

# LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXII, Number 8

AUGUST 2009

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

## VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL IN QUAKERTOWN

The Vietnam Memorial Wall, known as "The Wall That Heals," will be in Quakertown's Memorial Park Aug. 13-16. The event is sponsored by the Wallace Willard Keller American Legion Post #242.

On Veterans Day 1996, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund unveiled a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., designed to travel to communities throughout the United States.

"Bringing The Wall Home" to communities throughout our country allows the souls enshrined on the Memorial to exist, once more, among family and friends

in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings.

The traveling exhibit, allows the many thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of "facing The Wall" to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, thus allowing the healing process to begin.

The Wall That Heals also features a Traveling Museum and Information Center providing a comprehensive educational component to enrich and complete visitors' experiences. The Museum chronicles the Vietnam War era and the unique healing power of the Vietnam

Veterans Memorial, while the Information Center serves as a venue for people to learn about friends and loved ones lost in the war.

Since its dedication, The Wall That Heals has visited more than 300 cities and towns throughout the nation, spreading the Memorial's healing legacy to millions.

In addition to its U.S. tour stops, the exhibition made its first-ever international journey in April 1999 to the Four Provinces of Ireland to honor the Irish-born casualties of the Vietnam War and the Irish-Americans who served. It has also traveled to Canada.

## Webb Introduces Perpetual Purple Heart Stamp

Sen. Jim Webb has introduced the bipartisan Perpetual Purple Heart Stamp Act that would direct the U. S. Postal Service to issue a Purple Heart stamp as a permanent "Forever" stamp. Cosponsors of the legislation include Sens. Sherwood Brown of Ohio, Barbara Boxer of California, Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas, Ben Nelson of Nebraska, David Vitter of Louisiana, and Roger Wicker of Mississippi.

The "Forever" designation would ensure that the first-class stamp would never expire or decrease in value. Webb and many of his colleagues sent a letter to the Postmaster General noting that such a stamp would honor servicemembers and veterans who have earned the Purple Heart.

"This is a most appropriate way to honor past and future recipients of our



nation's oldest military decoration," said Webb, a Marine Corps combat veteran.

Since its first issuance in 2003, approximately 1.2 million First Class Purple

Heart stamps have been sold worldwide.

"The introduction of this legislation to make the Purple Heart stamp a 'Forever' stamp is just another example of Sen. Webb's Dedication," said **Military Order of the Purple Heart National Commander Jeff Roy**.

"The Purple Heart stamp would join the Liberty Bell, one a symbol of our freedom, and the other a symbol of the sacrifices made by many to keep our freedom."

Earlier this year Webb received an MOPH Special Leadership Award in recognition of his work to create a post 9/11 G.I. Bill and as a long-time advocate for our men and women in uniform.



# COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Hello Marines,

We've had great weather this year and that made for a very comfortable busy season for the Detachment. We again participated in the Independence Day Parade in Chalfont and had a nice turn out. We missed the picnic that **Suzanne Pearce** usually puts on at North Branch Park this year, though. Also, again this year, our Montgomery Detachment Marine

and his Bulldog marched with us. His bulldog--*Semper Fi*--passed away over the past year and he had his new puppy--*Leatherneck*--with him in the parade.

I attended the New Jersey Pack Grand Growl and Department Convention in Woodbridge, NJ, this year. It was held June 18-20. Their new **Department Commandant is Bob Fackina**, who is a member of the Hunterdon County Bulldog Detachment, of which I am dual member.

**Junior Past Commandant, Bill Miller** and I attended the Department of Pennsylvania convention this year. It was held June 24-27 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center, New Cumberland, PA. Some of the highlights were:

We have our first woman Commandant, **Leanna Dietrich**.

**Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller**, was again elected Southeast District Vice Commandant and he, again, appointed me as one of his assistants. Bill was also re-elected as the Military Order of Devil Dogs Pennsylvania Pack Smart Dog (Judge Advocate) and I was re-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 more than 97,000 Youth and Veterans raffle tickets were sold statewide. We again increased the number of tickets

sold over the previous year. There were 83 scholarships awarded this year.

We also had another possible member attend this past meeting, **Alan Waldo**. He was recruited by **Marine Ken Murray** and we will hopefully have him take the oath at the August meeting.

At our last meeting, we also discussed the possibility of having a Birthday Ball this year. **Junior Vice Commandant Ben Jones** is doing the preliminary work this month and will have more information at the August meeting. Bill Miller and I will, again, be attending the National Convention, this year in Rochester, MN.

That's it for now.  
See you in August!



**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 McCOMB**

**Jr. VICE COMMANDANT  
BEN JONES**

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

**JUDGE ADVOCATE  
WILLIAM MICKELSON**

**QUARTERMASTER  
COREY A. FISHER**

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

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

**MESS SERGEANT  
VINCENT J. HAGAN**

**WEB SERGEANT  
JAMES POWELL**

**4th of JULY  
in the  
WAR ZONE**



FLAG-RAISING--Our own Don Parzanese Jr. and his commander raising Old Glory on the 4th of July.

More photos from the war front in the next issue of *LISTEN UP!*

# JULY DETACHMENT MEETING



## MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held July 8, 2009, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 510 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 20 members present including all officers except the Chaplain and the Mess Sergeant. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee and Bob Sundling; Past Commandant and Department Northeast District Vice Commandant Bill Miller. Past National Northeast Division Commandant and Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth; and Marine of the Year Jim McComb.**

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

The **Paymaster's Report** was presented by the Adjutant/Paymaster and was unanimously accepted.

**Guests:** Marine **Alan Waldo** of Hatboro submitted his membership application. He will be installed at the August Meeting when he provides a copy of his DD-214.

**Sick Call:** Department Assistant SE District Vice Commandant **Chuck Holland** has died.

### OFFICER REPORTS

**Commandant Jim Powell** reported on the Department Convention. The Department has elected its first female Commandant--**Leanna Dietrich**--who was installed by an all-female Installation Team. He also announced the other new Department officers. The Detachment received an award (and streamer) for achieving Second Place in the Department for Membership (108.33%). The Detachment's Pistol Team received an award for placing second in the Department Pistol Match. The Commandant also announced one of the \$100 winning raffle tickets was sold by **Marine Ken Murray**. He also received Department Certificates of Participation for our web site and newsletter. He stated he has copies of the approved ByLaws changes.

**Senior Vice Commandant Jim McComb** reported the Detachment strength at 60 members including 29 Life Members, 26 Regular Members, 4 Associate Members and 1 Honorary Life Member. There is one member delinquent and two members on active duty.

**Junior Vice Commandant Ben Jones** will be making a mailout to the members to see if there is any interest in holding our own Birthday Ball.

**The Judge Advocate** reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

**The Adjutant/Paymaster** reported the Detachment had received correspondence from the Colby Umbrell Memorial Committee seeking members to join that committee. Anyone interested in joining this committee should contact the Adjutant-Paymaster for details. The Detachment received an acknowledgement from the Department Scholarship Fund for our donation in memory of **Marine Bob Cody**.

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC,** reported the Color Guard had not been requested since the last meeting.

**The Public Relations Officer** set July 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the August issue of "Listen Up!" He attended the initial meeting of the New Britain Township Veterans Memorial Committee. Anyone else interested in joining this committee should contact the Adjutant/Paymaster. He also attended the "Toys-for-Tots" Committee meeting at JRB, Willow Grove. The Zaengle Detachment (Montgomery County) will probably be the lead Marine Corps League unit for this effort. With the relocation of MAG-49 to McGuire AFB in New Jersey in 2011, the "Toys-for-Tots" program will fall exclusively to the Marine Corps League to continue. This year and next year, the local MCL detachments will be assisting the MAG with the program. Participation by the Detachments will involve a lot of man-hours. Any members interested in assisting with this program should contact the Adjutant/Paymaster.

**Quartermaster Corey Fisher** reported on the June Meeting sales.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Adopt-A-Highway:** The highway clean-up will be held on Saturday, July 11. Members will meet at "Back to the 50s" restaurant at 8 a.m. for breakfast on the Detachment before starting the clean-up.

**Young Marines Instructor Bob Sundling** reported the Young Marines unit had a new instructor. The unit will be running a "Boot Camp" from July 20-26.

**Rifle & Pistol Team:** The Department Rifle Match is scheduled for September. Anyone wanting to join the Rifle & Pistol Team should contact **Team Captain Budd Pearce** as soon as possible.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Commandant Powell** awarded the Meritorious Commendation Ribbon (Individual) to **Marine Ken Murray** for his dedication and achievement in this year's Department Scholarship Program. Marine Murray sold more than 700 of the Detachment's 1,212 raffle tickets.

**Commandant Powell** appointed a Float Committee to look into refurbishing the Detachment Parade Float. **Chaplain Pearce** will chair. **Ed Hoth, PDC;** and the will serve on the committee.

**Commandant Powell** appointed a Fund-Raising Committee. **Junior Vice Commandant Jones** will chair. **Comman-**

dant Powell, the Adjutant/Paymaster and Marine Murray will serve.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE**

Commandant Powell enjoined the members to nominate deserving individuals for awards. He stated "If you know a Detachment member who you think is deserving of an award, contact me or one of the Detachments officers about it."

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans "Traveling Wall" will be unveiled in Quakertown, Aug. 13-16, at Memorial Park.

Marine Mike Waldron reminded the members that a ceremony will be held at noon on Saturday, July 25, at the Korean War Monument at the Bucks County Courthouse. He also announced that a movement is underway to raise funds for the expansion of the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Former Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Gene Overstreet is spearheading the effort to have each Marine donate \$250 per year for the next three years to raise the funds needed for the expansion. Contact Marine Waldron (215-672-7095) for more details.

Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling announced there will be talks by three Iraqi War veterans aboard the battleship NEW JERSEY at 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 9. A tour of the ship and cocktails are included in the \$20 admission fee. Parking is available nearby and there are shuttle busses available also.

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

Adjutant/Paymaster Don Gee, PC, gave Part I of his biography at the meeting. The conclusion will be delivered at the August Meeting.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, August 12, at 7:30 p.m.**

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT  
MARINES ON THE NET**

- CAPRIO, Paul ..... midupe@aol.com
- CODY, Bob ..... codyrj@att.net
- CUPITT, Steve ..... scupitt@aol.com
- DeBELLA, Vincent ..... vincdebe@aol.com
- DOHERTY, Joe ..... joedog7@verizon.net
- DUFF, Bob ..... duffrft@verizon.net
- GEE, Don ..... USMCCCA@aol.com
- GREGAN, Ryan ..... ryangregan@comcast.net
- HAGAN, Vincent ..... vincent.hagan@pnc.com
- HOTH, Ed ..... Edhothusmc@aol.com
- JONES, Ben ..... benjaminjones1@gmail.com
- KELLER, Bruce ..... bruce@taylorsbucks.com
- KOHLER, Bill ..... mustangcaptbill@aol.com
- KOPP, Jacob T. .... jkopp14@mac.com
- McCOMB, Jim ..... jim\_mccomb@verizon.net
- McSTAY, James F. .... jmcstay@comcast.net
- MICKELSON, Bill ..... billmikelson@verizon.net
- MILLER, Bill ..... billjae@verizon.net
- MURRAY, Ken ..... kenmur1949@yahoo.com
- MOMORELLA, Bob ..... mombo@starlinx.com
- PARZANESE, Tony ..... tonyparz@hotmail.com
- PARZANESE, Don, Sr. .... donparzsr@comcast.net
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usmc80@comcast.net
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- SMITH, Gary ..... sgarysemperfi@aol.com
- SUNDLING, Bob ..... psundling@verizon.net  
sundling@tiniusolsen.com
- WALDRON, Mike ..... waldron@quigleyco.com
- WIMER, Lee ..... leewimer@aol.com

**YOUNG MARINES  
PLANNING TRIP TO DC**

Our Marines Unit is planning a bus trip to Washington, DC.

Scheduled for Friday, Aug. 28, cost is \$55 per person. Cost includes the bus trip and dinner on Friday night. Water and small snacks will be provided on the bus.

The trip will include stops at the monuments in addition to the Evening Parade at the 8th & I Marine Barracks with dinner in the Barracks Messhall before the parade.

The bus will load-up in the Target Parking Lot (Rt. 611 & Street Rd., Warrington) at 7:30 a.m.

Anyone interested in joining the Young Marines Unit on this trip, contact Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling at 215-348-8925 or e-mail at: psundling@verizon.net or sundling@tiniusolsen.com.

**SCHEDULE  
OF EVENTS**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
12 AUGUST**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
9 SEPTEMBER**

**NOCKAMIXON  
COMMUNITY DAY  
19 SEPTEMBER**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
14 OCTOBER**

# MONOPOLY IN WORLD WAR II

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the authorities were casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape.

Obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where things were, but also showing the locations of "safe houses" where a POW on the loose could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks. They make a lot of noise when opening and folding them. They wear out rapidly. And, if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in M.I-5 got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be crunched up into tiny wads, folded and unfolded numerous times, and makes noise.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk--John Waddington, Ltd.

When approached by the government,

the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the United Kingdom licensee for the popular American board game Monopoly. As it happened, "games and pastimes" was a category of item qualified for insertion into "CARE packages" dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were located. (Red Cross packages were delivered to prisoners in accordance with the same regional system.)

When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece. The clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add a playing token containing a small mag-

netic compass, a two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together, and useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian and French currency hidden within the piles of Monopoly money.

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their mission, how to identify a "rigged" Monopoly set--by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the "Free Parking" square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets.

Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British government might want to use this highly successful ruse in the future.

The story was declassified until 2007 when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

## VA Accepting Post-9/11 GI Bill Applications

WASHINGTON--The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced last month that Veterans can begin submitting applications on-line for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

"There is no better investment than education," said **Tammy Duckworth**, VA's Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs. "The Post-9/11 GI Bill will provide new opportunities that are essential to our Veterans, our workforce and our economy."

Veterans, service members, reservists and National Guard members with active duty since Sept. 10, 2001, may be eligible for this benefit.

Veterans will remain eligible for benefits for 15 years from the date of last discharge or release from a period of active duty of at least 90 continuous

days.

Eligible applicants must have served for an aggregate period of at least 90 days since Sept. 10, 2001, or served at least 30 continuous days on active duty since Sept. 10, 2001, and received a discharge for disability.

Benefit payment rates range from 40 percent of the maximum benefit for a person with at least 90 days, but less than 6 months of aggregate service and up to 100 percent of the benefit for people with at least 36 months of aggregate service or 30 continuous days and a discharge due to a service connected disability. Prospective beneficiaries may apply on-line through the GI Bill Web site at [www.GIBILL.VA.gov](http://www.GIBILL.VA.gov) <<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>> .

Qualified Veterans will receive a

"Certification of Eligibility" as well as additional information regarding benefits they may qualify for under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which will become effective on Aug. 1, 2009.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill, passed by Congress last year, is the most extensive educational assistance program authorized since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944. It provides eligible applicants with tuition payments to assist them in getting a college education.

For many participants, it also provides a housing allowance and a stipend for books and supplies.

Information about the new program and VA's other educational benefits can be obtained through the GI Bill WebSite or by calling 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551).

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Central Bucks Detachment,  
Marine Corps League

**PURPOSE OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

To preserve the traditions, promote the interest, and perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and, by fitting acts, to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

To band those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that Service together in fellowship, that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy.

To hold sacred the memory and the history of men and women who have given their lives to the nation.

To foster love for the principles that they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic.

To maintain true allegiance to American institutions.

To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines, uniformed and civilian, as well as to their surviving spouses and orphans.

League members know a special bond of comradeship unique to those who have worn the Marine Emblem. The members look after one another. They observe national holidays such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day and days of special interest to Marines such as the Marine Corps birthday, the anniversary of the flag raising at Iwo Jima and the day the Fourth Marine Brigade entered Belleau Wood.

The League performs some of its most important service on the local level through programs of benefit to the communities.

Many detachments recognizing a need, embark on special programs to help advance their towns and cities.

# 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**

**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)

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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 **\$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**