



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

VOLUME XVIII, Number 8

AUGUST 2006

Commandant: **WILLIAM R. MILLER**

Editor: **DON H. GEE**



**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

Sr. VICE COMMANDANT
JAMES POWELL

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE III, PC

ADJUTANT
GARY SMITH

PAYMASTER
ROBERT J. CODY

JUDGE ADVOCATE
WILLIAM E. JERROM

QUARTERMASTER
ROBERT DUFF

CHAPLAIN
EDWARD W. HOTH, POC

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
BOB SUNDLING, PC

MESS SERGEANT
WIL HAAS

WEBMASTER
JAMES E. PEARCE

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

Law Targets Those with Unearned Military Medals

By Jason Cato

TRIBUNE-REVIEW (Pittsburgh, PA)

Marine Majors have accomplished plenty in the Corps' 230-year history, but tales from "The Terminator" just didn't add up.

He'd been a SEAL, a sniper and a pilot. His stories were larger than life, and no one at the Soldiers & Sailors National Military Museum and Memorial in Oakland believed him. But it was the Navy Cross pinned to his dress blues that proved too much to stomach.

"He had more battle activity than eight guys together." **Ron Gancas**, museum president, said about **John Eastman**, who faces federal charges of impersonating a military officer. "Why he picked this place to B.S. I don't know. Everybody was in the military here."

Eastman, 58, of New Galilee, Beaver County, is accused of falsely wearing a Major's insignia at a Veteran's Day function in 2004. He was indicted this year and, if convicted, would face a maximum penalty of six months in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

If his outcome is anything like that of another imposter prosecuted this year in Pittsburgh, jail time is unlikely. **Albert McKelvey**, 68, of Richland, faked being a Marine Colonel, presenting neatly folded flags to widows at funerals and delivering inspirational speeches to veterans groups. He paid for his transgressions with a \$2,500 fine and probation.

A bill -- the Stolen Valor Act -- making its way through Congress would increase the penalties for imposters and help prosecutors go after phonies.

The bill, introduced last year by Rep. **John Salazar**, of Colorado, picked up 127 co-sponsors. A Senate version of the bill got support on June 14 from Senator **Arlen Specter**, whose support insiders say virtually guarantees the bill will make it out of the Senate judiciary committee he chairs. Salazar has said he expects the bill to move through Congress before the session ends in October.

"I feel people should be punished," Gancas said. "There are people out there who paid a price to wear those medals on their chest."

Falsely claiming to be in the military or to have earned a medal is a misdemeanor under current law. Imposters can be charged only if they've worn medals or insignia they didn't earn. The penalty is a jail term of up to six months, a fine or both. The new legislation would make the crime a felony and enable prosecutors to charge imposters for simply claiming -- verbally or in writing -- a rank or medals they didn't earn.

That would not bode well for people like Eastman, whose business card read "The Terminator" and boldly stated he was the recipient of the Navy Cross -- the second highest medal awarded in the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard.

(See STOLEN VALOR, Page 7)

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines.

We're into the dog days of summer with oppressive heat and certainly plenty of rain. Hope everyone is holding up okay. It's been a very busy summer for me so far. I just returned from a two-week tour of duty in Puerto Rico. I missed our July meeting and once again I had to call upon Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell to take the helm. I understand that all went well and I thank Jim for answering the call. I hear that we picked up a new member. I don't know his name but I look forward to meeting him. Welcome aboard, Marine. Our 4th of July parade went well. Thanks to all who showed up and especially to the **Marines Sundling--Bob Sr. and Bob Jr.**--for carrying the colors for the long haul. We did not have a full Color Guard in place for the parade.

Now for the sad news. As many of you probably know by now, we lost a member of our detachment. **Marine Bill Plant, PC**, passed away this month. Bill is a charter member of the detachment and also served as Detachment Commandant of the preceding detachment. The Plants relocated to the Gulf Coast of Texas around Corpus Christi a few years ago. It came to our attention that Bill had no life insurance and he had not made provision for his wife, Aline, to continue receiving benefits from his retirement pension which is an option that he could have chosen. This left the poor lady with nothing but Social Security to survive on. She probably qualifies for SSI which is a supplement to Social Security. Hopefully, someone will inform her of this benefit.

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.

Anyhow, we take care of our own and that being the case we found it necessary to call an emergency meeting of the elected officers to come up with a donation for Mrs. Plant. **Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC**, introduced a motion of \$500.00 be donated. This resulted in a unanimous vote from the officers. I signed the check and it was mailed. Hopefully this will help her out at least until she gets her life back on track.

At our July meeting it was decided that we should forego a birthday ball in November and instead plan a 20th anniversary celebration in January 2007. We will proceed ahead with plans for this event. It's something that we should be looking forward to and making it a memorable occasion.

FYI, two things. I will not be at our next detachment meeting in August. I'll be attending the national convention being held in Boston during that week. Once again I call on Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell to fill in for me. Also, it's now official. I have been appointed by **Southeast Division Vice Commandant Bob Rup** to take over the duties of Assistant Division Vice Commandant replacing **Ray Devlin** who held that post for many years. This should be a challenging and rewarding experience for me as I move up into the Department level. Also be assured that it will not interfere with my duties as your Detachment Commandant.

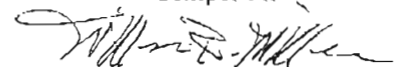
Lastly, on a sour note, I must tell you

that I have been under a little bit of pressure to respond to an incident that took place at our meeting about three months ago during the announcement phase of the meeting. One of our members announced that three members of his National Guard unit had made the supreme sacrifice during hostile action in Iraq. He also suggested that our detachment could acknowledge this in some way. A member of our detachment responded to this request by asking something to the effect, "WERE THEY MARINES?????"

I think this caught everyone including myself by surprise and therefore it was left to fall through the cracks. It came to my attention that the offended member including his family who are also members of our detachment were ready to call it quits for letting this incident get out of hand. Since this happened on my watch, it's incumbent upon me to make amends. I've already apologized to this member personally and I will do so through this article. I can only say that conduct like this cannot and will not be tolerated and I'm sorry that it happened this way. This country lost three fine young men who gave their lives for us. "DO THEY HAVE TO BE MARINES?"

Think about it! I can only ask and hope that the individual that made this unfortunate comment do the right thing and make an apology to the person as well as the Detachment.

Semper Fi.



Bill Miller

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 July 12, 2006, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 16 members present including all officers except the Commandant, Paymaster and Judge Advocate. 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**.

The **Minutes** of the June Meeting were unanimously approved

The **Paymasters Report** will be delivered next month

Sick Call: Paymaster **Bob Cody** is recuperating and will attend next month's meeting.

New Members: **Marine Vernon Websler** was unanimously accepted for membership as was **Marine Bill Rosenberger's daughter--Lynsie Rosenberger Wade**--was also accepted for membership.

OFFICER REPORTS

Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell reported the Detachment strength at 48 with six delinquent members.

Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC, inquired whether the Detachment preferred to have a Birthday Ball this year or hold a formal 20th Anniversary Dinner in January. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously accepted to hold a formal Anniversary Dinner program in January and to have a cake-cutting ceremony at the November Meeting.

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

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

The **Public Relations Officer** set July 20 as the deadline for submitting articles for the August issue of *Listen Up!*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUNG MARINES--Young Marines Coordinator Bob Sundling, PC, reported the unit was conducting Boot Camp training for its new members and had plans to hold Survival Training at Lakehurst, NJ, in the near future.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce, PC, set Saturday, July 15, as the date for the next highway clean-up. Members taking part were to meet at "Back to the 50s" restaurant in Furlong at 8 a.m. for breakfast before beginning the clean-up.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIT COMMITTEE--Senior Vice Commandant Powell appointed the annual Audit Committee of **Past Commandants Don Gee** and **Budd Pearce** and **Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell** to conduct the audit and make its report at the August Meeting.

NOCKAMIXON DAYS--The Public Relations Officer reported the Detachment had been asked to participate in Nockamixon Days on Saturday, Sept. 23. We have been requested to provide a Colors presentation and man a recruiting table at the event. More details will be given at the August Meeting.

RIFLE & PISTOL TEAM--The Department Rifle Match will be held Sept. 29-Oct. 1. Anyone interested in joining the team should contact **Team Captain Bill Rosenberger** or **Senior Vice Commandant Pearce**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Vice Commandant Pearce was presented the Distinguished Citizens Medal (Silver) for his "extraordinary service to the Detachment" by **Department Commandant Tom Tanner** during the Department Convention in June. The Distinguished Citizens Medal (Silver) is the highest medal which be bestowed by the Department.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling offered a brief requiem about **Past Commandant Bill Plant** who died July 6 at his home in Aransas Pass, TX.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 9.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

**"Why in hell can't the Army do it if the Marines can.
They are the same kind of men; why can't they be like Marines."
[Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, USA; 12 February 1918]**

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE



DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN
GOLD (OLD)



DISTINGUISHED
CITIZEN GOLD



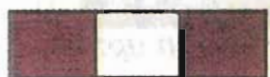
DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN
SILVER (OLD)



DISTINGUISHED
CITIZEN SILVER



DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN
BRONZE (OLD)



DISTINGUISHED
CITIZEN BRONZE



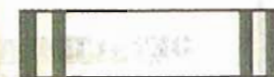
DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE BRONZE



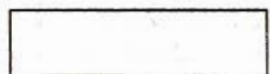
NATIONAL
RECRUITER GOLD



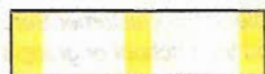
NATIONAL
RECRUITER SILVER



NATIONAL
RECRUITER BRONZE



PAST NATIONAL
COMMANDANT



NATIONAL STAFF
ELECTED SILVER



NATIONAL STAFF
APPT. BRONZE



DEPARTMENT
COMMANDANT



DEPARTMENT STAFF
ELECTED SILVER



DEPARTMENT STAFF
APPT. BRONZE



DEPARTMENT
RECRUITER SILVER



DETACHMENT
COMMANDANT



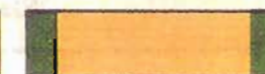
DETACHMENT STAFF
ELECTED SILVER



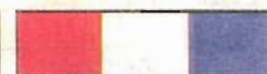
DETACHMENT STAFF
APPT. BRONZE



DETACHMENT
RECRUITER BRONZE



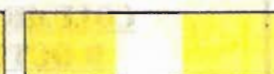
COMMUNITY
SERVICE



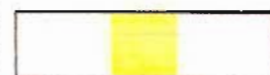
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMENDATION V. FISHER



NATIONAL MERIT
UNIT COMM.



DEPARTMENT MERIT
UNIT COMM.



INDIVIDUAL
MERIT COMM.



KENNEL DOG OF YEAR



CHIEF DEVIL DOG
IND. COMM



PACK DOG OF YEAR



PACK LEADER COMM
INDIVIDUAL



POUND DOG OF YEAR



POUND KEEPER COMM
INDIVIDUAL



PAST CHIEF DEVIL DOG



PACK LEADER



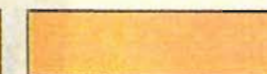
POUND KEEPER



MCL MEMBERSHIP



50TH NATIONAL
SILVER & BRONZE MEDALLION



50TH NATIONAL CONV.
BRONZE ATTENDEE



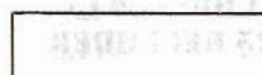
75TH NATIONAL
CONV. GOLD



75TH NATIONAL
ATTENDEES SILVER



USMC EMBLEM FOR MOY, NATIONAL DEPARTMENT &
DETACHMENT TO BE WORN ON A DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN MEDAL



DEPARTMENT 50TH
CA, IL, PA, WI, MI, VA, MO

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NATIONAL CONVENTION
BRAINTREE, MA
6-12 AUGUST

DETACHMENT MEETING
9 AUGUST

LABOR DAY
4 SEPTEMBER

PATRIOT DAY
11 SEPTEMBER

DETACHMENT MEETING
13 SEPTEMBER

NOCKAMIXON DAY
23 SEPTEMBER

COLUMBUS DAY
9 OCTOBER

DETACHMENT MEETING
11 OCTOBER

DEPARTMENT STAFF MEETING
JONESTOWN, PA
12-14 OCTOBER

DETACHMENT MEETING
8 NOVEMBER

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY
10 NOVEMBER

DETACHMENT MEETING
13 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS
25 DECEMBER

GENUARDI Markets Receipt Form

Clip it and forward to the address shown. Contact
Past Commandant Don Parzanese Sr. for any additional information.

Sign Up Now. Start Earning Today!

Use one of these easy methods to sign up:

- Visit www.escip.com***
- Contact your local organization***
- Fill out this form and mail it to eScrip***

*Group list is available at the Customer Service Desk, or visit
www.escip.com to find your school or group's eScrip ID number.*

Central Bucks Det.
Marine Corps League

Group ID*
1512379860

Last Name*

First Name*

Address*

City*

State*

Zip Code*

Email Address

Phone Number

Genuardi's Club Card Number

Signature

*Required Information

Send the completed form to:
eScrip, PO Box 6988, Auburn, CA 95604



COMMUNITY CASH BACK

powered by **eScrip**

For complete program information, visit

www.escip.com

STOLEN VALOR

(From Page 1)

Under the Stolen Valor Act, falsely claiming to have received the Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star or Purple Heart would double the maximum penalty to up to a year in prison, bringing those medals in line with the Medal of Honor.

"There's more phony recipients out there than real ones," said Joe Marm, the only one of 111 living Medal of Honor recipients who hails from Western Pennsylvania.

Marm, a native of Washington, Washington County, received the Medal of Honor as an Army First Lieutenant for demonstrating "indomitable courage" during combat in 1965 near Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam.

While attending his son's graduation from Ranger school at Fort Benning, GA, in the mid-1990s, Marm said, he was introduced along with two other Medal of Honor recipients. One was real. The other -- in full dress blues with the medal around his neck -- was a phony. Marm turned him in to the FBI that afternoon.

"Anything they can do to tighten up the laws -- not just for Medal of Honor recipients, but all medals -- is a good thing," said Marm, who now lives in North Carolina.

The FBI has investigated more than 100 cases of phonies during the past decade and has about 20 open cases against people impersonating military officers.

Should the Stolen Valor Act become law, investigators would be able to go after many more, said Doug Sterner of Pueblo, CO. Sterner operates homeofheroes.com, a Web site dedicated to honoring veterans. His work has made him a de facto hunter of phonies.

"The problem is, there are scores of people who go unpunished because they slip through the loopholes of the laws as they're written," said Sterner, whose wife, Pamela, helped draft the Stolen Valor Act. "For every one who gets punished, there are hundreds who aren't."

An Arizona newspaper ran a two-page story about a local Army "hero" who captured Saddam Hussein in Iraq, routed the Taliban in Afghanistan and liberated

Haiti. A color photo showed his framed medal collection, including two Silver Stars, the Distinguished Service Cross, two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. The stories -- and medals -- were lies.

For years, an Illinois district judge displayed two Medals of Honor in a framed case in his chambers. There have been only 18 dual recipients in U.S. history, and Judge Michael O'Brien wasn't one of them. Nor is he one of the 111 living Medal of Honor recipients.

L. Ron Hubbard, the late founder of Scientology, claimed to have earned 27 military medals, including two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. In reality, the Navy says he earned just four -- the same basic medals awarded all sailors who served in the Pacific during World War II.

'STOLEN VALOR' WOULD BE A FELONY

Falsely claiming to have earned ranks and medals isn't a victimless crime, officials say.

A North Carolina college student was prosecuted after claiming military status that exempted her from more than \$42,000 in tuition and fees. Meredith College officials believed their honor student was an accomplished Air Force pilot, who flew only on weekends.

She wasn't.

A Florida widow lost more than \$45,000 to a con who claimed to have led a SEAL unit in Vietnam. He didn't.

Although most imposters don't gain financially, they do get benefits such as access to people and events they wouldn't be privy to otherwise, said Tom Cottone, an FBI agent in New Jersey who has specialized in busting frauds for more than a decade.

"They're doing it to garner unearned respect and dignity based on their heroic military exploits," Cottone said. "These people are literally stealing the valor of people who really did it, and they're taking advantage of the trust of the American people."

Cottone hopes the Stolen Valor Act becomes law.

"It will close some loopholes and send a message," Cottone said. "You will get charged. Don't do it."

華 CHINA WOK 廚

CHINESE FOOD TO DINE IN & TAKE OUT

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Mon. - Thurs. 11:00am - 10:00pm
Fri. & Sat. 11:00am - 11:00pm
Sunday: 12:00noon - 10:00pm

5843 Easton Rd.,
(Plumstead Square)
Plumsteadville, PA 18948

Tel: (215) 766-2381
(215) 766-2383

Lois Fedele

REALTOR
Nelson A. Fedele

OFFICE: (215) 348-5600
FAX: (215) 348-4033
CELL: (215) 906-8900
E-MAIL: Lfedele@weidel.com
WEB: www.weidel.com

525 NORTH MAIN STREET
PO BOX 10000 PA 18901
Office Group: (215) 348-5600



d h Gee & associates, inc.

238 Cornwell Circle
Chalfont, PA 18914-2318
e-mail: GY_GEE@aol.com

Ph: (215) 822-6808
FAX: (215) 822-0163

Iris P. Fisher
President

Don H. Gee
Vice President

Proudly Serving

U.S. MARINE CORPS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS
ASSOCIATION



Third Marine Division
Association

The Chosin Few



Central Bucks Detachment,
Marine Corps League

WE CARRY ALL MAJOR BRAND TIRES
Bridgestone • Firestone • Dayton • Goodyear
We Accept: MasterCard • Visa • Discover • American Express



"THE TIRE KING"
T.M. LYONS SR. & ASSOCS.
Wholesale to Public • Custom Wheeling
Complete Under Car Care

(610) 847-5755 • (800) 721-3962 • FAX (610) 847-2400
Routes 61 & 32 • Kimmersville, PA 18903
Hours: M-T-W-F 8-5:30 • Thurs. 8-8 • Sat. 8-3

DONALD D. PARZANESE JR.

ELECTRICIAN

P.O. Box 306
Dublin, PA

(215) 275-2711
donparz@comcast.net



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 \$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.
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"