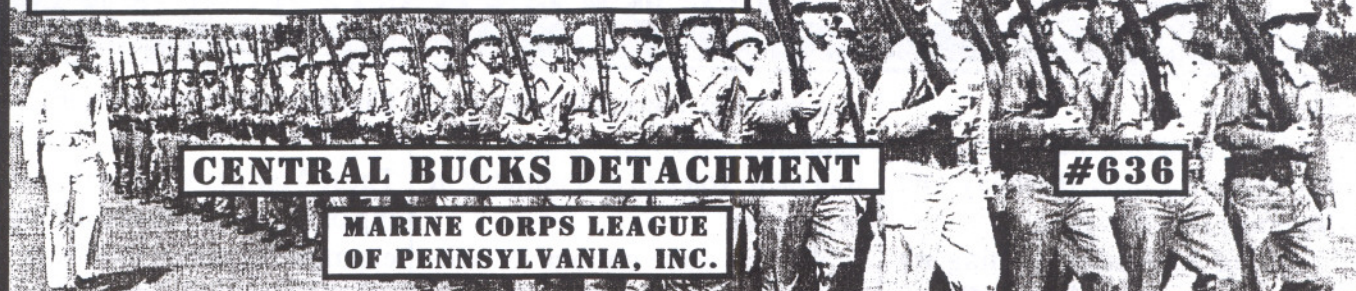


LISTEN UP!



VOLUME XX, Number 12

DECEMBER 2007

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

MEMORIAL GROUNDBREAKING HELD

The Doylestown Township "Community Service & Veterans Memorial" groundbreaking ceremony was held Friday, Nov. 9, in Triangle Park at Rt. 611 & Sandersean Rd.

Taking part in the ceremonies were State Senator Chuck McIlhinny, State Representative Marguerite Quinn, Bucks County Commissioner Charly Martin, Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors Chair Barbara N. Lyons, Township Supervisors Vice Chairman Tom

Scarborough, and Larry Glick of Congressman Patrick Murphy's office.

Representing the Central Bucks Detachment of the Marine Corps League were Adjutant Gary Smith, Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling and Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, who also serves on the Memorial's committee.

Dedication ceremonies for the memorial are scheduled for May 17, 2008, at the Triangle Park.



GROUNDBREAKERS--Politicians and Memorial Committee members breaking ground Nov. 9. Former Marine & Sculptor Ashby Saunders (left) and C-B Detachment Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee (in uniform) were among those taking part.

'Honor Our Fallen POWs' Bill Passes Congress

The Congressional bill, "Honor Our Fallen Prisoners of War," to present a posthumous Purple Heart to the families of POWs who had previously been overlooked, has been approved for implementation by the Department of Defense (DoD).

Currently, only POWs who die during their imprisonment, of wounds inflicted by an instrument of war, are eligible for posthumous Purple Heart recognition.

Those who die of starvation, disease, abuse or other causes while imprisoned are not eligible. **Congressman Bob Filner's** bill corrects this injustice.

"This distinction is arbitrary, and it does not make any sense. Every soldier who dies while imprisoned by an enemy of war should be recognized and honored!" said Congressman Filner.

His bill was included as a section in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2007, which passed in October of 2006 and directed the President and the DoD to review the criteria used to determine eligibility for the award of the Purple Heart for POWs.

Please turn to **POW Medal**. Page 4



COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Hello Marines,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day this year.

At our November meeting we had our annual Marine Corps Birthday cake-cutting ceremony with our Liberty Young Marines Unit.

We had a great turn out and we



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
ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE III, PC

ADJUTANT
GARY SMITH

PAYMASTER
WILLIAM L. MICKELSON

JUDGE ADVOCATE
WILLIAM E. JERROM

QUARTERMASTER
COREY A. FISHER

CHAPLAIN
EDWARD W. HOTH, PDC

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
BOB SUNDLING, PC

MESS SERGEANT
WIL HAAS

WEBMASTER
JAMES E. PEARCE

also had two new applicants in attendance. We will work on getting them voted in and initiated in December.

We also gave out our Detachment awards. **Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller** received his Department Appointed Medal from the Detachment and **Corey Fisher** received his Detachment Appointed Officer Medal. If you don't already know, Corey took over the Quartermaster position. **Marine Ken Murray** received a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding efforts during the Department Youth Scholarship and Veterans raffle ticket sales. **Paymaster Bill Mickelson, Past Commandant Budd Pearce** and **Past Commandant Don Gee** received Individual Meritorious Commendations for their outstanding service to the Detachment during the past year. And of special note, **Past Commandant Budd Pearce** earned the Community Service award for his 10 years of service to the "Adopt-A-Highway" program and **Junior Past**

Commandant Bill Miller earned "Marine of the Year" honors. These Marines were very deserving of these awards and are a great example for others to follow.

I am especially grateful to Bill for his mentoring and friendship while I was his second-in-command.

December is "Toys for Tots" time. Please try to bring a gift to the next meeting and the Detachment will ensure delivery to the local "Toys for Tots" Center at Willow Grove Naval Air Station.

Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce has the 2008 Department Youth Scholarship and Veterans raffle tickets. Please see him for your tickets so we all can contribute and help fund our Detachment.

I hope you all have a great Thanksgiving holiday and I'll see you all on the 12th of December.

Semper Fi,

Jim Powell

ONLY 3 ISSUES LEFT

LISTEN UP! Seeks Editor

Someone familiar with desktop publishing is needed to edit our Detachment newsletter. If you're interested in serving your Detachment as its P-R Officer, contact **Commandant Jim Powell** (215-862-6280) or **Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee** (215-822-6898).

NOVEMBER DETACHMENT MEETING



M I N U T E S

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held November 14, 2007, 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, Budd Pearce, and Bob Sundling; Past Commandant & Assistant Southeast Division Vice Commandant Bill Miller; and Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth.**

The **Minutes** of the October Meeting were unanimously accepted by the members.

The **Paymaster's Report** was presented by **Paymaster Bill Mickelson**. The report was unanimously accepted.

Visitors: The Liberty Young Marines Unit and their parents were present for our annual Marine Corps Birthday Cake-Cutting Ceremony.

Commandant Jim Powell reported the Detachment had received a "Thank You" letter for participating in the Beirut Memorial program and a letter from the U. S. Marine Youth Foundation requesting sponsors for a bulb program.

Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, reported the Detachment strength at 48 including 22 Life Members, 21 Regular Members, 4 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member.

Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC, reported on the Veterans Day Program at Plumstead Christian School and announced the Department of Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund Raffle tickets had arrived and will be distributed at the December Meeting.

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

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

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

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported there had been no requests for the Detachment Color Guard since the last meeting.

Quartermaster Corey Fisher reported he was planning to change the Quartermaster operation to include providing more Marine Corps League-related items, making monthly sales reports, and holding monthly "Sales" on slow-moving items. He also asked members to let him know if there were any special items they would like to see the Quartermaster stock.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Commandant dispensed with Committee Reports for this meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Powell presented awards prior to the Cake-Cutting Ceremony. He began by presenting the Department Appointed Staff Medal to **Southeast Division Assistant Vice Commandant Bill Miller, PC.** Other awards included "Marine of the Year" to **Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller;** the Community Service Ribbon to **Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce;** Individual Comendation Ribbons to **Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce and Paymaster Bill Mickelson;** Detachment Appointed Staff Medal to **Quartermaster Corey A. Fisher;** and, a Certificate of Appreciation to **Marine Kenny Murray.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next month is our "Toys for Tots" month. Junior Vice Commandant Pearce reminded the members to bring at least one new toy to the December Meeting.

Junior Past Commandant Miller is scheduled for neck surgery shortly and will probably miss the next few meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 12.

MURPHY WANTS MEDALS DATABASE SOUGHT TO CATCH FRAUDS

by Leo Shane III, Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON--**PA Representative Patrick Murphy** wants to establish the first database for military awards to help law enforcement officials catch and prosecute military frauds.

The measure, introduced in the House last month, would collect the names of all current and former servicemembers who have earned military medals including the Medal of Honor, Silver Star and Purple Heart. Certain Coast Guard and Merchant Marine medals also would be included.

That database would be made available to law enforcement and certain researchers to help them determine rightful heroes from clever frauds.

Last year, Congress approved the Stolen Valor Act, making false possession and display of certain high-

level military medals punishable by up to six months in jail.

But co-sponsor **CO Rep. John Salazar** said many of the cases proved difficult to prosecute because investigators had no way to prove or disprove whether a suspect actually earned any medals.

"These honors are reserved for those who willingly risked their lives for our country," he said in a statement. "It is our job to protect the honor and integrity of our veterans, to make sure the memory of their heroism is not tarnished."

Defense Department officials had no comment on the pending legislation. Many of the service's old records are spread out through various subagencies and are not yet digitized, which likely would make creating the database a cumbersome task.

Doug Sterner, a Vietnam veteran whose research has exposed dozens of military frauds, agrees that compiling the data will take time, but insists it is not an impossible task.

In his research, he has tracked down numerous missing or forgotten citations, and said putting together a clearinghouse of medal recipients will prevent those records from being lost again.

Rep. Murphy said recent reports of new scam artists claiming to be Iraq veterans further underscore the need for the legislation.

Last month, researchers also discovered that the Veterans History Project, a multimillion-dollar collection of more than 50,000 oral and written war stories from Americans sponsored by the Library of Congress, included many stories of men claiming medals they never earned.

POW Medal from Page 1

The review has been completed, and the report has been released to **Chairman Ike Skelton** of the House Armed Services Committee and to **Chairman Carl Levin** of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"The report says that changing the

eligibility criteria for the Purple Heart has merit for POWs who die while in captivity and who are eligible for the Prisoner-of-War Medal, which includes virtually all POWs," said Congressman Filner.

Senator Barbara Boxer introduced the companion bill in the Senate. The inspiration for the bill came

from **Wilbert "Shorty" Estabrook** of Selma, TX, who was imprisoned during the Korean War for more than three years, and **Rick and Brenda Tavares** of Campo, CA.

Brenda's uncle, **Corporal Melvin Morgan**, died of starvation and beatings in 1950 at the age of 20 in Korea.

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 or 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, Marines, for your continued support!

Photo of the Month

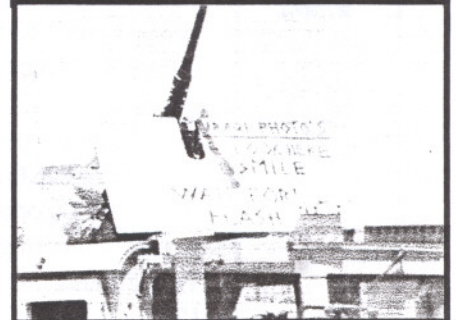


PHOTO ALBUM

FREEDOM CONCERT



SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Bob Sundling with retired LtCol. OLLIE NORTH at the "Freedom Concert," at Six Flags, Jackson, NJ, on Sept. 11.

BEIRUT MEMORIAL



COLOR GUARD—Commandant Jim Powell and Marine Anthonmy Verrecchio at the Philadelphia Beirut Memorial on Oct. 21.

Vice Pres. Cheney Calls Iraq Central Front in War on Terror

by Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON--"Terrorists are under no illusion about the importance of the struggle in Iraq," so freedom-loving people can't be either, **Vice President Richard B. Cheney** told members of the Marine Corps League recently.

Speaking to the group at its 84th national convention in Albuquerque, NM, Cheney warned against the perception some have that the war in Iraq is a distraction or diversion from the war on terror.

Iraq is the central front in the terror war, where enemies of the United States have gathered to launch attacks and establish a safe haven, he said.

"Iraq's relevance to the war on terror simply could not be more plain," the Vice President said.

"And here at home, that makes one thing, above all, very clear. If you support the war on terror, then you ought to support it where the terrorists are fighting us."

Cheney conceded that the war has been difficult and has demanded immense sacrifice. But he emphasized that those sacrifices are beginning to pay off through an improved security situation that will create the environment the Iraqi government needs to succeed.

"It is still tough going," he said. "But even some critics of the Iraqi operation who have taken time to look at the facts are admitting that tremendous changes have taken place."

Now, he said, is no time to call it quits.

"This is no time to lose heart and make a precipitous withdrawal from Iraq, as some in Congress are demanding," he said. "To quit this fight would be to lose this fight, and the consequences would be grievous."

He noted that the United States was supporting efforts to expel the Soviets from Afghanistan in the 1980s, but "walked away" after the Soviet Union collapsed.

"From that point on, various extremist factions began to vie for power," he said.

The consequences of that action couldn't have been foreseen before the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, he said.

"But no one could plead ignorance of the potential consequences of walking away from Iraq now, withdrawing coalition forces before the Iraqis can defend themselves."

Staying in Iraq until it can stand on its own is critical to security, not just in Iraq and the Middle East, but also in the United States, he said.

"We are there because the security of this nation depends on a successful outcome: an Iraq that can defend itself, govern itself, sustain itself and be an ally in the global war on terror."

The cause in Iraq is bigger than political bickering, he said.

"It is in the national security interest," he said. "It is America's war, and the best among us are those fighting and sacrificing to win it."

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

HANUKKAH
5 DECEMBER

PEARL HARBOR DAY
7 DECEMBER

DETACHMENT MEETING
12 DECEMBER

FIRST DAY OF WINTER
22 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DAY
25 DECEMBER

NEW YEAR'S DAY
1 JANUARY

DETACHMENT MEETING
9 JANUARY

MARTIN LUTHER KING
DAY
21 JANUARY

GROUNDHOG DAY
2 FEBRUARY

DETACHMENT MEETING
13 FEBRUARY

VALENTINE'S DAY
14 FEBRUARY

PRESIDENTS' DAY
18 FEBRUARY

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME BEGINS
9 MARCH

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President

DON H. GEE
Vice President

HOW TO PROPERLY WEAR RIBBONS AND MEDALS

- * No pins, medals or any other devices shall be worn on the MCL Cover other than the EGA.
- * **Either** DOD **or** MCL ribbons to be worn one-eighth inch above the left breast pocket of white short sleeve aviator shirt. **DO NOT INTERMIX!**
- * Shooting badges will not be worn with MCL ribbons.
- * MCL Ribbons **ONLY** on the MCL Ceremonial Uniform (khaki shirt)). No DOD ribbons or Shooting Badges to be worn.
- * Miniature medals may be worn on the Blazer as part of the MCL Formal Uniform (tuxedo shirt, bow tie).
- * Large medals may be worn on the MCL Mess Jacket.

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USMC TRIVIA QUIZ



1. The male Marine long-sleeve shirt should have a tolerance of how many inches?
2. How many years did the U.S. Marines fight in Korea?
3. When was the Annapolis U.S. Naval Academy established?
4. Which Marine Corps manual contains guidelines for assigning conduct and proficiency marks?
5. Which court-martial can a Marine refuse?

Answers in Next Month's Newsletter

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. The first Marine Aviation Force flew (British) DeHavillands, DH-4 bombers, and Sopwith Camels.
2. Major General Barrett was the first Commandant to request the recruiting of women in the Marine Corps.
3. MAG-33 fighter bombers were the first Corps aviation elements to engage the North Koreans.
4. The largest Marine Barracks CONUS is located at the Naval Weapons Station, Concord, CA.
5. An MK1 illuminating hand grenade has 55,000 candlepower.



Application for Membership Marine Corps League

(Date)

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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**)
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