



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: WILLIAM R. MILLER

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XVI, Number 8

AUGUST 2004



**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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DON H. GEE, PC**

**Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
JAMES POWELL**

**ADJUTANT
GARY SMITH**

**PAYMASTER
ROBERT J. CODY**

**JUDGE ADVOCATE
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**QUARTERMASTER
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**CHAPLAIN
EDWARD W. HOTH, PDC**

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
WILLIAM L. MICKELSON**

**MESS SERGEANT
WIL HAAS**

**WEBMASTER
JAMES E. PEARCE**

**MARINE OF THE YEAR
ROBERT J. CODY**

Marines, Air Force 'Most Important'

By Jennifer Harper, The Washington Times

Americans have always had a keen interest in their military, but a new Gallup poll reveals the nation's opinion of the armed forces is not ironclad.

The U.S. Army and the Marine Corps are now tied with the Air Force as our choice for "the most important branch of the United States Armed Forces," the poll found.

It is "a significant change in the perceived importance of the branches from as recently as two years ago, when the Air Force was seen as the most important branch," according to **Frank Newport**, who directed the research.

"At the same time, the Marine Corps has maintained its dominant position as the most prestigious branch of the service, and is named by more than twice as many Americans as any other armed forces branch," Mr. Newport added.

This year, 44 percent of Americans say Leathernecks are "the most prestigious service branch." The Air Force was cited by 20 percent, the Army by 15 percent and the Navy by 8 percent.

But one Army/veteran from Virginia - who has a son on active duty with the Army Rangers - is philosophical about the information.

"There's always been rivalry between the branches of service - always," he said. "But when the stuff hits the fan, when the chips are down, our military folks know they're on the same team, immediately. That's what matters."

He continued, "A little rivalry, a little change in public opinion won't hurt - it can give troops extra competitive edge. But cheap politicians and crybaby civilians should not use such statistics to make it appear there's a division between the branches." Gallup attributes the shifting opinions to combat circumstances and the news media.

The Air Force was deemed "the branch of service most vital to the nation's defense" in similar polls for decades after World War II - chosen by 84 percent of Americans in 1949, 70 percent in 1951, 62 percent in 1960 and 42 percent in May 2001.

"In April 2002, the response pattern was basically the same. The Air Force was again No. 1, with the Army, Navy and Marines far behind," the poll stated. With its heavy emphasis on ground fighting, the war in Iraq has changed all that.

In this year's survey, 25 percent of the respondents cited the Army and 23 percent the Marines as the "most important branch," - both up seven points from last year alone.

Another 23 percent cited the Air Force as most important - a 13 point drop from last year.

(See POLL, Page 4)

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines.

First off I failed to mention in last months newsletter the addition to our roster of Marine Jim McComb. Jim is a Vietnam veteran and recently celebrated his birthday. Happy birthday Jim and welcome aboard. Attending our July meeting was a possible new member applicant Marine Eric Sanford. Eric is a

neighbor of PC Budd Pearce and is with the Hatboro Police Dept. He looks like he could kick some serious butt and he has a fine truck as well.



COMMANDANTS--Commandant Bill Miller chatting with National Commandant Helen F. Hicks at the Department of Pennsylvania Convention last month.

We'll look forward to his joining our Detachment at the August meeting. There is scuttlebutt talk that there might be four more Marines interested in joining our Detachment. I'm treating it as just that, scuttlebutt for now.

As I reported at the July meeting, the Department Convention was a bit boring. Not one roll call vote, no floor fights, nothing to get excited about. We do have a new Commandant, Tom Tanner, a new Sr.Vice Commandant, Tony DeGregorio, and a new Jr.Vice Commandant, Dick Brown. The other officers remain the same and Dick Kondash remains the Southeast Division Vice Commandant. John Moyse will assume his new duties as Jr.Past Commandant. PC Moyse held the office of Department of PA. Commandant for two years and fulfilled his duty and obligation while experiencing a great deal of personal adversity. It's truly a profile in courage and we wish him well.

Jr.Vice Commandant Jim Powell and your Detachment Commandant represented the Central Bucks Detachment and I can speak for Jim in saying that we had a pretty good time in Erie. It's a nice friendly place to visit. The Erie Chief of Police was a guest speaker welcoming us to his fair city. It was also

mentioned that he was a former Marine. He reported that 40% of his Police Dept. is made up of former Marines. OOHRAH!

We were assured that we would be well looked after during our stay. Our National Commandant Helen Hicks was there for the duration of the Convention. It was a pleasure meeting her and she even honored me with a picture of us together taken at the banquet. It was a fun evening of drink, food, and entertainment. Dick Brown was selected Marine of the Year and Dick was also the grand prize winner (\$5000.00) in the raffle drawing. He puts in a lot of time for the MCL on all three levels and was surely deserving of his good fortune.

Our highway clean-up was held on July 17. The mission was nearly called off due to the lack of participants that showed up for breakfast. Coordinator Budd Pearce PC set a minimum of six people, three for each direction and we only had five. In at the last minute walked Bob Duff to save the day. Others in attendance were myself, Chuck Flanagan, Bill Mickelson, Wil Haas, and PC Budd Pearce. Bob Cody and Ray Krout were our support team. A special thanks to all of you. It took us a little longer than usual and that's why we need a better turnout of able bodied participants.

Lastly, the Certificates of Appreciation from the Detachment have been made up, framed and are ready to be presented to the car dealerships which provided us with towing vehicles for the Memorial Day and 4th of July parades. PC Budd Pearce and I will be doing the honors scheduled for Tuesday July 20th.

That's all I have for now Marines. See you at the next meeting on 11 August 1930 hrs. Audit Committee report at 1845 hrs.

Semper Fi!

Bill Miller

2004 **SCHEDULE** **OF EVENTS**

DETACHMENT MEETING
11 AUGUST
1930

DETACHMENT MEETING
8 SEPTEMBER 8
1930

FALL DEPARTMENT
MEETING
DOUBLETREE GUEST
SUITES , PLYMOUTH
MEETING
1-3 OCTOBER

DETACHMENT MEETING
13 OCTOBER
1930

DETACHMENT MEETING
10 NOVEMBER
1930

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, Inc., was held July 14, 2004, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 20 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., Budd Pearce, and Bob Sundling; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth; and Marine of the Year Bob Cody.**

The **Minutes** of the June 2004 Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The **Paymasters Report** was delivered by **Paymaster Bob Cody**. The report was unanimously accepted.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Bill Miller reported on the Department of Pennsylvania Convention in Erie, PA. He presented plaques to Past **Commandant Budd Pearce** and **Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger** for their achievements at the Department Pistol Match and a Certificate to the Public Relations Officer for the detachment newsletter, *LISTEN UP!* He also presented a streamer from the Convention to **Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Mickelson** for the Detachment Colors. He will be presenting certificates of Appreciation to **Jack Lafferty** (Lafferty Chevrolet) and **Jack Thompson** (The Thompson Organization) for their donation of vehicles for the Memorial Day and Independence Day Parades, respectively.

Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, reported on the Flag Day Program he presented at Tinicum Elementary School. The Detachment provided 500 Flag pamphlets for the students.

Junior Vice Commandant Jim Powell, who also attended the Department Convention, read the names of Department Raffle winners. He also announced the forming of the Birthday Ball Committee. Anyone interested in participating should contact him at: (215) 862-6280.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no correspondence from either the Department of Pennsylvania or Marine Corps League Headquarters.

Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Mickelson reported he had received no requests for the Color Guard since the last meeting.

Quartermaster Bob Duff stated he had nothing new to report.

The Public Relations Officer set July 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the August Listen Up!.

Chaplain Ed Hoth, PDC, reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rifle & Pistol Team--Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger reported on the Department Pistol Match and informed the members that the Department Rifle Match will be held the last week of September.

Young Marines--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Young Marines Unit paid a visit to Wings Field and had the opportunity to go aloft in one of the aircraft. He also noted the Unit will hold a Car Wash at the Wal-Mart in Warminster as a fund-raiser. He also reported the Unit will hold its "Boot Camp" in August.

Adopt-A-Highway--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce, PC, stated the highway clean-up will be held on Saturday, July 17. Participants are to meet at Tilley's Restaurant for breakfast at 8 a.m.

Audit Committee--Commandant Miller appointed the Annual Audit Committee. **Paymaster Bob Cody** set 6:45, August 11, as the date the audit will be held.

NEW BUSINESS

Senior Vice Commandant Gee nominated **Doylestown Mayor William E. Neis** for "Honorary Membership" in the Detachment for his decades of service to veterans in the Central Bucks area. The members unanimously approved the nomination. Mayor Neis and his wife, Doris, will be invited to attend the Birthday Ball and will be presented his membership by Commandant Miller during the ceremony.

Chaplain Ed Hoth, PDC, proposed awarding Certificates of Appreciation to businesses that fly the American Flag. The motion was unanimously accepted. Senior Vice Gee stated he had the certificates and would prepare them for presentation if names could be provided.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Junior Past Commandant Bob Sundling reminded the members to bring items for shipment to troops in the Middle East.

Past Commandant Don Parzanese reported on **Marine Don Parzanese Jr.**, who is in Iraq.

Marine Bruce Sergeant showed the new Marine Corps Utility Cover to the members.

The Senior Vice reported he had received e-mails from **Marines Bob Momorella** and **Bill Plant** and will post their e-mail addresses in the next *Listen Up!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mess Sergeant Wil Haas reported he is forming a group to visit MCRD, Parris Island, May 7-15. Cost will be \$160 per person. Anyone interested should contact him at: (215) 257-7828.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11, 2004.

POLLS

(From Page 1)

"Most of the news coverage of the war has focused on ground soldiers - dressed in their characteristic camouflage uniforms - wielding rifles and other infantry weapons as they go about their duties in that country. Most of the casualties of the war have been ground soldiers, and the primary high-ranking officers who have high visibility in Iraq are in the Army," Gallup's Mr. Newport noted.

"The Army has suffered negative publicity from its involvement in the Abu Ghraib prison-abuse scandal, but if nothing else, the situation focused even more attention on the major role the Army is playing in Iraq," he added.

The poll of 1,002 adults was conducted May 21-23 and released Friday. Its margin for error was plus or minus three percentage points.

Who's the best?

Public perceptions about the military can change, according to a new Gallup poll.

When asked what is the "most important branch" of the U.S. Armed Forces:

Army: 2004 -- 25%, 2001 -- 18%

Marines: 2004 -- 23%, 2001 -- 16%

Air Force: 2004 -- 23%, 2001 -- 42%

Navy: 2004 -- 9%, 2001 -- 15%

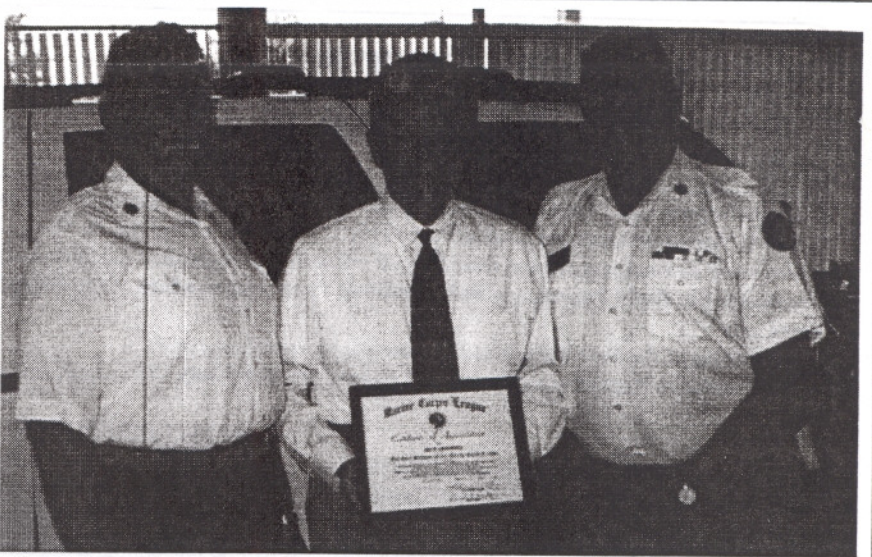
When asked what is "the most prestigious branch" of the U.S. Armed Forces:

Marines: 2004 -- 44%, 2001 -- 36%

Air Force: 2004 -- 20%, 2001 -- 32%

Army: 2004 -- 15%, 2001 -- 11%

Navy: 2004 -- 8%, 2001 -- 14%



APPRECIATION--Jack Lafferty (Lafferty Chevrolet) displays the Certificate of Appreciation he received from Commandant Bill Miller (right) and Parade Coordinator Budd Pearce, PC, for donating a vehicle to the detachment for the Memorial Day Parade in Doylestown.

C-B Marines on the Net

Cody, Bob.....codyrj201@att.net

Cupitt, Steve.....scupitt@aol.com

scupitt@motorola.com

Gee, Don.....USMCCA@aol.com

Hoth, Ed.....Edhothusmc@aol.com

McComb, Jim.....j.mccomb@att.net

Miller, Bill.....billjae@cs.com

Momorella, Bob.....mombo@starlinx.com

Parzanese Jr., Don.....donaldparzanese@usarmy.mil

Pearce, Bud.....Buddpearce@comcast.net

Plant, Bill.....billplant@cableone.net

Powell, Jim.....jim.powell@aig.com

usmc80@comcast.net

Scott, Rich.....ricgscott@aol.com

Sundling, Bob.....Sundling@quadnet.net

sundling@tiniusolsen.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 and without aloe (some people 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 - again, 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!

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

FALL MEETING

October 1-3, 2004

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Indicate - Marine Corps League
when making reservation

Room Reservation Deadline - 9/10/04

Banquet Information:

On **Saturday October 2, 2004, at 5:30 p.m.**, there will be a banquet *honoring* (and *roasting*) our Jr. Past Commandant, John Moyse. The dinner entree choices are either baked filet of flounder or sliced breast of turkey. Cost of tickets for this event is **\$38.00 per person or \$75.00 per couple. (There will be NO assigned seating.)** Anyone wishing to attend, please complete the form below and mail, with check made payable to **MCL of PA, Inc.**, to PNC Paul F. Hastings, Paymaster, 1631 Bridge Street, New Cumberland, PA 17070-1174.

Also, please indicate below if you wish to make comments or a presentation during the scheduled program.

Banquet Reservation Deadline - September 20, 2004

Name(s) _____

Detachment/Unit _____ No. Attending _____

Choice of Entree: _____ Baked Filet of Flounder (Indicate #for each entree)
_____ Sliced Breast of Turkey

Total Submitted \$ _____

Presentation or Comments During Program _____

BASILONE BOOK ON SALE

The Sgt. John Basilone Foundation announces its book publication and video release titled "I'm Staying with My Boys: The Heroic Life of Sgt. John Basilone, USMC."

Gunnery Sergeant John "Manila John" Basilone was the first enlisted Marine to receive the Medal of Honor in World War II for his heroic defense of a key airfield on Guadalcanal.

According to the Basilone family, the life story of this national hero will examine his early years, military career and the personal inspiration of "Gunny" Basilone. These events will be integrated into the context of the era in order to convey the meaning and impact of Basilone's life and heroic deeds. The narrative encompasses historically accurate representations of actual events from his childhood to his death in 1945, from his personal perspective.

For details: Call (toll free): 1-888-827-2762; online: www.sgtjohnbasilone.com; write to: P. O. Box 5967, Hilton Head, SC 19938; or e-mail: sgtjohnbasilone@aol.com.



APPRECIATION--Commandant Bill Miller presents a Certificate of Appreciation to John Thompson, Vice President of The Thompson Organization, for donating a vehicle to the Detachment for the Independence Day Parade.

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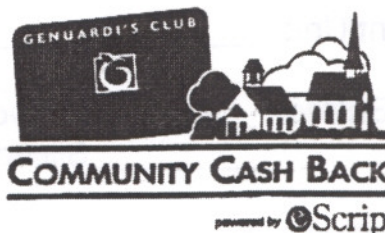
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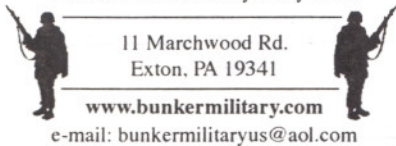


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Name _____

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

Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement _____ SSN _____

Type of Application -- New () Renewal () Associate () Phone (____) _____

E-mail: _____

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, Inc.
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"