



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

VOLUME XI, Number 8

AUGUST 1998

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held July 8, 1998, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 21 members present including all officers. Distinguished Marines in attendance included: **National Public Relations Officer Don Gee**; **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., and Frank Yohe**; **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**; and, **Marine of the Year Paul Caprio**.

The minutes of the June Meeting were unanimously approved.

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

Members sick and in distress: **Marine Joe Hazen** is still in the hospital. **Marine Charles Quinter** is in Texas undergoing specialized treatment for cancer. **Marine Bill Plant, PC**, has been treated as an out-patient for lung problems. **Junior Vice Commandant Paul Caprio's** son sustained a concussion and his mother-in-law is suffering from a heart condition.

New Members: An application was received from **William F. Clark** as a "renewal." Clark was Commandant of the Detachment when it was chartered more than 11 years ago. He had been dropped from Marine Corps League roles a number of years ago for non-payment of dues. His application was tabled until the August Meeting so that the Judge Advocate could review applicable National, Department and Detachment Bylaws to determine the appropriate action for the Detachment to take on this application.

Commandant Budd Pearce reported he had attended the Department Convention. The Detachment received 1st Place Awards for our VAVS Program and for "Americanism."

Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, reported the Detachment strength at 51 including 15 Life Members, 31 Regular Members and 5 Associate Members. We have four members delinquent in their dues.

Junior Vice Commandant Paul Caprio reported the Detachment had sold 85 tickets to the "California Suite" performance scheduled for July 12 at Town & Country Players in Buckingham. We still have tickets available. He also reported on the

(Continued on Page 3)

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON 12 AUGUST 1998
AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN



LISTEN UP!

LISTEN UP! is the internal information publication of the **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT** of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc. It is published monthly by and for the members of the Central Bucks Detachment.

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT
Marine Corps League
of Pennsylvania, Inc.
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Meets
7:30 p.m.,
2d Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
315 North Street
Doylestown, PA

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Sr. VICE COMMANDANT:
DON H. GEE, PC

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT:
PAUL CAPRIO

ADJUTANT:
GARY SMITH

PAYMASTER:
ROBERT C. CODY

JUDGE ADVOCATE:
BOB MOMORELLA

CHAPLAIN:
DON PARZANESE JR.

QUARTERMASTER:
ROBERT DUFF

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
ROBERT A. SUNDLING

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
& EDITOR:
DON H. GEE, PC

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

I want to thank all of the great Marines of the Central Bucks Detachment for all of their work and support over the past few months. The Detachment has been rather active since early Spring doing parades, ceremonies and fund raisers. All of this activity is possible only when members care enough to get involved when there are things to do. Our Detachment can be extremely proud of the job it is doing and the number of members who turn out to support our programs and activities. In the Department of Pennsylvania, it is not uncommon to have Detachments with larger memberships than our Detachment to not be able to muster enough members to hold a meeting. I am very proud to be associated with a group of outstanding Marines who continue to turn out more than 40 percent of our membership for monthly meetings. This is absolutely **OUTSTANDING!** Thanks again for your support. The Detachment took First Place in the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) and the "Americanism" programs again this year. I wish to thank **Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC**, for all of his work with VAVS which really won this award for us. I also want to thank my wife, **Suzanne Pearce**, for all of her work in getting our scrapbook in first class condition again this year. For you newer members, the good-looking woman who is always taking pictures of us at just about everything we do is Suzanne. I'm sure I speak for the entire Detachment when I say "Thank you, Suzanne!" for providing the refreshments for us after the 4th of July Parade in New Britain again. We really appreciate it.

Speaking of the 4th of July Parade, our float got a lot of nice comments during and after the parade this year. Thanks to **Marine Mike Waldron** for all of his good ideas and for volunteering to be our Parade Committee Chair. "You did a great job for the Detachment, Mike. Thanks!" **Judge Advocate Bob Momorella** did a fantastic on the Division signs that made the float look so good. We thank you, Bob, for your involvement and for your talent. There is a possibility that the Detachment will change 4th of July Parade participation next year. Southampton has been asking us to consider marching in its "Southampton Days Parade" on the 4th of July. Full details are being discussed and a report will be presented at the August Meeting. Come to the meeting and give us your opinion, please!

That's about it for now. Keep a good thought, and maybe a prayer or two, in your heart for all of our members and their families who are on the "Sick and In Distress" list. See you at the August Meeting.

Semper Fi,

Detachment's participation in the Annual Willow Grove Air Show stating it was not as big a success as last year's show but the Detachment is now "locked in" at the base for future Air Shows. He reported we had received two "Listen Up!" advertisement renewals.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no communications from the National or Department organizations.

Judge Advocate Bob Momorella reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling reported the Detachment had received a "Thank You" note from **Mrs. Elizabeth Igoe**, mother of the late William Igoe, for its participation in the Memorial Day Dedication of "Igoe, Porter, Wellings Memorial Field" in Warrington. The three Warrington residents were killed in action in Vietnam. Questions about participating in next year's Southampton Days Parade on July 4 and the Hatboro Santa Claus Parade were raised. Sgt.-at-Arms Sundling and Judge Advocate Momorella will get more details on each for the next meeting.

Quartermaster Bob Duff reported he had received a new price list from Marine Corps League Headquarters and there were some significant increases in prices of MCL items.

Public Relations--Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC, set July 13 as the deadline for submitting articles for the next issue of "Listen Up!"

STANDING COMMITTEES

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Don Parzanese Sr., PC, reminded the membership that the next highway clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, July 11. Participants will meet at Lu's Place in Edison for breakfast.

VAVS--The Detachment logged 27 volunteer hours since the May Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marine Mike Waldron reported a Marine Corps League Detachment is sponsoring a two-day trip to Washington, DC. Details were available on the back table.

Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling reminded the Detachment that the books donated to the Detachment are available for \$1.00 each. Those books not sold by the end of the August Meeting will be donated to the Veterans Hospice in Philadelphia.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed until 1930 on August 12.

MARINE HERO KILLED DEFENDING HOME

ROSEBURG, OR--The Marine Corps' first flying ace was killed in a shooting incident while defending his home.

Retired **Major General Marion Carl**, 82, was shot by a burglar who kicked in the door to his home the evening of June 28 and demanded cash from Carl's wife.

Authorities are still searching for the suspect, Jesse Stuart Fanus, a 19-year-old area resident who has a record of arrests on charges including drunken driving, burglary and criminal trespassing.

Edna Carl, who suffered a grazing gunshot wound to the head, explained that her husband was fatally shot as he lunged to protect her from the burglar. The man took \$200 to \$400 in cash and drove off in their car, but abandoned it 10 miles away.

Marion Carl became the Corps' first air ace Aug. 26, 1942, downing 11 enemy aircraft during the battle for Guadalcanal. By the end of the war, he was credited with 18.5 kills. His valor earned him two Navy Crosses.

CHESTY PULLER BOUND FOR EGYPT

PORTLAND, Ore.--LtGen. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller is heading for Egypt.

The 20-year-old Navy frigate Lewis B. Puller steamed down the Willamette River away from the Portland Rose Festival June 8 to be decommissioned in San Diego and turned over to the Egyptian Navy.

Puller was the most decorated Marine in the Corps' history, earning five Navy Crosses during his career.

A ceremony was held on the bow of the ship June 7--the day "Chesty" would have celebrated his birthday. He died in 1971.

History of The MARINES HYMN

*“From the Halls of Montezuma
to the Shores of Tripoli”*

America declared war on the Barbary Pirates of northern Africa in 1805 because they had been raiding our ships in the Mediterranean Ocean. During that conflict, Lieutenant Presley N. O’Bannon, USMC, and his small force of Marines participated in the capture of the city of Derne in Tripoli (which is today part of the country of Libya).

As this was the first time that the American flag had been hoisted over a fortress in the Old World, the Colors (ceremonial flag) of the Marine Corps was inscribed with the words: “To The Shores of Tripoli.”

During the hardest fighting of the Mexican War, U.S. Marines were the first to breach the otherwise impregnable walls of Mexico City by capturing the Castle of Chapultapec, which was the palace of the greatest Aztec emperor, Montezuma.

The Colors of the Corps were then changed to read “From the Shores of Tripoli to the Halls of Montezuma.”

Following the Close of the Mexican War came the first verse of the Marines’ Hymn, written, according to tradition, by a Marine on duty in Mexico.

For the sake of euphony, the unknown author transposed the phrases in the motto on the Colors so that the first two lines on the Hymn would read: “From the Halls of Montezuma, To the Shores

of Tripoli.”

Many interesting stories have been associated with the Marines’ Hymn. One of the best was published in the Stars and Stripes, the official newspaper of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe, under the date of August 16, 1918.

“A wounded officer from among the gallant French Lancers had just been carried into a Yankee field hospital to have his dressing



changed. He was full of compliments and curiosity about the dashing contingent that fought at his regiment’s left.

“A lot of them are mounted troops by this time,” he explained, “for when our men would be shot from their horses, these youngsters would give one running jump and gallop ahead as cavalry. I believe they are soldiers from Montezuma. At least, when they advanced this morning, they were all singing “From the Halls of

Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli’.”

The Marines’ Hymn has been sung and played in all four corners of the earth and today is recognized as one of the foremost service songs.

The Marines’ Hymn

“From the Halls of Montezuma
To the Shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country’s battles
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
of **United States Marine.**

“Our flag’s unfurled to every
breeze
From the dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in ev’ry clime
and place
Where we could take a gun;
In the snows of far off Northern
lands
And in sunny tropics scenes;
You will find us always on the
job—

The United States Marines.

“Here’s health to you and to our
Corps
Which we are proud to serve
In many a strife we’ve fought
for life
And never lost our nerve;
If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven’s scenes;
They will find the streets are
guarded
By **United States Marines.**”

VA Initiates Benefits Education for Former POWs

A new outreach campaign to educate former prisoners of war about VA benefits to which they may be entitled is now being conducted by VA.

Buoyed by the success of an initiative based at the St. Louis VA Regional Office, VA Under Secretary of Benefits John Vogel has directed all regional benefits offices renew outreach to former prisoners of war (POWs) to ensure they are familiar with benefits and services available.

The St. Louis program was not initially aimed to be a pilot project for the VA system, but when Vogel learned of the work there during a visit, he moved to export the initiative VA-wide. In a project which sprang from the convention of a midwest ex-POW organization, the St. Louis office derived a list of former POWs through several veterans groups, its own benefits records, and state motor vehicle registrations of special POW license plates, and invited the former POWs to seminars to explain benefit provisions.

"I have learned that many former POWs are still unaware of their expanded entitlements as a result of liberalizing legislation. In addition, many former POWs are reluctant to file for an increased evaluation because they fear their present evaluation may be reduced," Vogel advised VA's regional offices.

With a total of about 240 former POWs attending one of three seminars held earlier this year in different Missouri locations, VA subsequently received 135 claims. Among the first 105 rated, the dis-

ability rating—and corresponding monthly compensation payment—was raised in 84 cases. Eighteen former POWs were found to be entitled to a 100 percent evaluation due to unemployment as a result of their service-connected disabilities and eight approved claims were altogether new.

The Missouri program was initiated after a Kansas City meeting between VA officials and the Heart of America Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War veterans group. The veteran leaders and VA officials decided the face-to-face meetings would promote trust and alleviate fears that benefits might be reduced upon reevaluation.

The St. Louis VA office mailed

invitations to the roster of former POWs while the American Ex-Prisoners of War chapter worked with local news media to promote the meetings, which familiarized the veterans with VA programs.

Benefits available to former prisoners of war include special VA medical care access as well as compensation for service-related injuries and diseases.

The format for future outreach to ensure former POWs around the country know of their benefits was left to the design of each VA regional office. Vogel did direct the benefits offices to improve communications with former POWs, starting with contacting all known POW advocacy groups in their regions to explore ways in which to conduct outreach.



MARINE CORPS TRIVIA QUIZ



1. What is Article 89 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice?
2. Name three parts of a grenade.
3. What letters are printed on a chemical contamination marker?
4. What does MRE stand for?
5. What is a flag called when it is carried by troops?

Answers in Next Month's Newsletter ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. The male long-sleeve shirt should have a tolerance of plus or minus 1/2 inch.
2. When administering CPR, you find where to push on the chest by measuring up two or three finger-widths from the xiphoid (bottom of rib cage).
3. Recon's motto is, "Swift, Silent, Deadly," the original motto of the Marine Raiders in WWII.
4. The UCMJ Punitive Articles are Articles 77 through 134.
5. "Starboard" is the Naval term used to indicate a direction to the right of center line.

Vietnan Veterans, Children to Benefit from VA Decision

President Clinton announced recently that Vietnam veterans afflicted with prostate cancer and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy are entitled to disability payments based on their exposure to Agent Orange. Clinton said the Department of Veterans Affairs also will propose legislation to provide a remedy for children of Vietnam veterans who suffer from spina bifida.

The decisions follow a VA review of a report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on the health effects of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. NAS found that there is new evidence to show an association with prostate cancer, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy (a neurological disorder) in Vietnam veterans, and spina bifida (a congenital abnormality) in their children.

"I am concerned about the NAS findings—particularly the suggestion that the children of Vietnam veterans may be at higher risk for spina bifida, since VA does not have the authority to provide benefits based on birth defects in veterans' children, VA Secretary Togo West said. "We will seek legislation to provide an appropriate remedy."

West is directing that a regulation be developed quickly so that VA can begin compensating Vietnam veterans currently disabled from acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy (if manifested within one year of exposure) and those with prostate cancer.

West noted that the VA decisions are based on standards that are not ordinarily used for scientific inquiry, saying: "The evidence is evenly balanced regarding these conditions. But the President and I believe that VA needs to be on the side of veterans and their children."

VA estimates that potentially up to 3,000 children of Vietnam veterans may be afflicted with spina bifida.

Approximately 2.6 million veterans served in South Vietnam and in adjacent waters. Vietnam veterans are not required to prove exposure to Agent Orange; VA presumes that all military personnel who served in Vietnam were exposed.

In response to the NAS report, VA also will be increasing funding for research to learn more about the possible relationship between herbicide exposure and the development of birth defects, including spina bifida, and other health problems in veterans' offspring. The Department is issuing requests for proposals for a new Environmental Hazards Research Center that will focus on reproductive health issues.



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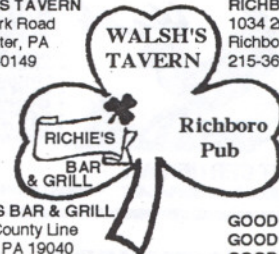


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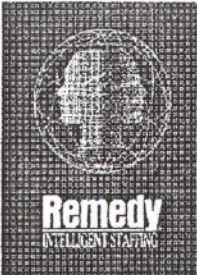
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