

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXV, Number 12

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Commandant: JOSEPH M. KIER

Editor: DON H. GEE

'CHESTY' STATUE DEDICATED AT NATIONAL MUSEUM

A statue of the Marine Corps' most decorated member was dedicated in Virginia on Monday, Nov. 12.

The sculpture stands atop a hill overlooking the National Museum of the Marine Corps. The eight-foot tall bronze figure is pointing, the right arm raised as if leading troops into battle.

"We knew him as 'Chesty'," says **Marine Major Sean Marland**. "He's always been one of those founding fathers, that we always followed."

At a ceremony attended by family, friends, U. S. Marines and retired military members, the sculpture of Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, the most decorated U.S. Marine in history, was unveiled.

"He did get my father," says **Martha Puller-Downs**, speaking of sculptor **Terry Jones**, himself a former U. S. Marine.

"He's a battle Marine, he's a combat Marine," Jones says of Puller. "He's the type of Marine leader you want on the front lines when you have to deal with the enemy and win."

Puller was a commander in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II and Korea. Names like Peleliu, Guadalcanal, and Chosin Reservoir.

"I was just 19 year old at the time," recalls **Marine Lieutenant General Stephen Olmstead**.



He was a Private during the Korean War, when he saw the-then Colonel Puller up close.

"I remember him on the side of the road one day, 'we got them now boys, we got them now'. He was a very obvious leader," Olmstead says.

A distinguished career: duty, honor, country and sheer raw courage. Gen. Puller would be awarded five Navy Crosses.

"He was definitely a Marine's Marine," says Marland.

For Jones, the challenge was to capture the character of the man in sculpture. He looked at photograph after photograph, but perhaps a better, surer way was to simply talk to the men who served under the general.

"I would get the oral history," Jones says.

That history included tales of bravery, and a single-minded determination to win in battle.

"His aide says General, we're totally surrounded," Jones says. "He says good, now we have them where we want them. If you keep shooting, you can't miss any of 'em."

Puller was forced to retire in 1955 after a stroke. He died in 1971 at age 73.

"He was like Patton, you know?" says **James Lovett**, among the World War II Army veterans who attended the ceremony.

"Anything for the vets. He's a good General, too...very good General," added Lovett.

But now, the nickname "Chesty," from his erect posture and barrel chest, is now, like the man, part of Marine Corps legend.

"I love the fact that it's going to keep my father's legacy alive," Martha Puller-Downs smiles. "He definitely, really is a big part of the Marine Corps, and he should be here."



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The 'Canal' & the REAL G. I. Joe

The REAL G.I. Joe - not some Hollywood ego-trip

On Nov. 15, 2003, an 85-year-old retired Marine Corps Colonel died of congestive heart failure at his home in La Quinta, CA, southeast of Palm Springs. He was a combat veteran of World War II. Reason enough to honor him, but this Marine was a little different. This Marine was **Mitchell Paige**.

On Guadalcanal, the Marines struggled to complete an airfield. Japanese Admiral Yamamoto knew what that meant. No effort would be spared to dislodge these upstart Yanks from a position that could endanger his ships. Before long, relentless Japanese counterattacks had driven supporting U. S. Navy from inshore waters. The Marines were on their own.

As Platoon Sergeant Mitchell Paige and his 33 riflemen set about carefully emplacing their four water-cooled 30-caliber Browning machineguns, manning their section of the thin khaki line which was expected to defend Henderson Field against the assault of the night of Oct. 25, 1942, it's unlikely anyone thought they were about to provide the definitive answer to that most desperate of questions: How many able-bodied U. S. Marines does it take to hold a hill against 2,000 desperate and motivated attackers?

But by the time the night was over, "The 29th (Japanese) Infantry Regiment has lost 553 killed or missing and 479 wounded among its 2,554 men," historian Lippman reports. "The 16th (Japanese) Regiment's losses are uncounted, but the 164th's burial parties handled 975 Japanese bodies.... The American estimate of 2,200 Japanese dead is probably too low."

You've already figured out where the Japanese focused their attack,

haven't you?

Among the 90 American dead and seriously wounded that night were all the men in Mitchell Paige's platoon--every one. As the night of endless attacks wore on, Paige moved up and down his line, pulling his dead and wounded comrades back into their foxholes and firing a few bursts from each of the four Brownings in turn, convincing the Japanese forces down the hill that the positions were still manned.

The citation for Paige's Medal of Honor picks up the tale: When the enemy broke through the line directly in front of his position, PltSgt. Paige, commanding a machinegun section with fearless determination, continued to direct the fire of his gunners until all his men were either killed or wounded. Alone, against the deadly hail of Japanese shells, he fought with his gun and when it was destroyed, took over another, moving from gun to gun, never ceasing his withering fire."

In the end, Sgt. Paige picked up the last of the 40-pound, belt-fed Brownings--the same design which **John Moses Browning** famously fired for a continuous 25 minutes until it ran out of ammunition, glowing cherry red, at its first U. S. Army trial --and did something for which the weapon was never designed. Sgt. Paige walked down the hill toward the place where he could hear the last Japanese survivors rallying to move around his flank, the belt-fed gun cradled under his arm, firing as he went, and the weapon did not fail.

Coming up at dawn, Battalion Executive Officer **Major Odell M. Conoley** was first to discover the answer to our question: How many able-bodied Marines does it take to

See PAIGE,

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NOVEMBER DETACHMENT MEETING



MINUTES

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held November 14, 2012, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA. This Detachment meeting was dedicated our own fallen Marine, **Ray Krout**. There were 14 members present including all officers except the **Senior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile** and **Chaplain Don Parzanese Jr.** who was excused. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Bud Pearce, Bob Sundling, Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., Department of Pennsylvania Junior Vice Commandant/Past Detachment Commandant/Marine of the Year Jim Powell** and **Past Department of New Jersey and Past National Northeast Division Vice Commandant Ed Hoth**. **NEW MEMBERS:** None.

The **Minutes** of the October Meeting as published in *Listen Up!* were adopted.

SICK and DISTRESSED: **Marine Bob Leimer** has been sick and is improving. Senior Vice Commandant Gentile's wife had back surgery and had to go back into the hospital to get her medications adjusted and is improving. **Marine Wil Haas** reported through Don Gee that **Marine Bill Mickelson** is still not doing well and would appreciate cards or a visit.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Joe Kier reported on the successful Detachment Birthday Ball on the 10th due to some outstanding work of several Detachment members. **Major Czapka** sent a thank you card, Pictures were put out on facebook and the website will have pictures added soon. He also informed the membership that this year's "Toys for Tots" is currently underway.

Commandant Kier reporting for Senior Vice Commandant Gentile reported that the Detachment had 39 regular members of which 2 are dual, 25 life members and 6 associates for a total of 70.

Junior Vice Commandant Vince DeBella reported that he is starting to work on our participation at the Valley Forge Gun Show on December 8th and 9th in Warminster. He is looking for volunteers to help. We will be selling our Youth and Veterans Raffle tickets and doing a membership drive. Anyone wishing to step up to help should contact Junior Vice DeBella as soon as possible.

Adjutant/Paymaster Jim Powell, PC, presented the Paymaster's financial report. He presented the Detachment with our National Junior Vice Commandant's Citation for 100% membership along with the flag streamer that was presented at the Department Staff meeting in October. He also presented the invitation from the New Hope Winery for a free Thanksgiving Dinner for all Veterans on Thanksgiving.

Judge Advocate Don Parzanese Sr., PC, had nothing to report.

Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC set November 20th as the deadline for submitting material for the *Listen Up!*. He reported that the Guardians of the National Cemetery are having their annual Awards Dinner on January 17, 2013, and everyone is invited to attend. He also informed the membership that on Saturday, November 17th, the Detachment will participating in Ray Krout's funeral and will forming up at 0900 at the Doylestown Cemetery. Anyone wishing to participate will be more than welcome to do so.

Assistant Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, reported on Ray Krout's upcoming funeral.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported he will be going to Parris Island in January for a former Young Marine's graduation and stated that anyone needing something from the base store should let him know. There will be a Color Guard for the Mannion Foundation function on Sunday, November 25th, at 1000 at the cafeteria in Central Bucks West. There will also be a Color Guard for the New Britain Borough Historic Preservation Committee's sponsoring of the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the New Britain Baptist Church Cemetery on December 15th. Anyone interested is joining, please contact Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling as soon as possible.

Quartermaster Corey Fisher had nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commandant Joe Kier presented **Associate Member Corey Fisher** a Community Service Award for his participation in last year's "Toys-for-Tots" Program.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to donate \$50 to the U. S. Marine Corps Youth Foundation's "Tree of Lights" program.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to reimburse **Webmaster Jim Powell** for fees paid to keep the Detachment Website going.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 1930 on Wednesday, December 12th, 2012.

Please see MURDER, Page 7

hold a hill against two regiments of motivated, combat-hardened infantrymen who have never known defeat?

On a hill where the bodies were piled like cordwood, Mitchell Paige alone sat upright behind his 30-caliber Browning, waiting to see what the dawn would bring. One hill: one Marine. But "In the early morning light, the enemy could be seen a few yards off, and vapor from the barrels of their machine guns was clearly visible," re-

ports historian Lippman. "It was decided to try to rush the position."

For the task, Major Conoley gathered together "three enlisted communication personnel, several riflemen, a few company runners who were at the point, together with a cook and a few messmen who had brought food to the position the evening before." Joined by Paige, this force of 17 Marines counterattacked at 5:40 a.m., discovering that "the extremely short range allowed the optimum use of grenades." They cleared the ridge. And that's where the unstoppable wave of Japanese conquest

finally crested, broke, and began to recede. On an unnamed jungle ridge on an insignificant island no one had ever heard of, called Guadalcanal.

But who remembers, today, how close-run a thing it was--the ridge held by a single Marine. In the autumn of 1942? When the Hasbro Toy Co. called some years back, asking permission to put the retired Colonel's face on some kid's doll, Mitchell Paige thought they must be joking. But they weren't. That's his mug, on the little Marine they call "G.I. Joe."

And now you know the rest of the story!

MARINES BEING SCAMMED

Be aware that there is a scam being run in South Carolina.

Two SC Detachment Officers have been contacted in the below described way, and both lost personal funds, attempting to assist an alleged Marine/MCL member.

The first was in August, the second this month, both apparently by the same crooks, and since it has been successful, it will probably be attempted again.

The initial contact comes from someone claiming to be a MCL Detachment Commandant or a retired Marine officer in Missouri, who says he found your name and phone on the National website. The phone used in both of the above cases was (417) 499-0567 (Joplin, MO area code). (This may be someone living, or temporarily working in SC, with a cell phone bought/registered in Joplin, MO.) This scam will probably also change slightly, if used again.

The fake commandant, or officer, says that one of his detachment/family members, a Marine, has had some problems in your area on the Interstate, usu-

ally vehicle trouble, and that the Marine needs some financial assistance, to get home (which will be reimbursed by the caller or his detachment, as soon as he or his detachment can get to a Western Union Office or UPS Overnight to send you the funds), and then there may be more calls over a couple of hours, describing the needy Marine's home detachment activities and/or some delays involving getting the funds together to send to you.

Then there is a supposed communications glitch with the wire transfer, which causes another delay in the money getting sent, accompanied by a request that you just give the needy Marine some large sum of money (\$500.00 or more), and/or pay a motel bill or vehicle repair bill, which the fake commandant/retired officer assures you will be fully reimbursed by money being sent to you by UPS Overnight or Western Union, in only a few hours, and get the needy Marine on his way home, and then after he is allowed to leave with the money in hand, ... the communications completely break down, and the phone from which the

original call was made--(417) 499 - 0567--goes unanswered.

If you are contacted by someone claiming to be a detachment commandant/retired officer in Missouri, or any other state for that matter, and asking you to quickly financially assist a Marine and/or Marine Corps League Member stranded without money, immediately contact me by cell phone, day or night.

I can attempt to verify the supposedly needy Marine's membership in the MCL, and we can then decide whether the request is legitimate, and properly made. Also, if it is a scam, we can contact law enforcement to see if we can prosecute this crook.

DO NOT GO OUT TO MEET ANY STRANGER REPORTEDLY NEEDING HELP, ... MARINE OR OTHER PERSONS, ... ON THE INTERSTATE, OR AT A MOTEL, DAY OR NIGHT, WITHOUT AN ASSISTANT.

Semper Fidelis,

Archie H. Sweet, Jr.

Commandant

Department of South Carolina

Marine Corps League

DETACHMENT HOLDS USMC BIRTHDAY BALL

The Central Bucks Detachment celebrated the 237th Marine Corps Birthday with a dinner ceremony at the Brookside Manor in Feasterville on Saturday, Nov. 10.

Guest of Honor for the birthday observance was **Maj. Arthur M. Czapka**, USMCR, Executive Officer for the 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines.

The official program began with the traditional messages being presented by Detachment members.

Following the National Anthem, the "Marine's Prayer" was offered by **Assistant Chaplain Budd Pearce** and the Gen. John Lejeune's Traditional Birthday Message was presented by **Judge Advocate Donald D. Parzanese Sr.**, MGySgt., USMC (Ret).

The Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos' Birthday Message was delivered by the night's Master of Ceremonies **Public Relations Officer Don H. Gee Sr.**, GySgt., USMC (Ret).

Commandant Joe Kier gave his birthday message to the members and

guests followed by remarks from Maj. Czapka.

Dinner was served after the presentations of the first pieces of birthday cake to the oldest and youngest Marines in attendance, as is Marine Corps tradition.

Following dinner, Commandant Kier presented awards to members for their service to the Detachment and the community during the past year.

The Distinguished Citizen Medal (Bronze)--the highest medal which can be awarded by the Detachment--was given to **Sgt. Robert M. Sundling**, USMCR, for his continuous, dedicated service to the Liberty Young Marines Unit.

Earning Distinguished Service Medals were: **Vincent DeBella** for his exemplary service to the Detachment during the past year as Junior Vice Commandant and his outstanding effort in organizing this year's Birthday Ball; **Sergeant-at-Arms Robert A. Sundling** for his dedicated service as Liaison Officer for the Liberty Young

Marines Unit and serving as the Unit's Executive Officer; and, **Adjutant/Paymaster James J. Powell** for his years of outstanding service to the Detachment at the local, departmental and national levels.

Receiving Community Service Awards for their years of grassroots efforts with the Central Bucks County "Toys-for-Tots" program were **Quartermaster Corey Fisher**, **Public Relations Officer Don Gee**, and **Alexandrea Kier**.

Marine Jason Hoffman was presented a Meritorious Individual Commendation for his selfless dedication and assistance in organizing this year's Birthday Ball.

The final award of the evening was the prestigious Detachment "Marine of the Year."

This year's award, presented by 2012 "Marine of the Year" **Jim Powell**, was earned by **Junior Vice Commandant DeBella** for his numerous, exemplary contributions to the Detachment during the past year.

Want to Visit a Marine Base?

Two airmen were driving across country on leave. They come to a Marine Corps base and decide to visit.

They approach the gate and the Marine Guard walks up to the driver's window, and taps on it with his nightstick.

The driver rolls down the window, and the Marine smacks him in the head with the stick. The driver says, "Why'd you do that?"

The Marine says, "You're on a United States Marine Corps Base, son. When I come up to your car, you'll have your ID card ready."

Driver says, "I'm sorry, We're in the Air Force, and we didn't know."

The Marine examines the I.D. card and gives it back to the driver.

The Marine walks around to the passenger side and taps on the win-

dow. The passenger rolls his window down, and the Marine smacks him with the nightstick.

The passenger says, "What'd you do that for?"

The Marine says, "Just making your

wishes come true."

The passenger says, "Huh?"

The Marine says, "I know that as soon as you pull away you're gonna say, 'I wish that Marine would've tried that stuff with me!'"

HELP NEEDED

Your Detachment is seeking your assistance in manning a table at the Valley Forge Gun Show on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 8 & 9.

The show will be held at the **S. M. G. Sports Plex**, 654 York Rd. in Warminster, and the table has to be staffed in three-hour shifts daily between 9 a.m.

and 4 p.m.

If you can give three hours to helping your Detachment recruit new members and sell Department Youth & Veterans Raffle Tickets, please contact **Junior Vice Commandant Vince DeBella** at 215-514-2237.



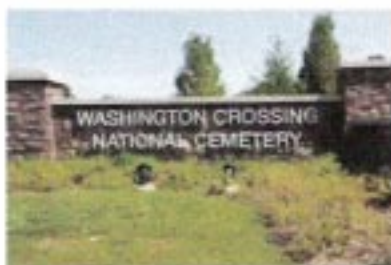
Guardians of the National Cemetery

OFFICIAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE FOR
WASHINGTON CROSSING NATIONAL CEMETERY
NEWTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA



THIRD ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY Volunteer Awards Dinner 2013 Friday, January 17, 2013

Come join us to celebrate the third anniversary of the opening of the **Washington Crossing National Cemetery** as we recognize our outstanding volunteers for their service to the veterans' community.



RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE JANUARY 9, 2012 TO ENSURE SEATING

Kings Caterers, 4010 New Falls Road (near Rte 413), Bristol, PA 19007, 215-943-7070

Cocktail Hour 5:00 PM (cash bar) Dinner 6:00 PM

Buffet Menu: Salad, Carved Roast Beef, Baked Ham, Sausage & Meatballs, Chicken Marsala, Potatoes, Green Beans, Veg, Dessert and Coffee.

TEAR OFF AND MAIL YOUR RESERVATION BEFORE JANUARY 14, 2012

Guardians of the National Cemetery 2013 Anniversary Awards Dinner

MEMBER and spouse: \$25.00 per person

NON-MEMBERS: \$50.00 per person

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE JANUARY 9, 2012 TO ENSURE SEATING

Please reserve **MEMBER** seats: Number of seats _____ at member rate of \$25.00 ea. Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please reserve **NON-MEMBER** seats: Number of seats _____ at non-member rate of \$50.00 ea. Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

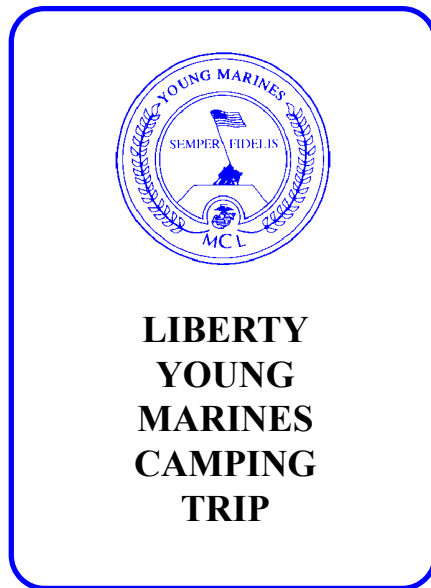
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail this coupon with your check to: **Guardians of the National Cemetery, PO Box 233, Newtown, PA 18940**

Meals are not tax-deductible.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation in addition to your meal, please indicate the amount of your donation here: \$ _____

The official registration and financial information of Guardians of the National Cemetery Foundation (EIN: 26-2587955) may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**THANKSGIVING
22 NOVEMBER**

**PEARL HARBOR
DAY
7 DECEMBER**

**HANNUKKAH
BEGINS
8 DECEMBER**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
12 DECEMBER**

**WINTER BEGINS
21 DECEMBER**

**CHRISTMAS
25 DECEMBER**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY
1 JANUARY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
9 JANUARY**

**INAUGURATION
DAY
20 JANUARY**

**MARTIN LUTHER JR.
DAY
21 JANUARY**

Quartermaster Store

DETACHMENT STRIP



\$5.00

USMC SATIN JACKET



\$55.00

**LIFE MEMBER
BLAZER CREST**



\$25.00

COVER



\$22.00

**DETACHMENT
T-SHIRT**



\$15.00

MCL PATCH



\$3.50

ANNIVERSARY PATCH



\$5.00

To order any of these items or any other Marine Corps League items or Marine Corps items and have them ready for pick-up at the next Detachment Meeting, contact

Quartermaster COREY FISHER

at

ph: 215-822-6898

e-mail: cbquartermaster@aol.com

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"

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**)
to: **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, P. O. Box 1372, Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**