



# LISTEN UP!

## CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

VOLUME XVII, Number 12

DECEMBER 2005

Commandant: **WILLIAM R. MILLER**

Editor: **DON H. GEE**



**CENTRAL BUCKS  
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636**  
P. O. Box 1372  
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372  
Meets  
7:30 p.m.  
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MARINE OF THE YEAR  
**WILLIAM E. JERROM**

## Distinguished Marines Stamps Dedicated in Dual Ceremonies on Marine Corps Birthday

Citing three major battles in Marine Corps history, Marine Corps Commandant **General Michael W. Hagee** kicked off the "Distinguished Marines Stamps Dedication Ceremony" at the Marine Barracks, 8th & I Sts., in Washington, DC, on Nov. 10. A similar ceremony took place the same day on the West Coast at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA.

The block of four stamps honor **Gunnesy Sesgeant John Basilone**, **Sesgeant Majos Daniel (Dan) Joseph Daly**, **Lieutenant Genesal John A. Lejeune**, and **Lieutenant General Lewis B. (Chesty) Puller**.

"I have always major battles in tory," the Com-Battle of Belleau I, the Battle for War II, the Battle voir during the only fitting that honor a Marine campaigns."

The ceremony,

held at the "Oldest Post of the Marine Corps" on the 230th anniversary of the birth of the Marine Corps, featured performances by the U. S. Marine Corps Drum & Bugle Corps and country-western artist Aaron Tippin.

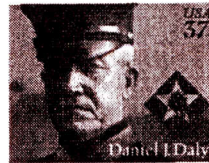
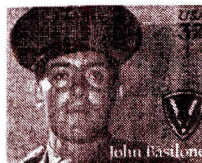
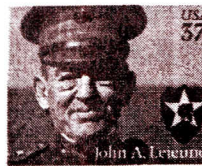
**Postmastes Genesal John E. Pottes** joined the Commandant in unveiling the stamps to officially dedicate the stamps.

The four "Distinguished Marines" are generally considered to be the Corps' best known heroes.

**Lieutenant Genesal 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.

**Sesgeant Majos 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.



said there were three Marine Corps his-mandant stated, "the Wood in World War Iwo Jima in World of the Chosin Reser-Korean War. It is three of these stamps hero of each of these

held at the "Oldest

(See *STAMPS*, Page 2)

# COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

(ED. NOTE: The following was the message delivered by Commandant Miller at the Montgomery County-Central Bucks Detachments Birthday Ball on Nov. 11, at the Blair Mill Inn, in Horsham, PA.)

"Fellow Marines, Marine Corps Leaguers, Friends and Guests,

"Once again we have come together for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of the founding of our beloved Marine Corps 230 years ago on November 10, 1775.

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the membership of the Central Bucks Detachment for giving me the leadership roll of leading the detachment as their Commandant which I take seriously and truly enjoy.

"My many years of service in the Marine Corps and Marine Corps League have been most rewarding. The close comradeship that is such a large part of the Marine Corps tradition has been a highly valued experience in my life.

"Friendships that I have established along the way are among those I treasure the most. These strong bonds of fellowship make the Corps and the League unique among the services and service organizations.

"The famous motto of the United States Marine Corps, *Semper Fidelis* which means, Always Faithful.

"As Commandant of the Central Bucks Detachment, I will hold true to this motto for the good of the league and our detachment.

"I'll close by telling you this:

"My eyes are a little fuzzy, but my hearing is keen.

"I'm still just as tall, and I'm certainly

not lean.

"I've mellowed with age, so I'm no longer mean, but in my heart you can believe that I'm still a United States Marine.

"Happy Birthday Marines!"



## STAMPS

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 Bocage.

Sergeant Major 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."

**Gunnesy 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.

On October 24-25, 1942, Sergeant Basilone was in charge of two sections of heavy machine guns defending a narrow pass to Henderson Airfield on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

(From Page 1)

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 Sergeant 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 tee only enlisted Marine in World War II to receive all three medals.

**LtGen. Lewis B. (Chesty) Puller** earned five Navy Crosses among his awards and decorations. Of legendary status, Puller is considered to be the Corps' most decorated hero.

About 20 descendants and relatives of the four Marines attended the ceremony and were acknowledged by the Commandant.

## 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.

## 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 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 for your continued support!**

# Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held November 9, 2005, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 18 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., Budd Pearce, and Bob Sundling; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth; and Marine of the Year Bill Jerrom.**

Special guests included the Department of Pennsylvania Southeastern Vice Commandant Robert Rud, the Liberty Young Marines Unit and their leaders, and two National Guardsmen.

The Minutes of the October Meeting were unanimously approved with the correction that Bob Sundling graduated Boot Camp on Oct. 21.

## OFFICER REPORTS

**Commandant Bill Miller** reported Veterans Highway will be dedicated at 1 p.m. on Nov. 11 and the Tun Tavern Historical Marker will be dedicated at 10 a.m. on the 11th. He also reported that the Southeast Division Meeting will be held on at 1 p.m. on Nov. 20.

**Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell** reported the Detachment strength at 50 including 22 Regular Members, 22 Life Members, 5 Associate Members and 1 Honorary Member. There are six members delinquent in their dues.

**Junior Vice Commandant Jim McComb** reminded the Detachment that the Birthday Ball would be held on Friday night at the Blair Mill Inn beginning at 7:30 p.m.

**Adjutant Gary Smith** reported he had received no communications aside from that already reported by the Commandant.

**Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom** reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Mickelson** reported the Color Guard had been requested for Veterans Day at Kutz Elementary School.

**Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC,** set November 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the November issue of *LISTEN UP!*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**YOUNG MARINES--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling, PC,** reported the Young Marines Unit will be holding a "Coin Toss" on Nov. 12 & 13 and the Unit is helping with the "Toys-for-Tots" program.

## NEW BUSINESS

**AWARDS--**Commandant Miller presented Certificates of Appreciation to Peggy Sundling, Bob Sundling and Budd Pearce for the extraordinary support of the Detachment and its programs. He also presented Budd Pearce the "Fran Mayers Award" for being the Detachment's High Shooter during the recent Department of Pennsylvania Rifle Match.

**MARINE OF THE YEAR--Marine of the Year Bill Jerrom** announced that Budd Pearce had been selected by the Marine of the Year Committee as this year's Marine of the Year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14.

\*\*\*

The Detachment then hosted the Liberty Young Marines Unit to a cake-cutting ceremony to mark the 230th Anniversary of the Birth of the United States Marine Corps.

# MARKER PLACED NEAR TUN TAVERN SITE

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 11--About 100 Marine Corps veterans, active duty Marines and friends of the Corps were on hand here the day following the observance of the 230th Anniversary of the Marine Corps for the dedication of an historical marker near the site of Tun Tavern, the traditionally recognized birthplace of the United States Marine Corps.

The dedication of the marker is the first official recognition of the site of the tavern, where Captain Samuel Nicholas, the first Marine officer, recruited the first Continental Marines in 1775.

The erection of the sign was a joint project between the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and was funded publicly and privately by active and reserve Marines and friends of Marines.

The marker reads: "Tun Tavern. Near here stood Tun Tavern. 1693-1781, which is regarded as the traditional birthplace of the United States Marine Corps, authorized by a resolution of the Continental Congress, November 10, 1775. Semper Fidelis."



**TUN TAVERN MARKER DEDICATION**--BrigGen. Ronald S. Coleman, USMC, Director of Marine Corps Personnel, HQMC, salutes as "Taps" is played after a wreathing-laying and dedication ceremony on Nov. 11 at the site of Tun Tavern.

## A New Christmas Poem

*Submitted by LtCol. Bill Quigley, USMC (Ret)*

IT WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS,  
HE LIVED ALL ALONE.  
IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE MADE OF  
PLASTER AND STONE.

I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY  
WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE,  
AND TO SEE JUST WHO  
IN THIS HOME DID LIVE.

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT,  
A STRANGE SIGHT I DID SEE,  
NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS,  
NOT EVEN A TREE.

NO STOCKING BY MANTLE,  
JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND,  
ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES  
OF FAR DISTANT LANDS.

WITH MEDALS AND BADGES,  
AWARDS OF ALL KINDS,  
A SOBER THOUGHT  
CAME THROUGH MY MIND.

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT,  
IT WAS DARK AND DREARY,  
I FOUND THE HOME OF A MARINE.  
ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY,  
THE MARINE LAY SLEEPING,  
SILENT, ALONE.  
CURLED UP ON THE FLOOR  
IN THIS ONE BEDROOM HOME.

THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE,  
THE ROOM IN SUCH DISORDER,  
NOT HOW I PICTURED  
A UNITED STATES MARINE.

WAS THIS THE HERO  
OF WHOM I'D JUST READ?  
CURLED UP ON A PONCHO,  
THE FLOOR FOR A BED?

I REALIZED THE FAMILIES  
THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT,  
OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE MARINES  
WHO WERE WILLING TO FIGHT.



SOON ROUND THE WORLD,  
THE CHILDREN WOULD PLAY,  
AND GROWNUPS WOULD CELEBRATE  
A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY.

THEY ALL ENJOYED FREEDOM  
EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR,  
BECAUSE OF THE MARINES,  
LIKE THE ONE LYING HERE.

I COULDN'T HELP WONDER  
HOW MANY LAY ALONE,  
ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE  
IN A LAND FAR FROM HOME.

THE VERY THOUGHT  
BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY EYE,  
I DROPPED TO MY KNEES  
AND STARTED TO CRY.

THE MARINE AWAKENED  
AND I HEARD A ROUGH VOICE,  
"SANTA DON'T CRY,  
THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE;

I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM,  
I DON'T ASK FOR MORE,  
MY LIFE IS MY GOD,  
MY COUNTRY, MY CORPS."  
THE MARINE ROLLED OVER  
AND DRIFTED TO SLEEP,  
I COULDN'T CONTROL IT,  
I CONTINUED TO WEEP.

I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS,  
SO SILENT AND STILL  
AND WE BOTH SHIVERED  
FROM THE COLD NIGHT'S CHILL.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE  
ON THAT COLD, DARK, NIGHT,  
THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOR  
SO WILLING TO FIGHT.

THEN THE MARINE ROLLED OVER,  
WITH A VOICE SOFT AND PURE,  
WHISPERED, "CARRY ON SANTA,  
IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL IS SECURE."

ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH,  
AND I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT,  
"MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND,  
AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

# Decorated WWII Marine Unlikely Hero

By Alvin Benn  
Montgomery Advertiser

SELMA, AL--Mention John Wayne's name around war hero and Marine Corps Leaguer Jack Lucas and you won't get a smile.

"He was making movies while I was spilling my blood on Iwo Jima," Lucas says of the Duke, who got a military deferment in World War II due to an ear infection.

Millions of Americans have seen "Sands of Iwo Jima," a film that earned Wayne an Academy Award nomination. Other than military buffs, few have heard of Lucas.

If anybody's life is made to order for a movie, it's Lucas'. A biography is due out next March.

Movie possibilities are endless. For starters, the 14-year-old North Carolinian lied about his age to join the Marine Corps and fight the Japanese.

Each time his superiors discovered how young he was, Lucas found a way to stay in uniform--including stowing away on a train headed for California and the South Pacific.

A born brawler, Lucas kept getting into fights and being thrown into the brig. Twice, he was given the traditional punishment in the naval service--eating only bread and water for 30 days.

In January 1945, Lucas climbed aboard a troop ship and hid in a landing craft for a month, sneaking in food and staying low. The day before he would have been listed as a deserter, he turned himself in.

It was a smart move because, by then, he was in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and he didn't think they'd toss him overboard. A Colonel was so impressed by his desire to fight that he said he'd like to have a whole ship of Lucases.

On Feb. 14, 1945, the kid turned 17. Two days later, he and his buddies hit the beaches of Iwo Jima.

"Shells were flying, people were being blown apart and bullets were everywhere," he recalled. "It was just where I wanted to be."

The day after he landed, Lucas led three other Marines toward an airstrip in the shadow of Mount Suribachi. They made their way along a trench and that's where

they discovered 11 enemy soldiers in a parallel ditch.

"We opened fire," Lucas said. "There wasn't time to put your weapon to your shoulder. We just fired."

A malfunction with his M-1 rifle led to a series of developments that nearly cost him his life and earned him America's highest military award for valor.

"My rifle jammed," he said Friday, after speaking at Selma's Veterans Day ceremony. "When I looked down and tried to fix it, I saw them."

"Them" were two hand grenades hurled at Lucas' team. He hollered "grenades!" and jumped on them as the three other Marines scattered.

"I didn't know how long they had been there," he said. "It only took four seconds for them to go off. I just jumped on'em."

He smashed his rifle butt against one grenade and drove it into the volcanic ash while pulling the other one under his body. The one he held didn't detonate, but the one in the sand did.

The explosion flipped him over and drove about 200 pieces of metal into his body. It was a miracle he lived. Most Marines who did what he did died instantly and received the Medal of Honor

## VA Prescription Co-Pays to Increase by \$1

WASHINGTON--Co-payments for outpatient medicines prescribed through Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities will rise by \$1, according to an announcement today by VA. The \$1 increase for a 30-day supply of prescription drugs will take effect on January 1, 2006, the first change in VA prescription drug co-payments in four years.

"Through sound management practices, efficient pharmacy operations and price negotiations that put veterans first, VA has been able to contain prescription drug costs," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, noting that co-payments paid by veterans will still be lower than similar expenses in the private sector.

The increase to \$8 from \$7 for a 30-day supply of prescription drugs is required by federal law, which bases VA's co-payments for outpatient prescriptions

posthumously.

On Oct. 5, 1945, President Truman placed the medal around Lucas' neck. He told Lucas he'd rather win the Medal of Honor than be president. Lucas replied: "I'll swap with you."

After the war, Lucas joined the Army and became a paratrooper with the famed 82nd Airborne Division. He made 45 jumps. On one jump, he was the last man out of the airplane and the first to land. Angels seem to hover around his shoulders.

By his count, Lucas, now 77, still has about 150 pieces of metal in his body and sets off metal detectors at airports.

"They know I'm coming, so I don't worry much about security problems," he said.

Jack is working on his fourth marriage and feels he's finally found the right wife. Ruby Lucas feels just as fortunate.

They live in Hattiesburg, MS, and often tour the country where Jack gives speeches and Ruby looks after him.

Lucas remains a staunch patriot and can't abide by those who aren't behind Old Glory 100 percent -- which leads us to Jane Fonda. Try not to mention her name in his presence.

on increases in the Medical Consumer Price Index.

The \$1 increase will not affect veterans who have an injury or illness connected with their military service resulting in a 50 percent or greater disability. Also known as "Priority Group 1" veterans, these patients will see no change in their current prescription drug benefit, Nicholson said.

Other veterans with less pronounced service-connected ailments -- those classified as Priority Groups 2 through 6 -- will see their prescription drug co-pays rise by \$1, but their annual out-of-pocket expenses for VA medicine will remain capped.

The new cap will rise to \$960 per year, up \$120 from the previous level. This means veterans in Priority Groups 2 through 6 will pay no more than \$960 annually for VA outpatient medicine.

(See **PRESCRIPTIONS**, Page 7)

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**THANKSGIVING**  
**24 NOVEMBER**

**PEARL HARBOR DAY**  
**7 DECEMBER**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**14 DECEMBER**

**1ST DAY OF WINTER**  
**21 DECEMBER**

**CHRISTMAS**  
**25 DECEMBER**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**1 JANUARY 2006**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**11 JANUARY**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**8 FEBRUARY**

**LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY**  
**12 FEBRUARY**

**VALENTINE'S DAY**  
**14 FEBRUARY**

**PRESIDENT'S DAY**  
**21 FEBRUARY**

**WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY**  
**22 FEBRUARY**

**DETACHMENT MEETING**  
**8 MARCH 2005**

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY**  
**17 MARCH**

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# The Few, The Proud, The Marines

## Senate Passes COLA Increase for Vets

The U.S. Senate and the House on Nov. 17 passed one of the largest increases in the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for veterans in recent memory. The bill (S. 1234), sponsored in the Senate by Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Larry Craig, now goes to President Bush for his signature.

"This is the largest increase since 1991," said Sen. Larry Craig, chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

"For those veterans who are 100 percent disabled, their compensation will increase by approximately \$1,100 for 2006, up from \$27,588 to \$28,716. I am hopeful that the increase will help with higher fuel and other costs which have gone up."

The increase is based on the rise in the Consumer Price Index. Veterans will see the increase in their January 1, 2006, paychecks.

According to VA officials, nearly 2.6 million veterans with service-connected disabilities will benefit from Craig's efforts. ducational program.

## MARINES' WEDDING



Sgt. William C. Wade and Cpl. Lysie Rosenberger were married in a ceremony at the Plumsteadville Inn on Oct. 29 Lysie is Marine Bill Ro-senberger's daughter. Both Marines are stationed at MCAS, New River, NC.

## PRESCRIPTIONS (From Page 4)

Veterans who have no injury or illness related in any way to their prior military service – referred to as Priority Groups 7 and 8 – will also see their co-payments increase, but there is no cap on annual payments for outpatient medicine.

Not all prescription drugs will be subject to the \$1 increase. Outpatient medications not subject to co-payments include:

- \* Medication for treatment of a service-connected disability;
- \* Medication for a veteran who has a ser-

vice-connected disability of 50 percent or more;

- \* Medication for a veteran disabled by 50 percent or more for unemployability;
- \* Medication for a veteran whose annual income does not exceed the amount of VA pensions;
- \* Medications for health problems that may be linked to Agent Orange for Vietnam veterans, to radiation exposure, to undiagnosed illnesses of Persian War veterans, or for new veterans within two years of discharge after serving in a combat theater.

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Type of Application -- New ( ) Renewal ( ) Associate ( ) Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for membership in the **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT**, Marine Corps League, and enclose \$30.00 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.

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**Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 1372**  
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**"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"**