Troops" event at the American Legion Post on Sat., Mar. 13. He stated he would scan the flyer and e-mail it to the members. Cost for the event is \$15 per person plus a donation of various snack items. He also reported there will be a "Military Only Walk-In" day at Hershey Park.

Judge Advocate Bill Mickelson reported the Detachment had no known legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported he had received no requests for the Detachment Color Guard since the January Meeting.

Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, submitted a written report which was read by the Adjutant/Paymaster. He had presented **Rose Cody**, Bob Cody's widow, a flag case for Bob's flag and sent a "Get Well Card" to **Dorothy Waldron**. **Quartermaster Corey Fisher** reported Quartermaster sales of \$60.00 since the last meeting. He advised members to bring their money to the April Meeting because he was planning to lay out all of the Quartermaster stock at that meeting.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rifle & Pistol Team Coordinator Pearce's written report reminded the members the Department Pistol Match was slated for June 4-6 and that he needed as soon as possible the names of members planning to participate. He also had "Hold Harmless" forms for all participants. Anyone interested in joined the Pistol Team or requiring any other information should contact Budd at: 215-343-5609 (H) or 215-262-2015 (C). He also reminded that participants must supply their own weapon and ammunition for the match. He will make lodging arrangements once he has a list of members planning to attend.

Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Pearce has scheduled the next highway clean-up for Apr. 17. Members taking part will meet at "Back to the 50s" Restaurant in Furlong at 8 a.m. for breakfast on the Detachment.

NEW BUSINESS

Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller presented the list of nominees for Detachment office. The report was unanimously accepted and he conducted the annual election. Elected to office were **Commandant Jim Powell, Senior Vice Commandant Ben Jones, Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile, Judge Advocate Bill Mickelson, and Adjutant/Paymaster Don Gee.**

Commandant Powell distributed copies of the proposed Detachment ByLaws he had prepared and assembled a committee to review the ByLaws prior to being presented to the members at a future meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously accepted to donate \$100.00 to the "Make-A-Wish" Foundation.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously accepted to purchase a \$ 100.00 memorial brick for the New Britain Vweterans Park.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Web Sergeant Jim Powell announced the "Members Only" portion of the web site completed and handed out personal access information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marine Mike Waldron announced the Liberty Bell Chapter of the 1st Marine Division Association will be sponsoring a bus trip to 8th & Eye Sts., Washington, DC, and the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, VA, June 11-12. Cost is \$150 per person.

The United Veterans of Doylestown Memorial Day Parade Marshal announced there would be a meeting of the parade's Key Personnel on Thurs., Mar. 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until April 14 at 7:30 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**PALM SUNDAY
28 MARCH**

**PASSOVER
30 MARCH**

**APRIL FOOLS DAY
1 APRIL**

**GOOD FRIDAY
2 APRIL**

**EASTER
4 APRIL**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
14 APRIL**

**INCOME TAX
RETURNS DUE
15 APRIL**

**EARTH DAY
22 APRIL**

**MOTHERS DAY
9 MAY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
12 MAY**

**MEMORIAL DAY
PARADE
31 MAY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
9 JUNE**

COMMANDANT *From Page 1*

rules, however, top Pentagon officials have endorsed a change. **Adm. Michael G. Mullen**, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said last month that he wanted a new policy and that allowing gays to serve openly was a matter of "integrity."

Republicans opposed to changing the policy have said that Mullen's views do not represent those of other senior military leaders.

The chiefs of the various military services have been testifying before the House and Senate, and lawmakers have questioned them about the Obama administration's plans to overturn the 1993 law that bars gays and lesbians from serving openly.

Since the law was passed, about 14,000 service members have been removed from the military because of their sexual orientation.

During their testimony, none of the chiefs backed Mullen's position by calling for an end to the ban. But all of the chiefs, including Conway, have supported **Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates'** plan to study the effect of changing of the law.

Conway has taken positions at odds

with top Pentagon officials in the past, but has not publicly addressed the issue of gays in the military.

Conway is due to retire this summer when his term as Commandant is up.

He told lawmakers that any policy change should not be judged by its fairness to gays, but by its impact on the military.

"My personal opinion is that unless we can strip away the emotion, agenda and politics and ask [whether] we somehow enhance the war-fighting of the United States Marine Corps by allowing homosexuals to openly serve, then we haven't addressed it from the correct perspective," Conway said.

IDENTITY *From Page 1*

introduced the Bill (S.204) in the Senate and it has two co-sponsors to date --**Sen. Kay Hagen** of North Carolina and **Sen. Richard Burr** of North Carolina.

"The way things work on The Hill is that the House version will be brought to the floor for a vote by **Congressman Ike Skelton** in early April. It should pass without any

Conway was challenged, gently, by **Sen. Joe Lieberman** (Conn.), who has said that he plans to introduce legislation to allow gays to serve openly.

"I hope we conclude that repealing 'don't ask don't tell' will enhance military readiness," Lieberman said.

Some advocacy groups were more direct.

Aubrey Sarvis, Executive Director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, said that any law that pushed out qualified troops during wartime undermined military readiness and effectiveness.

"Gen. Conway was the only chief to say to Congress that the law is 'working'," Sarvis said. "It is not working."

problem," Blum states.

"The issue is to get the Senate Armed Services Committee to approve the Senate version and bring it to the floor of the Senate for a vote.



"The goal here is to get ALL Marine Corps League members, their family members, friends and all FRIENDS OF THE CORPS to call their Senators' offices and tell them 'I support S.204 and I want my Senator to support it too!'"

"Tell them you would like an e-mail response on their decision and their position on changing the name of the Department of the Navy to the 'Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.'"

"Lastly, ask them what they propose to do to ensure that this bill gets passed into law," says Blum.

For more information, please go to: <http://marinecause.com>.

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 or 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--in individual envelopes.

Thanks, Marines, for your continued support!

liest battles of World War II. Rosenthal's iconic image would come to serve as the model for one of the most recognized and visited monuments in the world.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower formally dedicated the 78-foot-tall Marine Corps War Memorial on Nov. 10, 1954. Rising from hallowed ground on Arlington Ridge overlooking the Potomac River at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, the Marine Corps War Memorial stands as a monument to not only those Marines who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, but as a tribute to all men who have cherished country above life. It is an enduring symbol of America's resolve and an icon for Marines, past and present.

The Marine Corps War Memorial is the largest bronze monument in the world; it is also one of the most renown. The original cost of creating the statue and devel-

oping the memorial site was borne entirely through private donation. Since its dedication, the National Park Service has maintained and administered the monument. The Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, also known as "Two Flags," is comprised of a group of Marines that has vigilantly preserved and rotated the 10' by 19' flag that is flown above the monument, out of a continued sense of personal responsibility to those for whom the monument is dedicated. The Park Service is now encouraging us to expand our efforts in a joint venture with them to address growing deficiencies. Now 55 years old, the memorial needs annual museum grade cleaning, sealing and waxing. The black granite panels at the base require attention to prevent further loosening and shifting. The perimeter road needs to be milled and resurfaced. New perimeter and directional signs need to be emplaced and a new entrance sign befitting the dignity and decorum of the site are needed.

Finally, we need to provide comfort stations and a Ranger office with appropriate storage facilities to effectively support the growing number of memorial visitors and Sunset Parade attendees. These improvements will be costly. The Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) 19 Veteran Organization, allowing it to receive tax deductible donations and sponsorships to help fund its efforts. Additionally, we are developing a ten year plan to achieve our goals. The plan will focus on three distinct elements: restoring and preserving the memorial and grounds; continuing the monthly flag rotation at the monument; and annually commemorating the Mount Suribachi flag-raising.

As Marines, each of us was entrusted with preserving the "eternal spirit" that General Lejeune so eloquently described as having "animated our Corps from generation to generation" and being "the distinguishing mark of the Marines in every age." In many cases we did so in the face of public apathy, a diminished sense of understanding by many of our elected officials who have never worn the uniform, and a fading memory of the achievements and sacrifices of generations of Americans from whom we who are Marines received our "high name of distinction and soldierly repute." We have done battle in the Beltway so that we could wage war against our nation's enemies.

Today, the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation is skirmishing at the grass roots level to preserve the monument erected to the memory of those Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We feel it is a most worthy fight. So let us resolve together to "take increased devotion" and "preserve the eternal spirit which has animated our Corps from generation to generation."

Contributions can be made payable to: Marine War Memorial Foundation and sent to:

Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation
P.O. Box 75

Waynesboro, Virginia 22980-2727
The Foundation EIN # is 26-1138521
All contributions are tax deductible. Our IRS Letter of Determination can be made available upon request.

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT
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Quartermaster Store

DETACHMENT STRIP



\$5.00

USMC SATIN JACKET



\$55.00

LIFE MEMBER BLAZER CREST



\$25.00

COVER



\$22.00

DETACHMENT T-SHIRT

MCL PATCH



\$3.50

DETACHMENT LICENSE PLATE



\$10.00

\$15.00

To order any of these items or any other Marine Corps League items or Marine Corps items and have them ready for pick-up at the next Detachment Meeting, contact

Quartermaster COREY FISHER

at

ph: 215-822-6898

e-mail: cbquartermaster@aol.com

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"

**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**