



# LISTEN UP!

## CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: **WILLIAM R. MILLER**

Editor: **DON H. GEE**

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DECEMBER 2004



**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  
**DON H. GEE, PC**

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT  
**JAMES POWELL**

ADJUTANT  
**GARY SMITH**

PAYMASTER  
**ROBERT J. CODY**

JUDGE ADVOCATE  
**WILLIAM E. JERROM**

QUARTERMASTER  
**ROBERT DUFF**

CHAPLAIN  
**EDWARD W. HOTH, PDC**

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS  
**WILLIAM L. MICKELSON**

MESS SERGEANT  
**WIL HAAS**

WEBMASTER  
**JAMES E. PEARCE**

MARINE OF THE YEAR  
**WILLIAM E. JERROM**

## NEW STAMPS WILL HONOR CORPS' HEROES

After seven years of effort kicked off by a former Marine from Virginia, the U.S. Postal Service will issue a stamp next year honoring icon of the Corps' **Chesty Puller**.

"I'm ecstatic," said retired **Marine Maj. Jacques Loraine**. "I didn't think it was really going to happen with the long delays and the put-offs." Loraine started thinking of organizing a petition drive in 1996 to put **LtGen. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller** on a U.S. stamp.

Born in West Point in 1898, Puller attended the Virginia Military Institute. The metal-hard Marine won five Navy Crosses - second only to the Medal of Honor - for bravery, more than any other Marine has earned.

Sometime next year, the Postal Service will publish the "Distinguished Marines" block of stamps, featuring four Marine Corps heroes: Puller, **LtGen. John A. Lejeune**, **MGySgt. Dan Daly** and **GySgt. John Basilone**.

"These will be stamps that Marines will be proud of," said Postal Service spokesman **Mark Saunders**.

The Postal Service has not made the 37 cent stamps' designs public. They will probably be unveiled this fall, Saunders said, and issued sometime in 2005.

**Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune**, often referred to as "the greatest of all Leathernecks," during his more than 40 years service with the Marine Corps, led the famed Second Division (Army) in World War I, and was Major General Commandant of the Marine Corps from June 1920 to March 1929.

**Master Gunnery Sergeant Dan Daly** was awarded two medals of honor.

In 1918, at Lucy li Boucage, on the outskirts of Belleau Wood France, Daly made a comment which still thunders with the Marine spirit today. Outnumbered, outgunned and pinned in a poor position, the Marines were soon to be chopped to pieces by the German Machine gunners. Daly ordered an attack, leaping forward and yelling to his men. He is purported to have said, "Come on you sons of bitches! Do you want to live forever?" Later, Daly told a Marine Historian, "What I really yelled was: For Christ's sake, men-COME ON! Do you want to live forever?"

Regardless of what was said, he and his small group of Marines surged out of the position and captured the town of Lucy li Boucage.

**MGySgt. Daniel ("Dan") Daly** was once acclaimed by **Major General John A. Lejeune**, former Commandant of the Marine Corps, as the "outstanding Marine of all time." **General Smedley D. Butler** called him "The fightinest Marine I ever knew," and wrote that "it was an object lesson to have served with him."

**Gunnery Sergeant "Manila John" Basilone** was the only enlisted Marine in World War II to receive the Purple Heart, the Navy Cross and the Medal of Honor.

(See **STAMPS**, Page 6)



# COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

(Ed. Note: We thought it appropriate at this time of year to repeat Commandant Bill Miller's remarks to those who attended our Birthday Ball.)

We are assembled this evening to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 229 years ago on November 10, 1775, by the CONTINENTAL CON-

GRESS at TUN TAVERN in PHILADELPHIA.

Since that date many thousands of men and women have born the name of MARINE. When you think of AMERICA and the proud young man or woman who has earned the EAGLE, GLOBE, and ANCHOR and is ready to set out on a journey that they are unsure of, you

know they can handle it because they bear the title of UNITED STATES MARINE.

There are also the deep values that are instilled in those who have the courage to go the distance and not only become a MARINE through boot camp and training, but proudly carry that title with them throughout their life. As with other affiliations that end once their tour of duty is over, being a MARINE never ends and there is no such thing as an ex-MARINE.

Since the founding of the CORPS, MARINES have continued to distinguish themselves on many battlefields and foreign shores and most recently in Afghanistan and Iraq. Although we've had to endure some difficult times we also must remember that freedom is not free and peace comes at a price. I have complete confidence that we are ready, willing, and able to meet any challenge, for we have learned well the lessons of our past and know that there is no substitute for strength, and resolve. Our Nation and the Marines of tomorrow can depend on that commitment. Happy Birthday, MARINES! Semper Fidelis!

## CMC Rebuffs "No Embeds" Proposal

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Michael Hagee rebuffed a Texas congressman's effort to stop the practice of having reporters accompany military units into combat in Iraq.

Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, a Vietnam veteran on the House Armed Services Committee, said at a Wednesday hearing he thought the services should "abandon" the practice of "embedding" reporters in combat units in Iraq because of a recent incident in which a Marine was filmed swearing at and shooting a wounded Iraqi.

"I don't think it is a good idea to have embedded reporters — not that we are trying to keep anything secret," Reyes said.

The video, taken by a freelance reporter working for NBC News, shows a Marine during the battle of Fallujah use vulgar language when he spots a wounded man moving, then shoot the man in the head. The video was provided to other news agencies under a pool arrangement, and has been widely aired in the Middle East, fueling increasing anti-American sentiment. Reyes said the fact that video of the shooting is being used as anti-American propaganda is reason enough to reconsider having

embedded reporters.

But Hagee disagreed, saying he sees no reason to change policies on having the media accompany combat troops. "Embedded reporters actually work very well," he said. "The large, large majority are doing a tremendous job."

The Marine Corps is investigating the shooting, which occurred as a small unit was entering a mosque on Saturday. The tape appears to show a young Marine who spots a wounded Iraq moving. The Marine screams about the Iraqi faking that he's dead, then shoots the wounded man. Marine officials, while not defending the shooting, said the Marine had been wounded the day before, which may have been a factor in why he shot so quickly at the wounded Iraqi.

## 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.



HONORARY MARINE--Doylestown Mayor Bill Neis receives an "Honorary Member" certificate from Commandant Bill Miller during Birthday Ball ceremonies.



# Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held November 10, 2004, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 15 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee and Budd Pearce; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth; and Marine of the Year Bill Jerrom.**

The Minutes of the October 2004 meeting were unanimously accepted.

**The Paymaster's Report** was delivered by **Paymaster Bob Cody**. The Paymaster's Report was unanimously accepted.

**Sick Call: Marine Ray Krout's** wife is still ill.

## OFFICER REPORTS

**Commandant Bill Miller** reported he had received the raffle tickets for next year's Department Raffle and would bring them to the December Meeting.

**Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC,** reported the Detachment strength at 50 members including 21 Life Members, 26 Regular Members and 4 Associate Members. There are 3 members delinquent in their dues.

**Junior Vice Commandant Jim Powell** reported on the Birthday Ball. He made several recommendations concerning both the planning and the conduct of next year's Ball. He also is seeking recommendations for additional fund raisers for the Detachment. Anyone with any ideas about fund-raising should contact him before the next meeting.

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

**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.

**Quartermaster Bob Duff** stated he had his normal items and would special order any other items anyone would be interested in acquiring.

**Chaplain Ed Hoth, PDC,** reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Rifle & Pistol Team--**In the absence of **R&P Team Captain Bill Rosenberger, Past Commandant Budd Pearce** reported about the Department match and presented medallions to R&P team members present. Again, this year, Budd was the High Shooter and the recipient of the Fran Meyers Award.

**Young Marines--**In the absence of **Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling,** no report was given.

**Adopt-A-Highway--****Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce, PC,** reported eight people took part in the last highway clean-up and stated the next clean-up will be in March on a date yet to be determined.

**Public Relations--**The Public Relations Officer set Nov. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the December Listen Up! He said he was still looking for volunteers to help out with the Veterans Day program at St. Mary's Manor in Lansdale. He also demonstrated the new Ceremonial Bugle (with "Taps" insert) he had acquired for use by the Detachment.

## GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

**Past Commandant Budd Pearce** reminded the members to bring toy donations for "The Commandant's Table" which will be donated to the "Toys for Tots" program.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Marine Mike Waldron** reported he had received a letter from former member **Bob Randle** wishing the members a Happy Birthday.

The Senior Vice Commandant reported he had received an e-mail from **Past Commandant Bill Plant** wishing the members a Happy Birthday.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2004.**



# 'Marlboro Man' Fights On with Dwindling Supply of Smokes

by Patrick J. McDonnell

*Los Angeles Times*

FALLUJAH, Iraq—The Marlboro man was angry: He has a war to fight, and he's running out of smokes.

"If you want to write something," he tells an intruding reporter, "tell Marlboro I'm down to four packs, and I'm here in Fallujah till who knows when. Maybe they can send some. And they can bring down the price a bit."

Those are the unfettered sentiments of **Marine Lance Cpl. James Blake Miller**, 20, a country boy from Kentucky who has been thrust unwittingly and somewhat unwillingly into the role of poster boy for a war on the other side of the world from his home on the farm.

"I just don't understand what all the fuss is about," Miller drawls as he crouches—Marlboro firmly in place—inside an abandoned building with his platoon mates, preparing to fight insurgents holed up in yet another mosque.

"I was just smokin' a cigarette, and someone takes my picture and it all blows up."

Miller is the young man whose gritty, war-hardened portrait appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, shot by Luis Sinco, a *Los Angeles Times* photographer embedded with Miller's unit, Charlie Co., 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment.

In the full-frame photo, taken after more than 12 hours of nearly non-stop deadly combat, Miller's camouflage war paint is smudged. He sports a bloody nick on his nose. His helmet and chin strap frame a weary expression that seems to convey the timeless fatigue of battle. And there is the cigarette, of course, drooping from the right side of his mouth in a jaunty manner that Humphrey Bogart or John Wayne would have approved of. Wispy smoke drifts off to his left.

The image has quickly moved into the realm of the iconic.

More than 100 newspapers printed it, although it took the *New York Post* to sum it up in a front-page headline: "Marlboro Men Kick Butt in Fallujah." The fact that Miller's name was not included in the caption material only seemed to enhance its punch.

The *Los Angeles Times* and other publications have received scores of e-mails wanting to know about this mysterious figure. Many women, in particular, have inquired about how to contact him.

"The photo captures his weariness, yet his eyes hold the spirit of the hunter and the hunted," wrote one e-mailing admirer. "His gaze is warm but deadly. I want to send a letter."

Maybe it's about America striking back at a

perceived enemy, or maybe it's just the sense of one young man putting his life on the line halfway across the globe.

Whatever the case, the photo seems to have struck a chord, and top Marine brass are thrilled.

**LtGen. John F. Sattler**, commander of the I Marine Expeditionary Force, dropped in on Charlie Company Friday to laud the Marlboro Men.

Miller, though, has been oddly absent from the hoopla. In fact, Miller only heard about it from the two *Los Angeles Times* staffers embedded with his unit. He seemed incredulous. "A picture?" he asked. "What's the fuss?"

And what does he think about the Marines, anyway?

"I already signed the papers, so I got no choice but to do what we're doing."

The photo was taken on the afternoon after Charlie Company's harrowing entry into Fallujah under intense enemy fire, in the cold and rain. Miller was on the roof of a home where he and his fellow First Platoon members had spent the day engaged in practically non-stop firefights, fending off snipers and attackers who rushed the building. No one had slept in more than 24 hours. All were physically and emotionally drained.

"It was kind of crazy out here at first," Miller says. "No one really knew what to expect. They told us about it all the time, but no one knows for sure until you get here."

In person, Miller is unassuming: of medium height, his face slightly pimpled, his teeth a little crooked. He takes his share of small-town hic ribbing from a unit that includes Marines from big cities as well as small towns. And it has only increased as word of the platoon radio man's instant fame has spread among his mates.

"Miller, when you get home you'll be a hero," **Cpl. Mark Waller**, 21, from Oklahoma, said. "They'll put out a big sign: 'Welcome home, Marlboro Man'."

Miller is now obliged to provide smokes to just about anyone who asks.

It's just about wiped out his stash in a town where Marlboros aren't available just yet.

"When we came to Fallujah, I had two cartons and three packs," Miller explains glumly,

adding that his supply has dwindled to four packs, not much for a Marine with a three-pack-a-day habit. "I don't know what I'm going to do."

Even in the Marines, where smoking is widespread, the extent of Miller's habit has raised eyebrows.

"I tried to get him to stop - the cigarettes will kill him before the war," says **Navy Corpsman Anthony Lopez**, a company medic. "I get on him all the time. But this guy is a true Marlboro man."

Miller, who was sent to Iraq in June, is the eldest of three brothers from the hamlet of Jonancey, Ky., in the heart of Appalachian coal country.

Never heard of Jonancey?

"It's named after my great great-grandparents: Joe and Nancy Miller," the young Marine explains. "They were the first people in those parts."

His father, **James Miller**, is a mechanic and farmer, and Miller grew up working crops: potatoes, corn, green beans.

His mother, **Maxie Webber**, 39, is a nurse. She last talked to her son briefly recently via a satellite phone. He could only speak for a few minutes, enough time to say hello and reassure his family.

Miller enlisted in the Marines in July 2003 after a conversation with a recruiter he met at a football game. His road to fame was paved in Marine khaki.

"What I really wanted to do was auto body repair," he says. "But before I knew it I was in boot camp."

Now, he says he's just trying to get through each day. His predecessor a platoon radio man was sent home after being injured in a car bomb attack.

Miller has three years to go in active duty, but he appears disinclined to reenlist. And he shrugs off suggestions he may cash in on his fleeting stardom. He has no plans to hire an agent.

"When I get out, I just want to chill out a little bit," he explains. "Go back to my house, farm a little bit, do some mechanical stuff around the house and call it a day."

Oh, and one more thing: "I'll just sit on my roof and smoke a cigarette."

## 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 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—again, 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! Especially during this Holiday Season!**



# MEMBERSHIP ROSTER, CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Last Name	First Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	M-Note
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.	8135 PA Route 873	Slatington,	PA	18080-3509	610-767-2672	R-5/05
CUPITT,	Stephen M.	2334 Iris Court,	Jamison,	PA	18929-1199	215-491-9777	R-11/04
DALY,	Stephen J.	524 Country Club Dr.	Lansdale,	PA	19446-1465	215-323-2910	R-9/04
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-4/05
FLAUGH,	Ray	218 Surrey Rd.,	Chalfont,	PA	18914-2326	215-997-6462	R-5/05
GEE,	Don H.	238 Cornwall Circle,	Chalfont,	PA	18914-2318	215-822-6723	LIFE
HAAS,	Wilfred	2501 Three Mile Run Rd.,	Perkasie,	PA	18944-2034	215-257-7828	LIFE
HEALD,	Harold	2501 Maryland Rd. #N-10	Willow Grove,	PA	19090-1217	215-343-3349	R-11/05
HERBST,	James G.	11 North Cedar Rd.,	Paoli,	PA	19301-1739	610-993-8353	R-8/04
HOTH,	Edward W.	P.O.B. 41, 3635 Applebutter Rd.,	Fountainville,	PA	18923-0041	215-249-0481	A-12/04
JERROM,	William E.	2 Yellowwood,	Doylestown,	PA	18901-2161	215-340-7232	LIFE
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-12/04
LYONS,	Thomas M. Sr.	2568 River Rd.,	Kintnersville,	PA	18930-0000	610-847-5765	R-2/05
MALLOZZI,	Joseph	501 Bell Ave.,	Maple Glen,	PA	19002-2830	215-653-0303	R-03/05
McCOMB,	James	4503 Country View Dr.,	Doylestown,	PA	18901		R-6/05
MICKELSON,	William L.	1138 Farm House Lane,	Quakertown,	PA	18951-2450	215-538-0213	LIFE
MILLER,	William R.	6 Indian Park Rd.,	Levittown,	PA	19057-2214	215-943-0133	LIFE
MOMORELLA,	Robert A.	P. O. Box 249,	Willcox,	AZ	85644-0249	UNLISTED	LIFE
MONAHAN,	Frederick	P. O. Box 18,	Claysburg,	PA	16625-0018	814-239-2722	LIFE
PARSONESE,	Patricia	861 Callowhill Rd. #7	Perkasie,	PA	18944-3300	215-453-6469	LIFE
PARSONESE,	Richard J.	Holidaysburg Vet Ctr., Box 319	Holidaysburg,	PA	16648-0319	724-545-9016	R-2/05
PARZANESE,	Donald D. Sr.	509 Plymouth Ct.,	Warrington,	PA	18976-3620	215-491-3275	LIFE
PARZANESE,	Donald D. Jr.	K B R (G-5), Camp Babylon,	APC,	AE	09332		R-12/05
PEARCE,	Ellis M. III	1811 Palomino Dr.,	Warrington,	PA	18976-2147	215-343-5609	LIFE
PLANT,	William	2298 Highway 35 ByPass	Aransas Pass,	TX	78336-9719		LIFE
POWELL,	James	210 Leeds St.	New Hope,	PA	18938-1087	215-862-6280	LIFE
ROSENBERGER,	William C.H. III	15 Stacey Dr.,	Doylestown,	PA	18901-3309	215-348-7275	R-8/04
SANFORD,	Eric E.	89 Colonial Heritage	Doylestown,	PA	18901	267-221-1271	R-8/05
SCHEETZ,	Larry	274 N. Union St.,	Lambertville,	NJ	08530-1506	609-397-0152	A-3/05
SCOTT,	Richard G.	3099 Antler Dr.	Doylestown,	PA	18801-1933	215-512-5300	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-5/05
STANISLAW,	Dennis K.	24 Helens Lane,	Chalfont,	PA	18914-1314	215-822-3052	R-3/05
SULLIVAN,	David F. Jr.	888 Stallion Rd.,	Warrington,	PA	18976-2141	215-343-1473	R-8/04
SUNDLING,	Robert A.	539 Norris Drive,	Furlong,	PA	18925-1004	215-348-8925	LIFE
TICE,	Clifford W.	224 Dorchester Dr.,	Sellersville,	PA	18960	215-257-6162	LIFE
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-9/04
WIMER,	Leland	1 Brookdale Drive,	Doylestown,	PA	18901-5073	215-345-6743	R-3/05
WOOTTERS,	Ronald C.	190 South Main St.,	Lambertville,	NJ	08530-1807	609-397-0026	R-10/04
WURST,	Charles L.	4882 Davis Dr.,	Doylestown,	PA	18901-1146	215-230-7124	LIFE-A
YEASTED,	Vincent J.	5127 Lr. Mtn. Rd., RD2, Box 158,	New Hope,	PA	18938-9461	215-794-5126	R-9/04
YONAH,	Alissa	3333 Michael Way,	Las Vegas,	NV	89108-4665	702-252-3126	A-12/04

## MEMBERS

Life: 21 Regular: 26 Associate: 3

**TOTAL: 50**



## STAMPS

(From Page 1)

On October 24-25, 1942, Sgt. Basilone was in charge of two sections of heavy machine guns defending a narrow pass to Henderson Airfield on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. Although vastly outnumbered, he and his fellow Marines checked the assault by the Japanese. For that, Sgt. Basilone was awarded the Medal of Honor and sent back to the states to appear at war bond rallies. He toured the country and met Hollywood starlets. His picture made the cover of Life magazine.

But Sgt. Basilone was unsatisfied back home and volunteered to return to combat, ending up at Iwo Jima. Under heavy artillery fire on February 19, 1944, he single-handedly took out an enemy blockhouse. Minutes later, he and four others in his platoon died in an artillery blast. Sergeant Basilone was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross and Purple Heart, making him the only enlisted Marine in World War II to receive all three medals.

### **2004-2005** **SCHEDULE** **OF EVENTS**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**8 DECEMBER**  
**1930**

**CHRISTMAS**  
**25 DECEMBER**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**1 JANUARY**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**12 JANUARY**  
**1930**

**GROUNDHOG DAY**  
**7 FEBRUARY**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**9 FEBRUARY**  
**1930**

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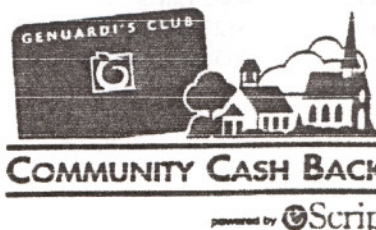
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# The Few, The Proud, The Marines

(A Story of Creation)

In the beginning was the word, and the word was God.

In the beginning was God, and all else was darkness and void, and without form.

So God created the heavens and the Earth. He created the sun, and the moon, and the stars, so that light might pierce the darkness. The Earth, God divided between the land and the sea, and filled with many assorted creatures.

And the dark, salty, slimy creatures that inhabited the murky depths of the oceans, God called sailors. And he dressed them accordingly. They had little trousers that looked like bells at the bottom. And their shirts had cute little flaps on them to hide the hickeys on their necks. He also gave them long sideburns and shabby looking beards. God nicknamed them "squids" and banished them to a lifetime at sea, so that normal folks would not have to associate with them.

To further identify these unloved creatures, he called them "petty" and "com-modore", instead of titles worthy of red-blooded men.

And the flaky creatures of the land, God called soldiers. And with a twinkle in his eye, and a sense of humor that only he could have, God made their trousers too short and their covers too large. He also made their pockets oversized, so that they might warm their hands. And to adorn their uniforms, God gave them badges in quantities that only a dime store owner could appreciate. And he gave them emblems and crests... and all sorts of shiny things that glittered... and devices that dangled. (When you're God you tend to get carried away).

On the 6th day, he thought about creating some air creatures for which he designed a Greyhound bus driver's uniform,

especially for Air Force flyboys.

But he discarded the idea during the first week, and it was not until years later that some apostles resurrected this theme and established what we now know as the "wild blue yonder wonders."

On the 7th day, as you know, God rested. But on the 8th day, at 0730, God looked down upon the Earth and was not happy. God was not happy! So he thought about his labors, and in his divine wisdom God created a divine creature. And he called this creature a Marine. And these Marines, whom God had created in his own image, were to be of the air, and of the land, and of the sea. And these he gave many wonderful uniforms. Some were green, some were blue with red trim. And in the early days, some were even a beautiful tan. He gave them practical fighting uniforms, so that they could wage war against the forces of Satan and evil. He gave them service uniforms for their daily work and training. And he gave them evening and dress uniforms... sharp and stylish, handsome things, so that they might promenade with their ladies on Saturday night and impress everybody! He even gave them swords, so that people who were not impressed, could be dealt with accordingly.

And at the end of the 8th day, God looked down upon the Earth and saw that it was good. But was God happy? NO! God was still not happy! Because in the course of his labors, he had forgotten one thing. He did not have a Marine uniform for himself. But he thought about it, and thought about it, and finally satisfied in knowing that, well... not everybody can be a MARINE.

Submitted by LtCol. Bill Quigley, USMC (Ret)

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