



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Central Bucks Detachment

P.O. Box 1372

Doylestown, PA 18901

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## CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 1989

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Welcome to the "Nineties"!

The holidays are gone and only those pesky bills remain as a solemn reminder of how the season's joys and toys will cost us dearly, down the line. I hope everyone had a pleasant holiday and is looking forward to the new year with renewed anticipation of good things to come.

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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON DECEMBER 13

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- \* Application for a new member, Wilfred F. (Bill) Haas, 2501 Three Mile Run Road, Perkasie, PA, was accepted and an initiation ceremony was conducted by Detachment members. Welcome Aboard, Bill.
- \* The MCL Birthday Ball enhanced the treasury by \$234.50.
- \* The Commandant gave a special thanks to Bob and Peggy Sundling for their fine work in conjunction with preparing the baskets of cheer for the raffle.
- \* A bus trip to Atlantic City in January or February may be possible if Mike Waldon can put together a package with one of the bus companies.
- \* The next State Quarterly Staff Meeting is to be held on January 13, 1990 at the Holiday Inn in King of Prussia. Anyone who wishes to attend may do so.
- \* Ray Krout was appointed to check on the American Legion Building in Doylestown for possible meeting location.
- \* Commandant Paronese introduced his son, Pvt. Don Paronese, Jr., who completed basic training at Parris Island in early December. Don, Jr. spoke about his experiences and gave a brief overview of modern-day life at P. I.

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MEETING WAS ADJOURNED UNTIL 10 JANUARY 1990

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As a new feature for the monthly Newsletter, we are initiating a "Personal Reflection" column in which each member has an opportunity to relate something out of their own history with the Marine Corps. These stories can either be recollections of duty stations, events leading up to your enlistment, some particular highlight of your time in the Corps or anything else that you might want to share with the rest of us. Be thinking about it and let me know when you are ready to reveal "the facts" for our readers.

Bob Schaffer, Editor

### WHAT MADE ME JOIN THE CORPS

Each of us had our own reason why we thought the Marines were for us. My reason goes way back to World War I and my father, Private Maynard E. Miller, US Army. He was in the Fifth Army Corps assigned to the Second Division. Major General John A. Lejeune was commanding the Second Division. The Fifth and Sixth Marine Regiments (Fifth and Sixth Marines today) were the backbone of the 28,000 man division. Because of the lack of combat experience in the Army units, General Lejeune had a blooded U.S. Marine who had fought at Chateau-Thierry, Belleau Woods, St. Mihiel, Blac Mont and/or other Marine engagements assigned to each company. The Corporal that instructed "L" Company left a lasting impression on my father. When the Second Division entered the Meuse-Argonne offensive, all its Army units may not have been ready, but at least they did have some idea what to expect. After a rolling barrage, the First, Fifth, and Third Corps moved out over the top to drive the Germans back. Orders had been given to take German officers prisoner if at all possible. My father did take an officer prisoner (rank unknown). Searching the prisoner, he found maps and a German Iron Cross medal. Turning the maps over to the authorities, he received a field promotion to Corporal. Today, I have that Iron Cross and each time I take it from its box, stories my father told me over the years come back to me. Not one war story did he tell without saying that if it was not for the Marines, he could not have made it. If ever war would come in my lifetime, the United States Marines would be the best to choose. Their training is the best, and spirit makes them fight beyond to protect each other.

War did come, so on 8 December 1941, I gave no other thought but to go and sign up at the Philadelphia Court House to be a United States Marine. Serving in World War II and again in Korea, I never have regretted serving.

Today, my father is gone, but his memory of what he knew about the Corps will live with me forever.

Marlin J. Miller  
Former G/Sgt  
United States Marine Corps



# Pennsylvanian carries on family tradition

By LCpl. Nicholas E. Lucey

When Donald D. Paronese Jr., shipped out to Camp Pendleton, Calif., in the winter of 1971, he never thought he'd be going to boot camp at Parris Island 18 years later. Then again, he was only 6 months old at the time; the son of a Marine.

Paronese graduates today, becoming the third generation of Marines in his family -- but no less proud than the first.

He is no stranger to the Marine Corps way of life. Paronese was born in Doylestown, Penn., on June 13, 1971. He lived with his parents aboard Camp Pendleton until the age of 6. That's when he made the jump across the big puddle, moving to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. He returned to Camp Pendleton three years later.

When his father became a recruiter, the family returned to Pennsylvania. There, Paronese Sr., introduced young men and women in the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia areas to the Marine Corps.

His father retired two years ago, just as Paronese Jr., was going through high school and considering a career in the Marine Corps.

Two years later, he signed on the dotted line. Ironically, it was in the same recruiting station that his father had worked just months before.

Paronese Jr. would make the third generation to become a Marine. His grandfather, who he never knew, had served in World War II.

"Many people I've talked to have said that my grandfather was the most influential businessman in Doylestown," he reflected. "And everyone credits that success to his Marine Corps service."

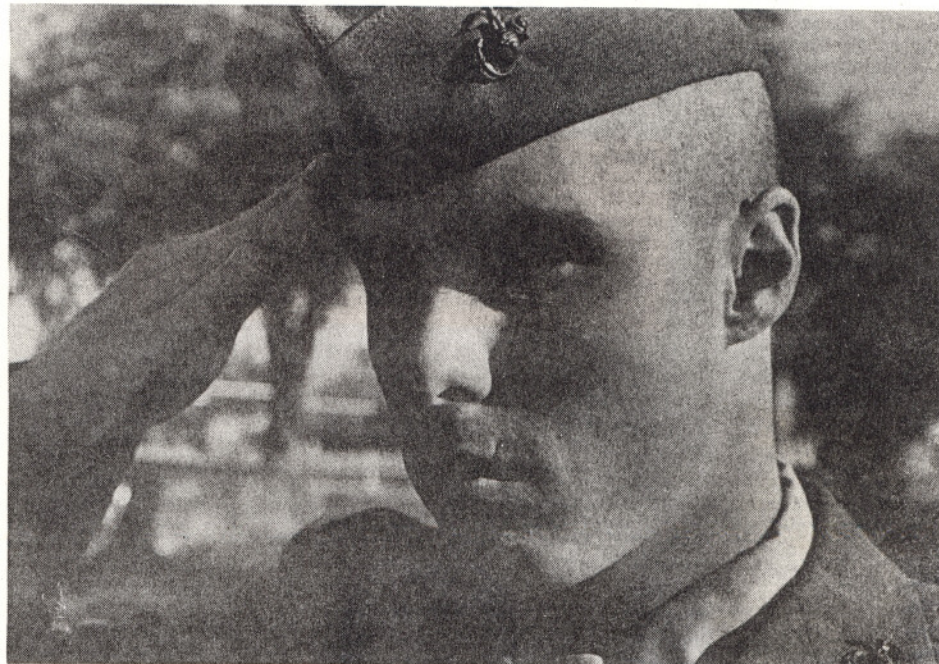
"I was never put under any pressure to join," Paronese said. "But there was always that tendency. The Marine Corps was the only thing I knew."

"My family and friends knew I'd join the Marine Corps," he added. "It was the best thing I had done in a long time."

Master Sergeant Robert A. Conway, noncommissioned officer in charge of Recruiting Substation Bucks County, said, "He's a leader, but very cocky. I've received a couple of letters from him and he seems to be very pumped up. He's undergoing a big attitude change."

He followed his father and grandfather's footsteps of years before to Parris Island, where he began training with Platoon 3088, Kilo Company, 3d Battalion.

"When I first got here, I thought it was going to be easy," commented Paronese. "But it got a



Pvt. Donald D. Paronese Jr.

LCpl. Nicholas E. Lucey

lot harder as time went on."

His sister, Gina Marie, had come to Parris Island the year before, but was dropped after a shoulder injury brought her training to a halt.

As if it were *deja vu*, Paronese Jr. was dropped into Medical Rehabilitation Platoon after an accident on a working detail.

"My mom kept me going during MRP," he commented. "She wrote me many letters telling me, 'never quit.'"

One month later, he was back in full swing with Plt. 1104, Delta Co., 1st Bn.

"It's strange, but I was more motivated after MRP than before," he added. "My will to become a Marine was very strong."

Recovering from the setback, Paronese nevertheless completed a first class Physical Fitness Test with 20 pullups, 80 situps in two minutes and ran three miles in 20:53.

During the Marine Corps Birthday, Nov. 10, he gazed sadly upon the parade deck where his original platoon was graduating. But he knew

he'd soon be in their shoes.

After graduation, he plans to take 10 days leave to recover from the rigors of recruit training. Then, he'll be a hometown recruiter's assistant.

"I have a lot more respect for my father and grandfather now that I know what they went through," he said. "And boot camp was probably much harder in their days."

With interest sparked by his father's military occupational specialty, Paronese Jr. hopes to get into the Training Audio/Visual Support Center field.

"The first thing I plan on doing when I leave Parris Island is getting some fried chicken," said Paronese with a half-smile. "Then I want to see my fiancée and best friend."

"But I'm looking forward to seeing my parents. I think I'll be able to relate to my dad better now."

Reflecting on the last few months' events, he added, "I'm proud of myself. I made a commitment and stuck to it. Now I know why my father was so hard on me."