

LISTEN UP!



VOLUME XXVII, Number 12

December 2014

Commandant: Joseph M. Kier

Editor: Alexandra M. Kier

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON DEC 10TH AT 1930

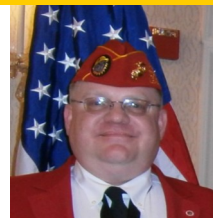
COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

We had a great Birthday Ball, the food was excellent as was our guest speaker Col Church, who gave us a great birthday speech and has contacted me and wanted to express his thanks to the Detachment for inviting him and for the great gift. I want to thank the Birthday Ball committee for doing another excellent job. While we are on that subject if anyone wants to present a venue for the Birthday Ball next year now is the time, just email your proposal to the committee with all the details you can get together. All proposals should be emailed to (at least) Vince DeBella at vincdebe@aol.com, Jim Powell at usmc80@comcast.net, and myself at joseph.kier@verizon.net, these are the members of the Ball committee at this time. Anyone else who wants to be on the committee should also email those addresses.

Once the committee receives the proposal we will go over it before it can be presented to the Detachment. I also want to let everyone know which meeting we would go over something like that so they can make sure to attend and have their input recognized. We would like to have a better attendance and maybe if we have more input from the membership we will have a better attendance.

We don't have too much going on in the near future with the holiday season in full swing Don, Alex Corey, and myself are busy with the annual Toys for Tots campaign in Bucks County we all hope to have a good season and help as many children as we can. We are having our final toy sign ups on December 2nd and hope some families in need can come out so we can help them, we will be at the



American Legion from 5-7pm tell anyone you know that is in need of toys for Christmas to stop by.

Anyway that is all for now if I don't see you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Semper Fi,

J.M.Kier
Commandant

Dept. Meeting Schedule	
2015 WINTER STAFF MEETING	9-10 JANUARY 2015
HOLIDAY INN GRANTVILLE, PA	
2015 SPRING DEPT. STAFF MEETING	20-21 MARCH 2015
FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, PA	
2015 DEPT. PISTOL MATCH	30-31 MAY 2015
FORT INDIANTOWN GAP PA	
2015 DEPT. CONVENTION	JUNE 2015
STATE COLLEGE, PA	

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**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, INC. #636**

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2nd Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
315 North Street, Doylestown, PA

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

BY CHAPLAIN SAM DIVALENTINO

Christmas is getting very near once again. This will be the 70th time in my life that I have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas. My first twelve years of celebrating Christmas were in Lacey Park, PA. All of my friends had a set of trains set up around the Christmas tree. There were also a few older couples whose kids were grown and gone that still set up the old Lionel or American Flyer sets. My family also set up the trains.

Most of the families in Lacey Park were working class people employed by local factories. The men worked, most of the women were stay at home housewives. The families shared the common goal of saving enough money to buy a house of their own. Many succeeded in doing this by moving to Levittown. My family bought a place in Jamison.

I often wonder where families of that era found the money to buy expensive toy train sets, and save for a house at the same time?

My guess is that the parents made many personal sacrifices so that they could accomplish the daunting financial task of saving for a house, and providing for their children.

Our Supreme Commandant brought His Son into this world on the first Christmas knowing that He would have to sacrifice Him. The first Christmas brought the gift that freed all who believe by the sacrifice of God's only Son.

As I celebrate my 70th Christmas I want to remember the reason for this beautiful holiday. A child was born, He lived a perfect life, and then He died for me, and you. In doing this, He gave us the perfect gift, the gift of eternal life.

Marines as we gather with our families and friends around the tree, and the trains, let us remember with great joy the true meaning of Christmas.

Merry Christmas and Semper Fidelis!

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held November 12th, 2014, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA. There were 12 members present including all officers except for the Junior Vice Commandant, the Junior Past Commandant and Quartermaster who were excused. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Parzanese Sr., Don Gee, Bob Sundling and Jim Powell**. Other Distinguished members recognized were; **Department of Pennsylvania Commandant and Department Marine of the Year Jim Powell, Department Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling and District 2 Vice Commandant Joe Kier**.

New Members: none.

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

Sick and Distressed: Paymaster Powell informed the Body that National Senior Vice Commandant Gore's son suffer a massive heart attack and passed away this morning. Commandant Kier reported on the passing of Detachment member Bill Jerrom.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Joe Kier reported on the upcoming Marine Corps Birthday Ball. He asked those members in attendance if they planned on attending the Ball and had not registered yet to see him after the meeting. He also asked for volunteers to do some of the jobs at the Ball. He also reported on his attendance at the Department Staff meeting in October.

Senior Vice Don Gee, PC reported the Detachment strength at 88 with 25 Life Members and of those 6 being delinquent.

Junior Vice was absent and **Commandant Kier** reported on the upcoming Birthday

Paymaster Jim Powell, PC presented the Paymaster's financial report and it was adopted. Presented several correspondences received throughout the past month.

Adjutant is vacant, no report.

Judge Advocate Tom Spoltore reported there was there were no outstanding issues.

Public Relations/Newsletter Editor Alex Kier announced that October 20th is the cutoff date for anything to be put into the next newsletter

Chaplain Sam DiValentino reported on passing of Detachment member Bill Jerrom and a non member, Marine David DeJulio Sr. He also reported on the Highway cleanup for the committee chair. There was disappointing turn out and it will be discussed at our next meeting.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC reported on the Detachment Color Guard last Friday at the Log cabin School. Those serving in the Color Guard were **Don Gee, PC, Bob Sundling, PC, Sam DiValentino and Corey Fisher**. He then reported that 3 Young Marines graduated from Boot Camp last week. He also reported that his son Bob was promoted to Staff Sergeant and is acting Company Gunny for MAG 49.

Quartermaster Corey Fisher was excused, no report.

Junior Past Commandant Bud Pearce, PC was excused, no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trailer Committee Chair Jack Gentile had nothing to report.

Pistol Match Committee Chair Joe Kier reported that we are looking into holding another match next year, probably somewhere in the March-April timeframe. More information will be forthcoming.

NEW BUSINESS

Tom Spoltore made a motion to buy a stock of Marine Corps League shirts that would be sold by the Quartermaster. It was seconded by **Don Gee, PC**. The motion failed.

Jim Powell, PC made a motion to buy 2 Marine Corps League Shirts for the Quartermaster to display and that an order form would be created for those who would like to purchase any of these shirts. It was seconded by Sam DiValentino and the motion passed.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Bob Sundling, PC asked that those who attend the next meeting to bring in new unwrapped gift for the Toys for Tots campaign.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commandant Kier announced the Toys for Tots signups will take place at the Legion Building on 18th of November, the 2nd of December and the 13th of December.

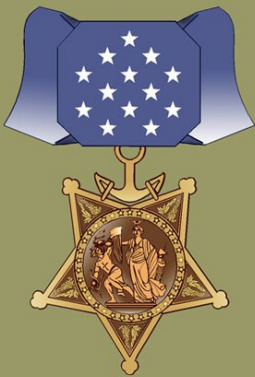
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 1930 on Wednesday, December 10, 2014.



DETACHMENT INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP REPORT from the SR. VICE

88: TOTAL **25:** LIFE **6:** DELINQUENT OVER 30 DAYS



Marines of HONOR

A look at the Marines who've earned the nation's highest military decoration for valor

Engagements



TOP GUNS

Maj. Pappy Boyington & Capt. Joseph Foss

Both pilots shot down 26 enemy aircraft during World War II. The day Boyington claimed his 26th victory, he was also shot down and became a prisoner of war for nearly 20 months. Foss shot down 23 aircraft in about a month of fighting and claimed three more victories a few months later. The two Marines share a record of aerial combat achievement unrivaled by fellow Americans in World War II.

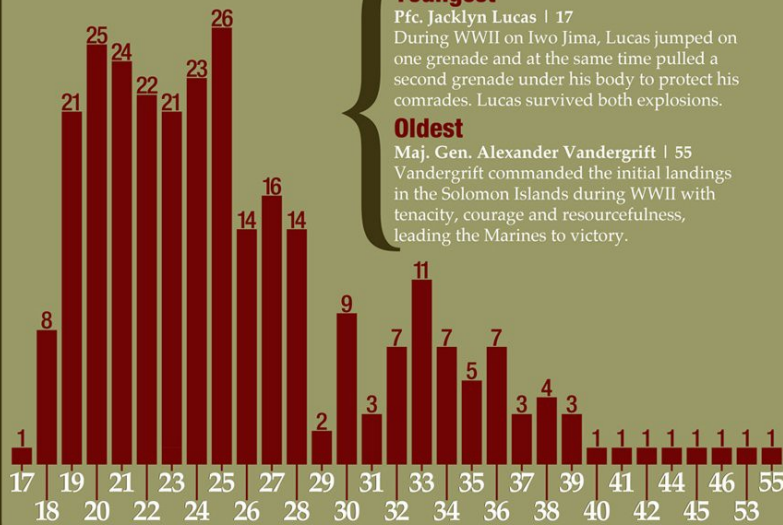
13

Number of times Gunnery Sgt. Robert G. Robinson was shot while manning his gun during an air raid in World War I. His plane was attacked by 12 enemy scouts. After Robinson shot down one enemy plane, he helped successfully ground the plane.

Future CMCs

- Lt. Col. Wendell C. Neville
Vera Cruz | 1914
- Col. David M. Shoup
Tarawa (WWII) | 1943
- Capt. Louis H. Wilson, Jr.
Guam (WWII) | 1944
- Maj. Gen. Alexander Vandergrift
Solomon Islands (WWII) | 1942

Recipients by Age



Youngest

Pfc. Jacklyn Lucas | 17
During WWII on Iwo Jima, Lucas jumped on one grenade and at the same time pulled a second grenade under his body to protect his comrades. Lucas survived both explosions.

Oldest

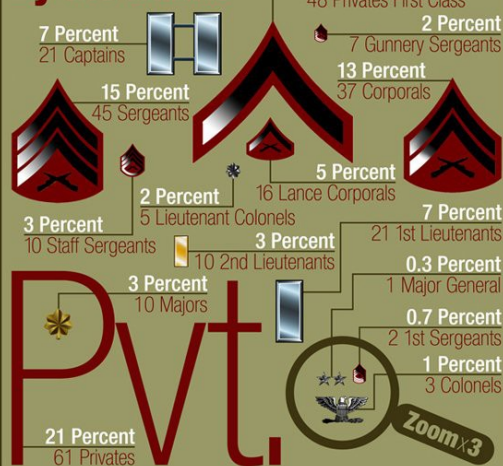
Maj. Gen. Alexander Vandergrift | 55
Vandergrift commanded the initial landings in the Solomon Islands during WWII with tenacity, courage and resourcefulness, leading the Marines to victory.

Grenades and the MOH

Marines who selflessly absorbed the impact of grenades to save their Marine Corps brethren



By the Ranks



200

Approximate enemy killed by Cpl. Joseph Vittori

With heavy casualties leaving a 100-yard gap in the Marine lines at his position, Vittori fought a single-handed battle to prevent an enemy breakthrough. Leaping from one side of a machine gun position to the other, he kept up a withering fire of more than 1,000 rounds in three hours. Despite enemy penetration to within feet of his position, Vittori kept the enemy out of the breach in his company's lines. He eventually succumbed to enemy fire. The next morning the Marines counted nearly 200 enemy dead in Vittori's area.

BFF

Cpl. Robert O'Malley and Lance Cpl. Thomas P. Noonan Jr. were best friends since childhood. Both received the Medal of Honor for actions in Vietnam. O'Malley killed eight Viet Cong single-handedly and doggedly fought against the enemy until the wounded men were evacuated. Noonan was killed while recovering wounded men during a firefight, inspiring Marines in his platoon to route the enemy forces.

Been There Done That

Only two Marines have earned the medal twice.
Maj. Gen. Smedley Butler
Vera Cruz (1914) | Haiti (1915)
Sgt. Maj. Dan Daly
China (1901) | Haiti (1915)

Posthumous Awards

131 of the Marine Medal of Honor recipients never lived to wear their medals. 44 percent of Marines who earned the Medal of Honor received the award posthumously. The average for all other branches of service is 15 percent.



Who You Calling Boot?

During World War II, on his first-ever combat flight, 1st Lt. James Elms Swett became an ace pilot and earned the Medal of Honor above the Solomon Islands. Swett and his four-plane division scrambled to intercept a formation of 150 Japanese bombers. Swett sent seven enemy aircraft into the sea before taking fire and having to make a water landing. Eventually a Coast Guard boat approached and a crewman asked Swett, "Are you an American?" The lieutenant replied "Damn right I am."

TENACIOUS

Sgt. William Harrell lost both his hands while fighting on Iwo Jima during World War II. During a sudden enemy attack, an exploding missile tore off his left hand and fractured his thigh. Harrell then drew his pistol and continued to fight, killing several enemy soldiers. When a grenade landed near him, Harrell grasped it in his good right hand and pushed it next to a crouching enemy soldier who had charged his position. The soldier was killed in the explosion, but Harrell's remaining hand was severed as well. At dawn, Harrell was evacuated from his position, the bodies of 12 dead enemy soldiers strewn around him.

Fair Trade

As a fighter pilot in World War II, 1st Lt. Jefferson DeBlanc shot down five enemy aircraft in 1943, before ejecting into the Pacific Ocean. After a six-hour swim to the nearest beach, he hid in the wilderness of Kolombangara of the Solomon Islands for days while surviving on coconuts. He was found by locals and kept in a cage until an allied plane spotted and traded a 10-pound sack of rice originally stolen from the Japanese, in exchange for DeBlanc and helped get him back to the war.

Last Words

Heed the advice of Pfc. William A. Foster, who while dug in with another Marine during the Battle of Okinawa in 1945, dove on an enemy grenade, absorbing its full force with his body. Although mortally wounded, he handed his two remaining grenades to his comrade and said...

"MAKE THEM COUNT"



DETACHMENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Detachment Meeting 1930	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



“ONCE A MARINE ALWAYS A MARINE”

Application for Membership—Marine Corps League

Full Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ + _____

Date of Birth _____ E-mail address _____

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning _____ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation _____

Type of Application – New () Renewal () Membership Type -- Regular () Associate () Dual ()

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? YES () NO () If YES is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.

I hereby apply for membership in the _____ Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$ _____ for one year's membership.

Further, I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps, on active duty, for not less than ninety (90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, * or have served or am currently serving in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy Corpsman who has trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device or Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon authorized for FMF Corpsmen. If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable Service". ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received). *General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable.* By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service. * ("Korean War Era Marines See National Bylaws, Article 6, Section 600")

Sponsor (where applicable)

Applicant's Signature