



LISTEN UP!

Central Bucks Detachment
P.O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901

Meets 7:30 P.M. 2nd Wednesday of Month
VFW Post 175
181 South Main Street
Doylestown, PA 18901

"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"

COMMANDANT - FRAN MEYERS

EDITOR - BOB SCHAFFER

VOL 6 NO 4

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1993

MEETING MINUTES FROM 10 MARCH 1993

There were thirteen members present, including all Officers except the Sgt-at-Arms.

MEMBERSHIP

An application for membership from Nicholas P. Kirshner as an Associate Member was approved. He is on Walt Roach's staff working with the Young Marines. Total membership to date is 62.

MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as outlined in the Newsletter.

The Paymasters report was accepted and approved.

AUDIT

The Detachment books were audited and approved by the Committee. A \$.60 bank error was detected.

POW/MIA POSTAGE STAMP

A petition will be circulated requesting the issuance of a commemorative stamp to honor the POW/MIAs.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

On Saturday 24 April 93, the Detachment will participate in the second highway clean-up of the year on a section of roadway designated by PennDOT under their Volunteer Beautification Program. Anyone wishing to participate can join the troops at Perkins Pancake House (0800) on the date listed above. It only takes a couple of hours and the walk will do you good.

MONUMENT RE-DEDICATION

Bill Plant will represent the Detachment at the re-dedication of the Civil War Veterans Monument in Doylestown on May 29.

CHAPEL OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

The following Detachment members, Bill Plant, Fran Meyers, Pat Meyers and Don Gee, are being nominated for Legion of Merit Awards. The official ceremony will take place on April 24, 1993 at the Holiday Inn, Allentown, PA.

YOUNG MARINES

Walt Roach and the Young Marines want to thank the Detachment members who attended the memorial service for Cp. Ernie Bason, the Young Marine who died from injuries suffered after being struck by an auto late last year. The family was most appreciative of the efforts extended by everyone.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Please continue to push the car raffle tickets. Remember, the Detachment retains \$.40 of every dollar ticket. It's a good money maker. If you don't want to sell them, just buy them yourself as a donation to the Detachment.

NOMINATIONS FOR DETACHMENT OFFICES

Marlin Miller, who had been nominated for another term as Judge Advocate, requested that his name be withdrawn since he is presently having a great deal of trouble with his eyesight. Jim Marckstein volunteered to replace Marlin and was nominated from the floor and was accepted.

The final slate is as follows:

Commandant	-	Budd Pearce
Sr. Vice Cmt.	-	Don Gee
Jr. Vice Cmt.	-	Tony Kimes
Paymaster	-	Bob Cody
Judge Advocate	-	Jim Marckstein

Tentative appointed officers will be:

Adjutant	-	Ray Krout
Chaplain	-	Frank Yohee
Sgt-at-Arms	-	Bob Sundling

The entire slate was approved by vote.

Installation will be at the next regular meeting, 14 April 93. Official uniform will be red blazer, black trousers and white shirt/black tie. If you don't have a uniform, your League cover will suffice.

COMMANDANT'S THANKS

Commandant Fran Meyers expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to all those in attendance for everyone's patience and continual support during his tenure in office. He stated he will endeavor to assist the new officers and the Detachment as much as possible during coming months.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Budget Committee will meet at the end of the fiscal year and present a tentative budget for the coming year, at the May meeting.

RIBBONS AWARDED

A five-year service medal and ribbon was awarded to: Frank Yohe, Fran Meyers and Marlin Miller. Ten years will be a silver star on the ribbon.

AMERICANISM AWARD

Fran Meyers and Larry Sheetz will handle the Americanism Award for the coming year.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Detachment voted to take an ad in the booklet for the National Convention in Orlando, Florida this summer.

STATE CONVENTION

The State Convention will be held in Reading, Pa, June 24, 25 and 26. More on this later.

S. E. DIVISION MEETING

The S. E. Division meeting that was originally scheduled to be held on March 14, hosted by the C. B. Detachment, has been rescheduled for May 23, at the same location.

THE NEXT REGULAR DETACHMENT MEETING IS TO BE HELD ON 14 APRIL 93 (1930) AT THE AMERICAN LEGION HOME IN DOYLESTOWN, PA

Fellow Marines,

To start with, I would like to thank everyone for electing me as your Commandant for this year. I am honored to have been chosen by such a fine group of Marines. I feel that we have the best detachment in the Marine Corps League, and I promise to do my very best to live up to its standards. I am fortunate enough to have a few distinguished Past Commandants to call on for guidance, and you can believe that I will call on them for that guidance. I am also open to any suggestions you might have for making our detachment even better than it is. By working together we can make our detachment grow so that it is in a position to help our members when they need our help, as they help us when we call on them. I intend to strive to fulfill our obligation of helping the youth and the veterans of the community as well as our membership. In doing so I'll probably pester the heck out of each of you to come out and help on all our events...sorry about that. Again, I say thank-you and make the promise to try to measure up to the high standards set by all our Past Commandants. I have to admit though that Fran Meyers is going to be one hell of an act to follow.

Will Haas will have a full report on the results of our Easter Flower Sale at the April 14th meeting. If we are still selling flowers when you get this newsletter, you still have me to get out and help, just come out to any of our 3 locations. The order sheets are still being accepted until we sell out, so if you have any you have not turned in, come on!

From what Mike Waldron tells me all is set for Mess Night

on April 24th (24 April 1993 for Bill Plant). He needs to have all your money in at the April 14th meeting, so bring your wallets or checkbooks. This should be a fun night as well as an educational one and I look forward to seeing all of you there.

We are also going to be picking up trash on the morning of the 24th. We will again meet at Perkins and, after a good breakfast, we will set out to beautify Bucks County (at least a 2 mile piece of it). If we have a turnout like we did in January we should be done in no time and we'll all have time for a nap before Mess Night begins. Mike will have any updates or changes on the clean-up at the meeting.

Walt Roach and his Young Marines will be holding another coin toss in New Hope on May 1st and 2nd. He hopes to see some of our membership come out to show their support for these fine young men. I will not be able to make this one myself as I will be in Indiantown Gap learning how to lead you Marines into battle, but if a few of you would go help him I would appreciate it.

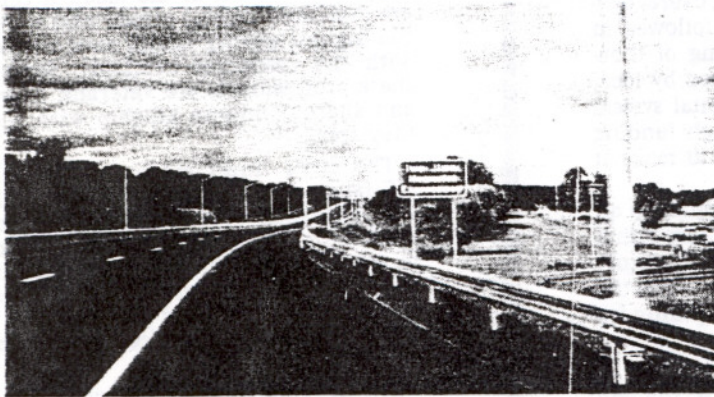
That's about it for now, except to say that I'll have more info soon about holding our June meeting on the riverboat.

Semper Fi,

Budd Pearce

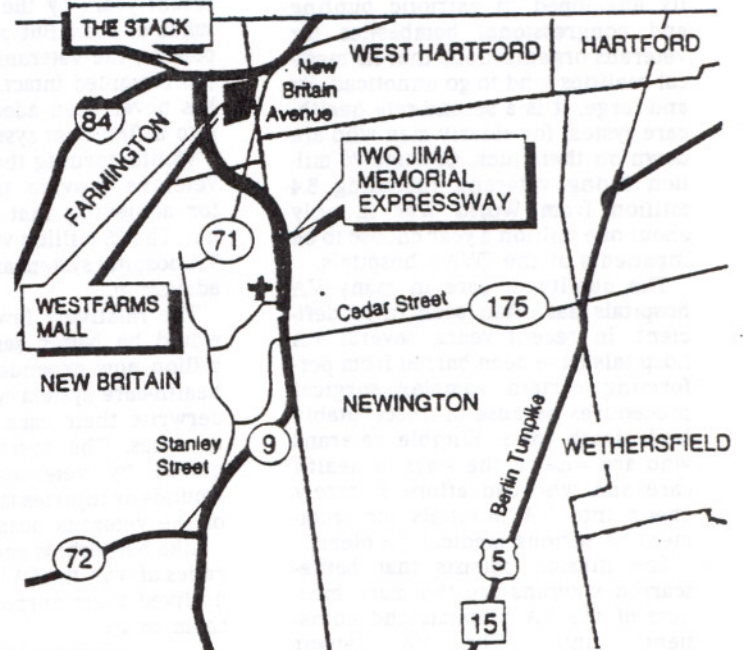
Commandant-Elect

P.S. Uniform for Officers to be installed at the April meeting will be black trousers, white shirt, black necktie and red blazer, if you have it. Thanks.



The IWO JIMA MEMORIAL EXPRESSWAY looking North.

The IWO JIMA MEMORIAL EXPRESSWAY as shown on the map below is the final section of Connecticut Route 9. This section extends from Route 175 in Newington to I-84 in Farmington at 'The Stack.' As this completed Route 9 provides a major limited access expressway link between I-84, just West of Hartford, and I-95 at Old Saybrook on Long Island Sound. The Iwo Jima Memorial Statue that is to be erected by February 1995 will be placed on a site next to the Expressway next to the Central Connecticut State University Campus in New Britain, at + on the map.



Pull plug on the VA hospitals

By DANIEL S. GREENBERG

The preeminent antiquity on the medical landscape, the nationwide chain of veterans hospitals, is striving for a big, new role in the coming era of health-care reform. But if good sense exists in politics, this anachronism will be bunched with other war-born vestiges now on the way out.

Mainly restricted to veterans with service-connected disabilities or low incomes, the Department of Veterans Affairs' 171 hospitals should be open to all veterans, with the cost of care financed by their private or government insurance, says Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown. Brown argues that the new revenues would rescue the hospital system from its constant struggle with skimpy budgets and also enable it to serve as a proving ground for health reform and medical innovation.

The secretary rates admiration for trying to keep the central activity of his department afloat in difficult times. But the DVA and its predecessors have been in the health-care business long enough to establish that this isn't the outfit to take on great new responsibilities for medical care.

The hospital system of the Department of Veterans Affairs is so heavily enveloped in patriotic bunting and congressional bombastics for veterans organizations that its medical realities tend to go unnoticed. By and large, it is a second-rate health-care system for elderly men who are down on their luck. Of some 26 million living veterans, including 8.4 million from World War II, only about one million a year choose to be inpatients at the DVA's hospitals.

The quality of care in many VA hospitals has often been rated deficient. In recent years, several VA hospitals have been barred from performing certain complex surgical procedures because of unacceptably high death rates. Eligible veterans who are wise in the ways of health care and who can afford it rarely check into VA hospitals for treatment of serious medical problems.

The illusion persists that battle-scarred veterans are the main business of the VA hospitals and outpatient clinics. The VA patient population does, of course, include many who were wounded or otherwise injured, in military service. But

to keep the wards occupied, the hospitals have also been opened to single veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities who earn less than \$18,844, and to veterans with dependents who earn a bit more than that.

Those with even higher incomes must pay the equivalent of Medicaid rates, which tend to be skimpy. If they hold private health insurance policies, the DVA collects the benefits.

No matter how wide the doors are opened to accommodate even more veterans at the DVA's hospitals, the fact is that this medical system was built for a bygone era and survives on political protection from legislators eager to please veterans organizations. Last year, DVA Secretary Edward J. Derwinski gingerly suggested that veterans hospitals in rural areas might open their facilities to non-veterans who lacked convenient access to medical care. Sensing a threat to their exclusive use of DVA hospitals, veterans organizations exercised their legendary political power. Derwinski was swiftly dumped as a liability to George Bush's reelection chances.

The present veterans hospital network was founded shortly after World War I, when medical facilities were in short supply for civilians and wartime veterans. Once established, there was no stopping the expansion of the system, which eventually spread to every state.

After World War II, heavy federal subsidies for civilian hospital construction actually led to an overexpansion of hospital capacity, followed in recent years by the closing of thousands of beds. But protected by local politics, the veterans hospital system has remained intact, though funding has never been adequate to make it into a first-class system.

Would opening the hospitals to all veterans provide the wherewithal for achieving that goal? Certainly not. The 25 million who don't use the VA hospital system are not pining for admission.

The relatively few who do use it would be better served if the \$13 billion now expended on the DVA's health-care system were used to underwrite their care in high-quality facilities. The specialized care required by veterans with serious wounds or injuries is not a monopoly of the veterans hospitals.

Like battleships and other obsolete relics of war, the DVA hospitals have outlived their purpose. It's time for them to go.

Daniel S. Greenberg is a syndicated columnist specializing in the politics of science and health.

Commentary

Saturday, April 3, 1993

The Philadelphia Inquirer

I wish I knew where "columnists" like Daniel S. Greenberg come from.

His Commentary Page article headlined "Pull plug on the VA hospitals" (March 21) is a mix of just enough "real facts" to give credibility to an otherwise completely flawed article. I understand that Commentary Page writers have a great deal of latitude in expressing their opinions. I don't understand why they use that latitude so irresponsibly.

Mr. Greenberg's contention that VA hospitals are "obsolete relics of war" and that the 171 medical centers comprise "a second-rate health-care system for elderly men who are down on their luck" is a slap in the face to the millions of veterans who have been treated at VA hospitals in the last 62 years.

His comment that only about a million of the 26 million of these living veterans utilize the VA system is ludicrous. He assumes that all 26 million veterans are in need of hospitalization.

The thousands of inpatients and outpatients who have been treated (not to mention those whose lives have been saved) at the Philadelphia Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) in the last 40-plus years are not patronizing a "second-rate" hospital.

The hundreds of doctors, nurses and support personnel at the medical center are dedicated, caring people who provide the highest quality health care available with the resources available. Some of these professionals are veterans, as well, and share a unique kinship with those they treat.

The city's finest medical schools are affiliated with the Philadelphia VAMC and share their doctors and their technologies with the hospital. Isn't it ridiculous to say that a doctor, who works part-time at the VA hospital, provides second-rate care there but provides first-rate care on the days he or she practices at one of our affiliates?

Mr. Greenberg needs to "walk a mile in my [VA] shoes" before he condemns an entire system of 171 hospitals because of a few bad apples.

I challenge Mr. Greenberg to "come on down" — come spend a week at our medical center. Then he could write a "factual" column on what he actually experiences. We know where we're coming from; we don't know where he's coming from.

Don H. Gee
Gunnery Sergeant, USMC (Ret.)
Public Affairs Officer
VAMC, Philadelphia

Our VAVS work and participation has been extremely lacking up to now. Since we are about Veterans and helping Veterans. I would like to see our participation in this program increase dramatically. We have had only 3 volunteer forms turned in to Don Gee - that's all. just 3 - pretty bad, huh? Please see Don and get a form, then fill it out and if you truly feel that "All Marines are Brothers" and that Veterans have to stick together, turn in the form and come out to help! By doing the job we should be doing and filing the reports we should be filing, we get \$25.00 per quarter at the quarterly meetings. .Let's get moving on this guys, please.

BUX-MONT YOUNG MARINES

Walt Roach made arrangements with 1st Sgt. Dan Roberts at the Marine Corps Reserve Center in West Trenton, NJ to have some of our Young Marines spend a couple of hours there with their "poolies" on February 27. We arrived at (1000) with five Young Marines, at which time Sgt. Roberts explained the events for the day. He also displayed and explained the weapons that are involved with his unit. He also gave a class on the field stripping of the M16A. While the "poolies" were out on their run we were allowed to fire the M16A's electronically. through the computers. Walt and I even gave it a try. The only thing I'll say about my third round is that there were no pasties needed on my target. Walt still has that Marine Corps eye. The Young Marines enjoyed it and they shot pretty well. too. Afterwards, we enjoyed a "delicious" lunch of MRE's. and then Sgt. Roberts did a match-up of two teams to see who could strip and re-assemble the M16 the faster.

On March 10th Tom Cambell gave a class on survival for the upcoming overnight camp that is scheduled for April 17-18.

Y.M. GySgt. Foreman talked on the Young Marine uniform and Y.M. Sgt. Roach provided instruction on field stripping the M16A (dummy model).

At this drill we also enlisted four more Young Marines.

On March 20th the Young Marines traveled to the New Jersey State Police Museum at State Police Division Headquarters in West Trenton, NJ. There, thanks to Lt. Thomas DeFeo and Tpr. Mark Ridge, we were treated to an excellent display of State Police history, memorabilia and artifacts, complete with films and the physical evidence of the Lindberg Trial.

At the March 24th drill held at MAG 49, the Young Marines took time to honor Sgt. Major George Hutto, who is retiring after serving 31 years in our beloved Marine Corps. Walt presented him with a coffee cup with the Marine Corps logo, a Marine Corps clock, and the book "Is Anyone Here a Marine?". The Sgt. Major in turn presented the Young Marines with a handsome plaque and told them that they are the 'BEST OF THE BEST' and will always have a place in his heart.

OUR YOUTH IS OUR FUTURE

SEMPER FI

LARRY SCHEETZ, SR.
Liaison Officer

AWARDS COMMITTEE

At the March 10th meeting three more membership medals were awarded: Fran Meyers and Marlin Miller with five-year memberships, and Frank Yohe received the five-year ribbon with two silver stars indicating fifteen years of service to the Marine Corps League. We now have seventeen members entitled to wear membership ribbons.

We must be doing something right to get everybody to ship over for another tour each year. We have a great Detachment with true ESPRIT de CORPS.









SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

To date I have dispensed one set of requirements for applying for a scholarship through the Marine Corps League. Those who are interested should obtain a copy of the requirements ASAP; the application must be completed and returned to the Department Scholarship Committee by the May 31st deadline to be considered.

There are also Donation forms available if anyone wishes to donate to the scholarship fund.

SEMPER FI

LARRY SCHEETZ, SR.

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Office of

P.O.W./M.I.A. Chairman

The Senate Select Committee On P.O.W./M.I.A. Affairs completed a 1000 page report after thier term of 15 months at a cost of 1.9 million dollars last year. I think it is important that I get right to the issue at hand as it is right now.

The New York Times has reported that Dr. Henry Kissinger had access to the committees report before it was released to the public and was allowed to change some of the findings as a result of his comments. With his rewording of many of his comments the committee rejected that our P.O.W./M.I.A.s were deliberately left in South East Asia.

Thier research on the P.O.W./M.I.A.s of Korea and the cold-war was hardly touched. Task Force Russia just barely got off the ground on the P.O.W./M.I.A.s of World War 2 let alone thier participation in both the Korea and Vietnam Wars.

There has been 7 formal government investigations and more then 1567 First-Hand Live-Sightings of American P.O.W.s in the South East Asian area. This includes but not limited to Russia, China, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Our government expected around 5000 P.O.W.s to be returned and to thier surprise North Vietnam returned 591. The 5000 man figure was based on personal letters from the prisoners to thier families. The mass murder of most of our P.O.W.s while in captivity was documented by our returning P.O.W.s still left a void of about 474 to 478 men.

There are many differant details that state that Vietnam is still warehousing about 400 remains. The committee like all the others don't tell how many remains are in Hawaii. The U.S. Armys Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii has had many problems some of which includes burying empty caskets and identifying rocks and airplane parts as skeletal remains and even crazier has sent white men to black families and black men to white families.

The U.S.Military did not leave anybody behind but our government and its many differant agencies most definately did. A good example of the U.S.Military getting thier P.O.W.s back is what Army General Douglas MacArthur did during World War 2 when he sent 2000 troops to rescue 2132 P.O.W.s being held by the Japanese in the Pacific at a cost of 2 of this men being killed and 3 wounded and killing 243 enemy Japanese guards. This is proof that if we wanted to we had the means but someone gave no order to go get our men out of there other wise we wouldn't be in this

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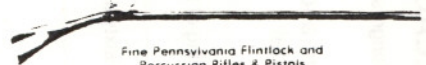
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_____ (Date)

Name _____

Street _____ # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement _____ SSN# _____

Type of Application — New () Renewal () Phone (____) _____

() I hereby apply for membership in the Central Bucks Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$ 22.00 for one year's membership.*

*Includes \$2.00 subscription to MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MAGAZINE

I hereby certify that I have served as a U.S. Marine for more than 90 days, that 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)