



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XV, Number 12

DECEMBER 2003



**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636
P. O. Box 1372
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7:30 p.m.
2nd Wednesday of Month
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**MARINE OF THE YEAR
ELLIS M. "BUDD" PEARCE, PC**

Gulf War Vets Diagnosed With ALS Are Eligible For VA Care

*By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON -- About two years ago, Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi declared that U.S. military veterans who had served in the Persian Gulf region during the 1990-91 Gulf War are eligible for VA care if they've been diagnosed with a rare neurological disease that killed a famous baseball player.

Principi's decision, announced in December 2001, was based on a \$1.3 million DoD/VA-sponsored study of Gulf War veterans that indicated service members who had deployed to the Gulf "were at elevated risk" of acquiring amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, according to DoD Office of Health Affairs documents.

The medical journal "Neurology" published the results of the study, which began in March 2000, in its Sept. 23, 2003, issue.

Through research of available military medical records -representing about half of the number of personnel who deployed - the study discovered 40 ALS cases within a troop population of about 700,000 that had deployed to the Gulf region during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, noted Dr. Michael E. Kilpatrick, DoD's deputy director of deployment health support, during an interview here today.

Health statisticians, Kilpatrick explained, figured that about 33 cases of ALS among military members who'd served in the Gulf from August 2, 1990, to July 31, 1991, would have been consistent with trends within the comparative nondeployed military population.

Those seven additional ALS cases cited in the study, he noted, helped the VA to decide to extend service-connected medical benefits to Gulf War vets who have ALS.

The study also noted, Kilpatrick continued, there were 67 cases of ALS among the approximately 1.7 million service members who didn't deploy to the Gulf region during the Persian Gulf War.

Yet, given the low overall incidence of ALS cases found among deployed military during the Gulf War and the fact that no one knows exactly what

(See ALS, Page 2)

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines.

I want to thank everyone who made it out to the highway clean-up. We had eight people (6 members & 2 relatives) and we were done by 10. Breakfast at Tilly's was good and they weren't as crowded as usual so we had plenty of space. The wind made it a bit colder than we would have wished, but it wasn't too bad. The next clean-up will be in March or April so since you have had this much warning I am sure that we will have a record turnout for that one. Thanks again Marines for supporting this program.

The Ball was a real success. We could have used a few more people, but everything worked out very well. I was honored to present the Marine-of-the-Year award to our Paymaster Bob Cody. Bob has been a member for many years and has given of his time and talents without hesitation. I am very glad that I

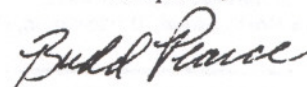
have gotten to know Bob and his wife Rose. They are some of the nicest people you would ever want to meet. Our Jr. Vice Don Parzanese Jr did very well with his choice of restaurant and the menu. The food was excellent and the service was outstanding. Good work Don! I don't know if the Warrington will still be there next November, but if it is we might be wise to check them out again.

The November meeting was a very short one with a cake cutting. The Young Marines and their families were there to join with us for this ceremony. I have to thank my wife Suzanne again for all the work she did in preparation for this meeting and the Ball. The Young Marines and our members had birthday cake along with hoagies and chips. There were quite a few more people than I thought there would be, but everyone seemed to get something to eat and all seemed to enjoy themselves. There were a couple of visitors there also and with luck we might get a couple of new members out of it. Thanks to our members for such a good turnout and for wearing your uniforms. The regular Marines that lead the Young Marines were impressed with us

and were grateful to have had us invite their group. Since their unit is getting to be so large, we might have to think of something else to do with them as it is getting very expensive to feed all those people.

That's about all I have for now except to remind you to PLEASE BRING TOYS to the December meeting. They will be given to the Toys-for-Tots program so that some child who would have nothing will at least get something for Christmas. In the past we have give to this program and we have also given directly to shelters for battered women and children. Both of these get the toys into the right hands, so no matter which way we go, the kids win. A couple of toys for the kids and some crackers, cookies, etc for the troops, not much cost to you, but very rewarding and very appreciated. Bring what you can, if you can, but come to the meeting anyway. See you there!

Semper Fi,



2003-2004 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DETACHMENT MEETING
DECEMBER 10**

**CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 1**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
JANUARY 14**

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.

ALS

(From Page 1)

causes ALS, Kilpatrick pointed out that service members currently in the Gulf region shouldn't be worried about acquiring the disease.

The work that went into the Gulf War veterans ALS study "is the product of a significant investment by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs over the past several years," Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs noted recently.

Such scientific research, Winkenwerder added, "helps answer veterans' questions and holds the promise for better protection of the health of our men and women during future deployments."

ALS was first identified in 1869,

Kilpatrick pointed out. New York Yankees' star Lou Gehrig died of the disease at age 37 in 1941.

The disease progressively attacks victims' spinal and brain nerve centers, eventually causing paralysis and loss of speech. Mental faculties are not affected. Death -- often caused by accompanying illnesses such as infections -- usually occurs within two to five years of diagnosis of ALS.

There is currently no known cure, Kilpatrick noted.

It's important for Gulf War veterans who've been diagnosed with ALS to know they're eligible for about \$21,000 in service-connected VA medical benefits, as well as in-home medical equipment and assistance, Kilpatrick said.

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held November 12, 2003, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post # 210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 19 members present including all officers except the Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., Bob Sundling and Frank Yohe; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth; and Past Commandant and Marine of the Year Budd Pearce.**

Guests: The members of the Liberty Young Marines Unit and their parents were guests at the meeting.

Sick Call: Marine Ray Krout is home recuperating from knee surgery and undergoing therapy.

The Minutes of the October Meeting were unanimously approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Budd Pearce reported he attended a Flag Ceremony at Fleur Funeral Home in New Britain on Veterans Day.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported on activities in which he participated at the Department Quarterly Staff Meeting at Indiantown Gap. He reported the Detachment strength at 60 members including 37 Regular Members, 19 Life Members and 4 Associate Members. There are still six members delinquent in their dues.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. had nothing new to report..

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no correspondence from either the National or Department 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 Detachment Color Guard since the last meeting.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY— **Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce**, PC, reminded the members that Saturday, Nov. 15, was the date set for the highway clean-up. Members participating were to meet at Tilley's Restaurant at 8 a.m. for breakfast.

PUBLIC RELATIONS--The Public Relations Officer set Nov. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the December issue of *Listen Up!*

YOUNG MARINES--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling, PC, presented Certificates of Appreciation on behalf of the Detachment to parents and staff members of the Liberty Young Marines Unit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOYS-FOR-TOTS--Commandant Pearce reminded the members to bring new toy donations to "Toys-for-Tots" to the Decembert Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10.

The annual joint celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday by the Detachment and the Young Marines Unit followed the meeting

Pennsylvania & the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

(First of a Three-Part article)

Σ General: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers a wide variety of programs and services for the nation's 25.6 million veterans. In 2002, more than 4.2 million people were treated in VA health-care facilities, 3.3 million veterans and survivors received VA disability compensation or pensions, 464,000 veterans and their families used GI Bill education benefits, nearly 2.9 million owned homes purchased with GI Bill home loan benefits and more than 89,000 veterans and family members were buried in VA's national cemeteries.

**235,111 people
received healthcare
in state's VA facilities
last year**

VA spent nearly \$2.2 billion in Pennsylvania in 2002 to care for approximately 1.2 million veterans who live in the state. Last year, 235,111 people received health care in the state's VA facilities and 126,092 Pennsylvania veterans and survivors collected disability compensation or pension payments. Nearly 12,000 veterans and their families received GI Bill payments for their education, 65,999 purchased their homes through VA home loan guarantees and 1,778 were interred in Indiantown Gap and Philadelphia national cemeteries.

Σ Health Care: One of the most visible of all VA benefits is health care. VA has 162 hospitals, more than 850 ambulatory care and community-based outpatient clinics, 206 Vet Centers, 132 nursing homes, 43 domiciliary facilities and 73 comprehensive home care programs. Due to technology and national and VA health care trends, VA has changed from a hospital-based system to a primarily outpatient-focused system over the past seven years. With 22,000 fewer employees in 2002 than in 1995, VA provided care to 1.6 million more veterans across the country.

In Pennsylvania, there are eight VA medical centers, located in Altoona, Butler, Coatesville, Erie, Lebanon, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Wilkes-Barre. To give more veterans access to health care, Pennsylvania has more than 30 outpatient clinics throughout the state, including the Northeastern Pennsylvania Mobile Health Clinic. Additional sites are under consideration. As part of the VA Stars & Stripes Healthcare Network -- an integrated health care delivery system -- all of these facilities work together to provide veterans a comprehensive array of health care and social services. This includes preventive screenings and checkups, primary and specialty care, inpatient and outpatient surgery, behavioral health care, rehabilitative services and long-term care. The state's facilities are also committed to making sure families are involved in every aspect of a veteran's care, whenever appropriate, via the network's "Families Matter" program.

Veterans and their families are regularly informed about VA health-care benefits and services through facility newsletters, the network newsletter, "Veterans First," and the network website, www.starsandstripes.med.va.gov.

In fiscal year 2002, there were more than 1.9 million outpatient visits at VA medical centers and clinics in Pennsylvania. The number of inpatient admissions was 20,509. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) recently surveyed all VA medical centers within Pennsylvania, and, once again, excellent JCAHO scores demonstrated the high quality of the state's VA facilities.

Pennsylvania also has three of VA's nationally recognized Programs of Excellence: the substance abuse treatment unit at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, the renal and dialysis program at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS), and the women veterans health program at VAPHS. VAPHS is also designated as a National Liver and Renal Transplant Center.

VA medical centers in Pennsylvania have affiliations with seven medical programs and universities: the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University, Penn State and Milton S. Hershey Medical College of Medicine, Drexel University College of Medicine, Lake Erie College of Medicine and Jefferson Medical College of the Thomas Jefferson University. There are also affiliations with more than 400 allied health care professional programs. More than 850 medical and dental residents, along with many students from various other disciplines, are trained through these affiliations each year.

**1.9 Outpatient Visits
Recorded in 2002**

Additionally, Pennsylvania has eight Readjustment Counseling Service centers, or Vet Centers.

These centers -- located in Erie, Harrisburg, McKeesport, Philadelphia (two centers), Pittsburgh, Scranton and Williamsport -- provide free personal counseling to wartime veterans and work closely with the VA medical centers and community-based clinics in the state.

Σ Geriatric Care: Long-term care is a critical issue for America's veterans. Approximately 38 percent of living veterans are 65 years old or older, compared with 12 percent of the general population. The challenge to care for these 9.1 million men and women is met through a variety of programs, including more than 132 nursing home care units in medical centers, adult day care, home health aide services and community residential care, contracts with 2,500 community nursing homes, and support to 114 state veterans homes. Additionally, VA conducts nationwide research on the causes and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and funds 21 geriatric research, education and clinical centers, each focusing on a major geriatric problem.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER, CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Last Name	First Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	M-Note
BRAND	Albert W.	712 Union Ct.,	Pine Grove,	PA	17963-9780	215-249-3429	R-3/04
BROCKMAN,	Tracy	2551 Betzwood Dr.,	Norristown,	PA	19403-3649	610-650-8667	R-6/02
BURCH,	Gregory	9 Main St.,	New Hope,	PA	18938-1314	215-862-2725	R-4/04
BURKLE,	David J.	4462 Milords Lane,	Doylestown,	PA	18901-0000	UNLISTED	R-3/04
CAPRIO,	Paul Jr.	359 Windsor Ave.,	Hatboro,	PA	19040-4809	215-674-4111	R-8/04
CODY,	Robert J.	201 Eagle Lane,	Doylestown,	PA	18901-2861	215-343-8786	LIFE
CUNNINGHAM,	Richard G.	70 Old Dublin Pike, G-9,	Doylestown,	PA	18901-3419	215-489-1149	R-5/04
DALY,	Stephen J.	524 Country Club Dr.	Lansdale,	PA	19446-1465	215-323-2910	R-9/03
DAVIS,	Andrew J. Jr.	308 Orchard Lane	Feasterville,	PA	19053-6144		R-902
DUFF,	Robert E.	3955 Countrywood Lane,	Hatboro,	PA	19040-2901	215-675-2377	LIFE
FLANAGAN,	Charles M.	555 N. Broad St. (Apt. 711A),	Doylestown,	PA	18901-3445	215-348-3917	R-4/04
GEE,	Don H.	238 Cornwall Circle,	Chalfont,	PA	18914-2318	215-822-6723	LIFE
GERENSER,	Robert V.	22 S. Main St.,	New Hope,	PA	18938-1321	215-862-2050	A-11/02
HAAS,	Wilfred	2501 Three Mile Run Rd.,	Perkasie,	PA	18944-2034	215-257-7828	LIFE
HERBST,	James G.	11 North Cedar Rd.,	Paoli,	PA	19301-1739	610-993-8353	R-8/03
HOTH,	Edward W.	P.O. B. 41, 3635 Applebutter Rd.,	Fountainville,	PA	18923-0041	215-249-0481	A-12/03
HUGGINS,	Don P.	65 Brunswick Ave.,	Lambertville,	NJ	08530-1108	609-397-1636	R-6/02
JERROM,	William E.	2 Yellowwood,	Doylestown,	PA	18901-2161	215-340-7232	R-12/03
KOHLER,	William C.	25212 Pike,	Laguna Hills,	CA	92653-5142	949-830-4187	LIFE
KROUT,	Raymond R.	3538 Limekiln Pike,	Chalfont,	PA	18914-3610	215-822-2322	LIFE
KUKUCHKA,	Frank J.	905 Middle Rd.,	Perkasie,	PA	18944-3044	215-249-3001	R-12/03
LYNCH,	Edwin J.	319 Rocky Court West,	Chalfont,	PA	18914-2018	215-822-0467	R-7/03
LYONS,	Thomas M. Sr.	2568 River Rd.,	Kintnersville,	PA	18930-0000	610-847-5765	R-2/04
MAHALA,	Charles T.	RR 4, Box 4268,	Kunkletown,	PA	18058-9564	570-629-2803	R-12/03
MALLOZZI,	Joseph	501 Bell Ave.,	Maple Glen,	PA	19002-2830		R-03/04
METZ,	Michael D.	332 Ferry Rd.,	Doylestown,	PA	18901-5016	215-345-6804	R-9/02
MICKELSON,	William L.	1138 Farm House Lane,	Quakertown,	PA	18951-2450	215-538-0213	LIFE
MILLER,	Marlin J.	1309 Hartranft,	Ft. Washington,	PA	19034-1603	215-646-4990	LIFE
MILLER,	William R.	6 Indian Park Rd.,	Levittown,	PA	19057-2214	215-943-0133	LIFE
MOMORELLA,	Robert A.	P. O. Box 4182,	Bisbee,	AZ	85603-4182		LIFE
MONAHAN,	Frederick	18018 Beacon Hill Dr.,	Holland,	PA	18966-5322		LIFE
NEUMANN,	Timothy	607 Walnut St.,	Lansdale,	PA	19446-2337	215-412-4117	R-12/02
PARSONESE,	Patricia	861 Callowhill Rd. #7	Perkasie,	PA	18944-3300		LIFE
PARSONESE,	Richard J.	Holidaysburg Vet Ctr., Box 319	Holidaysburg,	PA	16648-0319	724-545-9016	R-2/04
PARZANESE,	Donald D. Sr.	509 Plymouth Ct.,	Warrington,	PA	18976-0000	215-491-3275	LIFE
PARZANESE,	Donald D. Jr.	108-B N. Main St.	Sellersville,	PA	18960-2362	215-275-2713	R-12/03
PEARCE,	Ellis M. III	1811 Palomino Dr.,	Warrington,	PA	18976-2147	215-343-5609	LIFE
PLANT,	William	4366 U.S. Highway 202,	Doylestown,	PA	18901-0000	215-794-8268	LIFE
POWELL,	James	210 Leeds St.	New Hope,	PA	18938-1087	215-862-6280	R-9/03
QUERNEMOEN,	Brent M.	3440 Limekiln Pike,	Chalfont,	PA	18914-3608		R-9/03
RANDLE,	Robert	1422 Reservoir Ave.,	Roslyn,	PA	19001-1625	215-657-3718	LIFE
ROSENBERGER,	William C.H. III	15 Stacey Dr.,	Doylestown,	PA	18901-3309	215-348-7275	R-8/03
SCHEETZ,	Larry	274 N. Union St.,	Lambertville,	NJ	08530-1506	609-397-0152	A-3/04
SCOTT,	Richard G.	3099 Antler Dr.	Doylestown,	PA	18801-1933		R-6/04
SERGEANT,	R. Bruce	42 Hillside Ave.,	Chalfont,	PA	18914-2804	215-822-8210	LIFE
SMITH,	Gary J.	11 Unami Trail	Chalfont,	PA	18914-3203	215-997-1081	R-5/04
STANISLAW,	Dennis K.	24 Helens Lane,	Chafont,	PA	18914-1314	215-822-3052	R-3/04
SULLIVAN,	David F. Jr.	888 Stallion Rd.,	Warrington,	PA	18976-2141	215-343-1473	R-8/03
SUNDLING,	Robert A.	539 Norris Drive,	Furlong,	PA	18925-1004	215-348-8925	LIFE
TICE,	Clifford W.	910 Diamond St.,	Sellersville,	PA	18960-2806	215-257-6162	LIFE
TRAUM,	Gerald T.	1255 Brookdale Rd.,	Warminster,	PA	18974-2166	215-675-7936	R-3/04
WALDRON,	Michael	619 Chaucer Court,	Warminster,	PA	18974-2066	215-672-7095	LIFE
WILSON,	Charles J. Jr.	1949 Robinwood Dr.,	Warrington,	PA	18976-1322	215-343-2594	R-9/03
WIMER,	Leland	1 Brookdale Drive,	Doylestown,	PA	18901-5073	215-345-6743	R-3/04
WOOTTERS,	Ronald C.	190 South Main St.,	Lambertville,	NJ	08530-1807	609-397-0026	R-10/03
WURST,	Charles L.	4882 Davis Dr.,	Doylestown,	PA	18901-1146	215-230-7124	A-1/04
YEASTED,	Vincent J.	5127 Lr. Mtn. Rd., RD2, Box 158,	New Hope,	PA	18938-9461	215-794-5126	R-9/03
YOHE,	Franklin Jr.	1945 Cathedral Rd.,	Huntingdon Valley,	PA	19006-5005	215-657-2202	LIFE

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Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement _____ SSN _____

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

E-mail: _____

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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)

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"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"