

LISTEN UP!



CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.**

VOLUME XXI, Number 8

AUGUST 2008

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

D'TOWN BORO PROFFERS IRAQ WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Doylestown Borough Manager **John Davis** appeared before the United Veterans of Doylestown at its post-Memorial Day Parade Meeting to gain support for an Iraq War Memorial Plaque to be installed at Central Bucks West High School's War Memorial Field.

Penna. Reps Seeking Korean War Veterans

Bucks County State Representatives and Senators are seeking names and information on Korean War veterans for a special Recognition Day.

Detachment members who served during the Korean War should send the following information: Name, Service Branch, Address and Phone Number to: **Representative Scott A. Petri**; The Weather Vane; 95 Almshouse Rd., Suite 303; Richboro, PA 18954; Ph: 215-364-3414; fax: 215-364-8626.

The Korean War Recognition Day is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 9, at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Willow Grove. Ceremonies will start at 1 p.m.

Cost of the plaque, yet to be designed, will be borne by the Borough and will be placed with ex-

ans Day 2008 at War Memorial Field. Doylestown VVA Chapter Associate Member **Doreen Strat-**

ton has volunteered to help design the plaque and **UVD President Rich Quinn** pledged the support of



isting plaques honoring those who died in World War I, World War II, and Vietnam.

Mr. Davis stated dedication for the plaque will be held on Veter-

the combined veterans group for the project.

The plaque will contain the names of Doylestown area veterans who have died in the Iraq War.

BILL MILLER & JIM POWELL GET DEPARTMENT POSTS

During the General Membership Meeting at the 63rd Department of Pennsylvania Convention in Carlisle, PA, Central Bucks Detachment members **Bill Miller** and **Jim Powell** joined the newly elected/appointed Department Staff.

Past Commandant Bill Miller was elected Southeast District Vice Commandant and Detachment Commandant Jim Powell

was appointed Assistant Southeast District Vice Commandant.

Other key Department officers installed at the Convention included **Commandant Richard (Dick) Brown**, **Senior Vice Commandant Leanna Deitrich**, **Junior Vice Commandant Neil Corley**, **Adjutant Paul Hastings**, **Paymaster Kathy Van Gorder**, **Judge Advocate Ed Ringer**, and **Chaplain John Gill**.



COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Hello Marines,

As we head into the heat of the summer, the Detachment got through the busiest activity time of the year with great success.

Again we participated in the Independence Day Parade in Chalfont. We had a good Detachment turnout and **Suzanne Pearce** did another great job of feeding the troops at North Branch Park. Also again this year a Montgomery De-

tachment Marine and his Bulldog marched with us. And, as last year, the dog was a big hit with his ability to do a hand salute.

Our float trailer will be parked at **PDC Ed Hoth's** home for some much needed work over the next couple of weeks. If anyone is interested in helping out with the work, please contact **Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC**, or **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC**, for details.

Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller and I attended the Department of PA convention this year. It was held June 11th through June 15 at the Hotel Carlisle in Carlisle, PA.

Some of the highlights were:

*The new **Southeast District Vice Commandant** is our own **Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller**. Bill won a hard fought election against some of the stiffest competition imaginable. Bill then appointed me as one of his Assistants. Bill was also elected as the Military Order of Devil Dogs Pennsylvania Pack Smart Dog (Judge Advocate) and I was elected Pennsylvania Pack Dog Robber (Adjutant/Paymaster). The Military Order of Devil Dogs is the fun and honor society of the Marine Corps League. Anyone in the Detachment, who is interested in learning more about the Devil Dogs, please let me know.

*This year 83,137 Youth and Veterans raffle tickets were sold state wide. This was more than

double the sales of any of the previous years. The scholarship award was increased to \$300 because of the terrific ticket sales.

*The Chaplain seat was the only contested office and **Johnny Gill** was elected after **J. R. Wells** bowed out of the race.

We also had another transfer from the Hidden Bell Detachment -- **Ben Vandergrift**. Hidden Bell is being shutdown and their members are being asked to transfer, so far we've gotten two of their former members.

At our meeting we also discussed the National By-Laws changes being proposed this year. There are many being proposed. Bill Miller and I, whom will be attending the Convention in Orlando, FL, will do our best to represent the will of the Detachment. If you would like to see those ByLaws change proposals you can look on the Department of Florida WebSite. They have a link to the By-Laws change. You can then let Bill or me know how you feel about the changes.

That's it for now. See you in September. **Senior Vice Commandant Bill Mickelson** will be standing in for me at the September meeting due to the National Convention schedule.

Semper Fi,



**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
WILLIAM L. MICKELSON**

**Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
BEN JONES**

**ADJUTANT-PAYMASTER
DON H. GEE, PC**

**JUDGE ADVOCATE
JAMES McCOMB**

**QUARTERMASTER
COREY A. FISHER**

**CHAPLAIN
ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE, PC**

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
BOB SUNDLING, PC**

**MESS SERGEANT
VINCENT J. HAGAN**

**WEB SERGEANT
JOSEPH F. DOHERTY**

JULY DETACHMENT MEETING



M I N U T E S

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held July 9, 2008, at Advanced Medical Solutions, 54 E. Oakland St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 22 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., Budd Pearce** and **Bob Sundling**; **Southeast District Vice Commandant, Past Commandant and Marine of the Year Bill Miller**; and **Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth**.

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

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

Transfer: Marine Benjamin Vandergrift was accepted as a transfer from the former Hidden Bell Detachment. (Marine Vandergrift later recanted, stating he had transferred to the Keystone Detachment)

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported on the correspondence received since the June Meeting and discussed the Department Convention. He reported this year's Department raffle resulted in the sale of 83,137 tickets--more than twice as many as tickets as the previous record. This resulted in the Department raising the scholarships from \$200 to \$300 each. The Commandant also reported the Detachment had earned a Third Place Membership award in our category. He also reported about the various recommended National ByLaws changes which will be put forward at the National Convention. The Department of Pennsylvania has passed the Department of New York and is now the Number One Department in the League. He also reported on the new National Cemetery. He informed the members that Doylestown Borough was initiating an effort to have a bronze plaque installed on the War Memorial Field fieldhouse at Central Bucks West High School. The effort is being pursued and supported by and through the member organizations of the United Veterans of Doylestown.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Mickelson reported the Detachment strength at 52 including 23 Life Members, 24 Annual Members, 4 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member. There are four members delinquent. He also reported he had contacted the Women Marines Association and was planning to recruit local members of that organization for the Detachment.

Junior Vice Commandant Ben Jones reported he was exploring possible sites for a Detachment "Marine Corps Birthday Ball."

The **Adjutant** reported he had been informed by the Department that, effective Jan. 1, 2009, Life Members dues will increase in almost all age categories. He advised members considering converting to Life Member status do this before the increase takes effect.

Judge Advocate Jim McComb reported he was working on changing the Detachment's tax year to coincide with the Department and the National organization's tax year.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Color Guard had not been requested since the June Meeting and related memories of Marine Marlin Miller when he was a member of this Detachment.

Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, reported he was unable to attend Marlin Miller's funeral because of work. He also related fond memories of Marlin.

Quartermaster Corey Fisher reported on last month's QM sales.

The **Public Relations Officer** reported the Detachment had again been requested to participate in the annual Nockamixon Community Day. He also reported on the memento the Doylestown Township "Community Service & Veterans Memorial Committee" had given the Detachment for its participation in and support of the memorial effort. He reminded the members the deadline for submissions for the August issue of "Listen Up!" is July 20.

Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller reported about attending former Detachment Member **Marlin Miller's** funeral and his being elected Southeast District Vice Commandant. He also reported he had appointed **Commandant Jim Powell** as Assistant Southeast District Vice Commandant. He presented Commandant Powell the Department Appointed Staff Medal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Budd Pearce reminded the members the Department Rifle Match was scheduled for September. Anyone interested in joining the Rifle Team should contact him.

Young Marines Coordinator Bob Sundling reported about the Young Marines "Boot Camp." The unit graduated nine new Young Marines.

Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce reported the next highway clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, July 12. Participants should meet at "Back to the 50s" restaurant at 8 a.m. for breakfast on the Detachment prior to doing the highway clean-up.

OLD BUSINESS

Chaplain Pearce motioned the Detachment formally change its meeting site to Advanced Medical Solutions until the American Legion renovations are completed.

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Powell discussed his desire to have the Detachment participate in the Department's "Boy Scout" program.

A motion was made and unanimously accepted to explore the possibility of participating in the Boy Scout program.

Senior Vice Commandant Mickelson made a motion to donate \$50 to the “Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund” in support of former **Marine Letitia Rodriguez**’ effort to raise funds for her participation in this year’s Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC, in November. The motion was accepted.

Commandant Powell presented a Certificate to Senior Vice Commandant Mickelson for his successful completion of the Department’s “Leadership School” and a certificate to the Public Relations Officer for participating in this year’s Department newsletter competition. He also presented 100% Membership and 2008 Convention streamers to Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling for attachment to the Detachment Colors. The Commandant also presented a Department Elected Staff Medal to SE District Vice Commandant Miller in recognition of his election to that position. In addition, he presented Distinguished Service Medals to former **Mess Sergeant Wil Haas** and former **Paymaster Bob Cody** for their respective long-time service to the Detachment.

Past Commandant Don Parzanese Sr. motioned the Detachment present a Certificate of Appreciation to Advanced Medical Solutions in recognition of its support. Motion unanimously accepted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marine Joe Doherty explained the “Gathering of Eagles” and the “Sheepdogs” organizations of West Chester to which he belongs. They organize peaceful counter-demonstrations against anti-war group demonstrations. His groups consist mainly of veterans of all branches of the military and he invited the Detachment members to join the groups.

Judge Advocate McComb enjoined members to submit veteran profile articles to the group of six local newspapers which publish a weekly profile about local veterans. The *Doylestown Patriot* featured an article about our own Marine Joe Doherty this week. He also reminded the members that the “Heart of Bucks” Car Show on July 12 at Central Bucks West High School. Proceeds from this year’s event will be donated to “Operation Uplink” which provides phone cards for deployed veterans. He also invited the Detachment to participate in a ceremony planned for August to present World War II Victory Medals to veteran members of the Bucks County Association of the Blind & Visually Impaired.

Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling reminded the members to keep donating articles for the troops overseas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 13.

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT
MARINES ON THE NET**

CAPRIO, Paul mibupe@aol.com
 CODY, Bob codyrj@att.net
 CUPITT, Steve scupitt@aol.com
 scupitt@motorola.com
 GEE, Don USMCCCA@aol.com
 HOTH, Ed Edhothusmc@aol.com
 JONES, Ben benjaminjones1@gmail.com
 KELLER, Bruce bruce@taylosbucks.com
 McCOMB, Jim jim_mccomb@verizon.net
 MILLER, Bill billjae@verizon.net
 MOMORELLA, Bob mombo@starlinx.com
 PARZANESE, Don, Sr. parzanese@quigleyco.com
 PARZANESE, Don, Jr. donald.parzanese@us.army.mil
 PEARCE, Budd Buddpearce@comcast.net
 POWELL, Jim jim.powell@aig.com
 usmc80@comcast.net
 SCOTT, Rich richgscott@aol.com
 SUNDLING, Bob psundling@verizon.net
 sundling@tiniusolsen.com
 WALDRON, Mike waldron@quigleyco.com

FOOD

For those of you who watch what you eat...Here’s the final word on nutrition and health. It’s a relief to know the truth, after all those conflicting medical studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
3. The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
4. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beers and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans

Conclusion: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

**LISTEN UP!
Seeks Editor**

We still need someone familiar with desktop publishing to edit our Detachment newsletter. If you’re interested in serving your Detachment as its P-R Officer, contact **Commandant Jim Powell** (215-862-6280) or **Adjutant-Paymaster Don Gee** (215-822-6898).

BREVET MEDAL IS RAREST

The Marine Corps Brevet Medal had the distinction of being obsolete as soon as it was awarded--which may explain why only 20 Marines received it.

As early as 1814, Congress authorized the President to "confer brevet rank on such officers of the Marine Corps as shall distinguish themselves by gallant actions or meritorious conduct." A brevet promotion was an advancement in rank--ordinarily without pay or other benefits--to reward combat heroism or meritorious service in the days before the Corps had decorations and medals for officers.

Dr. Charles McDowell, a U.S. military awards expert, said brevet promotions "were quite popular in the 19th century, but they also caused problems because the practice was abused and brevet promotions created large numbers of officers in the higher ranks."

Although Congress did not outlaw brevet promotions, it passed legislation in 1870 that prohibited any Marine from wearing his brevet rank. There was also little need for brevet promotions after World War I, when the Medal of Honor and other medals could be used to recognize officer heroism, merit and service.

After World War I, however, there were a number of Marines who held brevet promotions.

MajGen. John Lejeune, who became Commandant of the Marine Corps in July 1920, wanted to recognize these Leathernecks.

In April 1921, Lejeune recom-

mended to the Secretary of the Navy that an appropriate decoration be approved for the uniform denoting that the wearer had received a brevet promotion. The



next month, the Marine Corps Brevet Medal was approved.

The new medal could be awarded to any officer holding a brevet commission "for distinguished conduct and public service in the presence of the enemy" during the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish-

American War, the Philippine Insurrection, or the Boxer Rebellion.

Since the medal could not be awarded posthumously, a limited number of Marines received it. Also, because no brevet commissions had been given after the Boxer Rebellion, the Brevet Medal was obsolete the day it was issued.

The medal is a bronze cross, with each arm extended in a semi-circular shape. In the center of the cross is the word "BREVET" circled by the words, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS." The opposite side is plain except for the words "For Distinguished Service in the Presence of the Enemy."

The Brevet Medal was originally to be worn immediately after the campaign medal for which the promotion was earned. This changed in 1929, when the medal was elevated in precedence so that it was second only to the Medal of Honor.

Because only 20 Marines received the Brevet Medal, it is the rarest of American military decorations.

LIFE MEMBER DUES INCREASE SET FOR JANUARY 1, 2009

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>1Jan09</u>
Age 35 & Under	\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00
Age 36 - 40	\$ 350.00	\$ 400.00
Age 41 - 50	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
Age 51 - 60	\$ 250.00	\$ 300.00
Age 61 & Above	\$ 125.00	\$ 150.00

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DETACHMENT MEETING
13 AUGUST**

**LABOR DAY
1 SEPTEMBER**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
10 SEPTEMBER**

**PATRIOT DAY
11 SEPTEMBER**

**CITIZENSHIP/
CONSTITUTION DAY
17 SEPTEMBER**

**POW/MIA DAY
19 SEPTEMBER**

**NOCKAMIXON DAY
20 SEPTEMBER**

**FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN
22 SEPTEMBER**

**ROSH HASHANANAH
30 SEPTEMBER**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
8 OCTOBER**

**YOM KIPPUR
9 OCTOBER**

**COLUMBUS DAY
13 OCTOBER**

**DEPARTMENT
FALL STAFF
MEETING
17-18 OCTOBER**

VA Reaching Out to Recent Combat Vets

WASHINGTON--The Department of Veterans Affairs began contacting nearly 570,000 recent combat veterans May 1 to ensure they know about VA's medical services and other benefits.

"We will reach out and touch every veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom to let them know we are here for them," said Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. James B. Peake, a retired lieutenant general who served as Army surgeon general. "VA is committed to getting these veterans the help they need and deserve."

A contractor-operated "Combat Veteran Call Center" will telephone two distinct populations of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said. In the first phase, calls will go to an estimated 17,000 veterans who were sick or injured while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. VA will offer to appoint a care manager to work with them if they don't have one already. Care managers ensure veterans receive appropriate care and know about their VA benefits.

For five years after their discharge from the military, these combat veterans have special access to VA health care. The department screens combat veterans for signs of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. VA personnel have been deployed to the military's major medical centers to assist wounded service members and their families during the transition to civilian lives.

The new call center's second phase will target 550,000 Afghanistan and Iraq veterans who have been discharged from active duty but have not contacted VA for services. Once contacted, veterans will be informed about VA's benefits and services. The initial calls will be made by a private contractor, EDS, which specializes in technology services to improve business. If needed, VA employees will make follow-up calls, officials said.

"We will leave no stone unturned to reach these veterans," said Dr. Edward Huycke, chief of the Veterans Affairs-Defense Department Coordination Office.

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--individual envelopes.

Thanks, Marines, for your continued support!

Quartermaster Store

DETACHMENT STRIP



\$5.00

USMC SATIN JACKET



\$55.00

**LIFE MEMBER
BLAZER CREST**



\$25.00

COVER



\$22.00

**DETACHMENT
T-SHIRT**



\$15.00

MCL PATCH



\$3.50

**DETACHMENT
LICENSE PLATE**



\$10.00

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



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**

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"