



# LISTEN UP!

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636**  
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

VOLUME X, Number 12

December 1997

## Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636 of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held November 12, 1997, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 22 members present including all officers. Distinguished Marines in attendance included: **National Public Relations Officer Don Gee; Past Commandants Don Parzanese Sr., Bill Plant, Frank Yohe, and Don Gee; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth**; and **Marine of the Year Paul Caprio**. Guests present included **Bill Mickelson** of Quakertown and **Don Krueger**, a former member of the Bux-Mont Detachment.

The Minutes of the October Meeting were unanimously approved.

**Paymaster Bob Cody** issued the Paymaster's Report. The report was unanimously accepted.

**Commandant Budd Pearce** reported he, **Senior Vice Commandant Bill Rosenberger** and **Marines Ray Krout and Ernie Ortiz** assisted the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post with their Annual Turkey Dinner recently. **Judge Advocate Bill Plant, PC**, will be helping the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post with their annual dinner. Commandant Pearce also reported the Detachment had received a Marine Corps League Certificate for **VAVS Chair Don Gee's** 100 percent attendance at VAVS Committee Meetings during the past year.

**Senior Vice Commandant Bill Rosenberger** reported on the Detachment strength. He also announced he is looking for volunteers to assist in the Nov. 25-26 fund-raiser at the State Store in Doylestown. Hours will be from 4 to 10 p.m. both days.

**Junior Vice Commandant Paul Caprio** reported the Detachment's cost for the Birthday Ball was \$265. Although only 15 Detachment members were among the attendees, this is the least the Ball has ever cost the Detachment.

**Adjutant Gary Smith** reported he had a petition for members to sign protesting the construction of an Air Force Memorial adjacent to the Marine War Memorial in Arlington, VA. Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC, added he had placed four different petitions for members to sign and sample letters for Marines to write to State Senators and Congressional Representatives on a table at the rear of the meeting hall.

**Judge Advocate Bill Plant, PC**, reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON 10 DECEMBER 1997  
AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN



## LISTEN UP!

**LISTEN UP!** is the internal information publication of the **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT** of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc. It is published monthly by and for the members of the Central Bucks Detachment.

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT**  
#636  
**Marine Corps League**  
**of Pennsylvania, Inc.**  
P. O. Box 1372  
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372  
Ph: (215) 822-6723  
FAX: (215) 822-0163

**Meets**  
7:30 p.m.,  
2d Wednesday of Month  
American Legion Post 210  
315 North St., Doylestown, PA

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WILLIAM C.H. ROSENBERGER III

**Jr. VICE COMMANDANT:**  
PAUL CAPRIO

**ADJUTANT:**  
GARY SMITH

**PAYMASTER:**  
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**JUDGE ADVOCATE:**  
BILL PLANT, PC

**CHAPLAIN:**  
FRANKLIN YOHE, PC

**QUARTERMASTER:**  
DONALD PARZANESE Jr.

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**  
ROBERT A. SUNDLING

**PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER**  
**& EDITOR:**  
DON H. GEE, PC

# COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

The Detachment held its annual Birthday Ball at the Orion Club at Willow Grove on Nov. 8 and it was a very nice affair. We had more than 60 people turn out, including a few from other Detachments.

Our youngest Marine was an active duty Marine who attended the Ball with another Camp Lejeune Marine and their dates. Our Guest of Honor, MajGen. Hugh Foster was a big hit. He had to leave a bit early because his wife was ill at home. He asked me to thank each of you for inviting him. This was the first time I had the opportunity to spend some time with the General and talk. He's a truly funny man. He had our table in stitches all evening. I want to thank all of those who attended both for being there and for showing such respect to General Foster. I also want to thank Junior Vice Commandant Paul Caprio and his wife, Evelyn, for working so hard to make our ball a success.

We recently received some bad news. Jim Marckstein's mother passed away. There was a service on Nov. 19 and a few of our members managed to attend. I know that I speak for the entire Detachment when I offer our deepest sympathies to Jim and his family. I am sorry that I was unable to get out of work to attend but, my thanks to those of you who did attend.

I was contacted by the Chaplain of All Divisions Detachment, Ray Devlin. He had been contacted by a young man from Hilltown. The young man's father had just died. Since he was a Marine, the family wanted to have a Marine ceremony for him. I called some of our members and Ray contacted some of his members. Together, the two Detachments presented quite a moving ceremony from what I've been told. There was a couple of Marines from MAG-49 to fold the flag. Our Detachment members served as part of the firing squad. All Divisions provided the Color Guard and did the Commandant and Chaplain things. I was able to contact George Meyers of the Atkinson American Legion Post and he agreed to be the bugler for the ceremony. The family was extremely moved and very appreciative of our efforts. Thank you, guys, for coming through on this. All Divisions Detachment has already contacted me to thank us for a job well done.

Don Parzanese Jr. announced at the last meeting, he would like to find a replacement for the Quartermaster position. If you have a car big enough to out the lockerbox in (or a truck) and have the space to store it, please consider taking on this job. It's not a hard job--just bulky. You do get the benefit of first choice of the merchandise, though. We also need someone to take over as liaison with Friendly's Restaurant in Doylestown on the third Wednesday of each month. You don't have to do a lot on this job either--just pick up our fund-raiser money. All that is required is you go with Bill Rosenberger to meet the manager, have a cup of coffee and (about 9 p.m.) pick up the money. If you think you can help the Detachment by filling one of these positions, it would be greatly appreciated.

The Detachment will be holding its "Toy Table" again this year. If you can bring a new toy or two to the December Meeting, they will be distributed to needy children. Additionally, if you know a family that could use a bit of help in the toy department this Christmas, feel free to take from the "Table." All of the toys left after the meeting will be donated to an abused women's home in Quakertown. Please DO NOT wrap the toys.

With the holiday season coming up, I want to thank all of the members of the Central Bucks Detachment for the support I have received over the past year. May you and your family enjoy the happiest of holidays.

Semper Fidelis,

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** reported he had received no requests for the Detachment Color Guard since the last meeting.

**Quartermaster Don Parzanese Jr.** reported he had added a few new items to the Lockerbox. He also asked that anyone interested in taking over the duties of Quartermaster contact him about the position.

**Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC,** reminded the Detachment the deadline for submitting articles for the Newsletter was Nov. 20. He reiterated his announcement about the petitions and letters protesting the Air Force Memorial construction on Arlington Ridge.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

**VAVS**--The VAVS Committee logged nine hours since the last meeting. The Committee is looking for a new Chairperson. The Chairman reported he will be tendering his resignation from all VAVS activities at the end of this year due to business demands.  
**POW-MIA**--**POW-MIA Coordinator Bill Plant, PC,** reported he had received some new material and would report on it at the next meeting.

**GENUARDI'S/REDENER'S RECEIPTS**--**Genuardi's Receipts Coordinator Jim Marckstein** reported he had received sufficient receipts to forward them to Genuardi's. **Redener's Coordinator Gary Smith** reported the Detachment had received a check for \$101.78 from Redener's. He urged Detachment members to save their receipts and bring them to the meetings for this "easy fund raiser."

**YOUNG MARINES**--**Young Marines Liaison Bill Plant, PC,** reported the Young Marines Unit was doing well. **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** added the Unit will hold a meeting on Saturday, Nov. 15, at Willow Grove.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**PARADE COMMITTEE**--**Parade Committee Chair Mike Waldron** announced he is planning to hold a committee meeting in January. He hopes the Committee will have the new float ready for Delaware Valley College's annual "A-Day" celebration in April. Anyone interested in submitting plans (and costs) to the Committee need to do so by 7 p.m. on January 14.

**FRIENDLY'S RESTAURANTS**--**Friendly's Restaurant Coordinator Bill Rosenberger** reported the Detachment had realized about \$80 from last month's fund-raiser at the restaurant. He urged Detachment members to support the fund-raiser by visiting Friendly's in Doylestown on the third Wednesday of each month. Additionally, he asked for a volunteer to take over this project.

**BIRTHDAY BALL**--**Junior Vice Commandant Paul Caprio** reported on the success of the Ball even though we had only 15 Detachment members participated.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**MEDAL OF HONOR PROJECT**--**PR Officer Don Gee** reported he and **Doylestown Township Supervisor Tom Scarborough** had formed a committee of two to pursue construction of a monument honoring Marine Francis and all Doylestown Township veterans. He will report on the committee's progress at future meetings.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**1998 BIRTHDAY BALL**--**Junior Vice Commandant Caprio** asked the Detachment approve expending \$50 to hold the Orion Club for next year's Birthday Ball. After a lengthy discussion that included cancelling the Ball due to lack of participation by Detachment members, the motion was passed.

**TOYS FOR TOTS**--**Toys-for-Tots Coordinator Wil Haas** reminded the Detachment that new toy donations should be brought to the December Meeting in order to get them to the needy children in time for Christmas.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** reminded the members about the Marine Band concert in Lansdale.

#### GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

**Junior Vice Commandant Caprio** announced the Annual Department of Pennsylvania Raffle tickets were available and each member should pick them up before leaving the meeting. Tickets will be mailed to those members not in attendance.

Commandant Pearce presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" to **Past Commandant Don Parzanese Sr., PC,** and a Distinguished Service Medal to **Marine Bob Momorella** for their respective efforts on behalf of the Detachment.

**There being no further business, the meeting was closed until 1930 on December 12.**

## Guided Missile Ship Named in Honor of Col. Donald G. Cook

An Arleigh Burke Class guided missile destroyer (DDG 75) that is scheduled to join the fleet in mid-1998 was launched here 3 May and named to honor the late **Col. Donald G. Cook**. Col. Cook was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously on 16 May 1980, the 57th Marine to receive the Medal of Honor for actions in Vietnam. Thirty-one Marines and one Navy Corpsman from the 3d Marine Division were awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam.

**Mrs. Laurette Cook**, Col. Cook's widow, other Cook family members, and several Marine officers and U. S. Officials who served with Col. Cook attended the launching. Senator Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont was the Principal Speaker.

In 1964, then Capt. Cook was a member of Communications Co., Headquarters Bn., 3d Marine Division, and was TAD from Okinawa as a Communications Advisor to a Vietnamese Marine Battalion.

While participating in an operation against Viet Cong forces in the vicinity of Binh Gia, Phuoc Tuy Province, on Dec. 31, 1964 he was wounded and captured. He was subsequently reported to have died in captivity on Dec. 8, 1967, and an official determination of his death was made Feb. 26, 1980.

The citation that accompanied the award of the Medal of Honor stated: "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepid ity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while interned as a Prisoner of War by the Viet Cong in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 31 Dec 1964 to 8 Dec 1967.

"Despite the fact that by so doing he knew would bring about harsher treatment for himself, Colonel (then Captain) Cook established himself as the senior prisoner, even though in actuality he was not.

Repeatedly assuming more than his share of the manual labor in order that the other Prisoners of War could improve the state of their health, Colonel Cook willingly and unselfishly put the interests of his comrades before that of his own well-being and, eventually, his life.

"Giving more needy men his medicine and drug allowance while constantly nursing them, he risked infection from contagious diseases while in a rapidly deteriorating state of health. This unselfish and exemplary conduct, coupled with his refusal to stray even the slightest from the Code of Conduct, earned him the deepest respect from not only his fellow prisoners, but his captors as well.

"Rather than negotiate for his own release or better treatment, he steadfastly frustrated attempts by the Viet Cong to break his indomi-

table spirit, and passed this same resolve on to the men with whose well-being he so closely associated himself. Knowing his refusals would prevent his release prior to the end of the war, and also knowing his chances for prolonged survival would be small in the event of continued refusal, he chose nevertheless to adhere to a Code of Conduct for above that which could be expected.

"His personal valor and exceptional spirit of loyalty in the face of almost certain death reflected the highest credit upon Colonel Cook, the Marine Corps, and the United States Naval Service."

Col. Cook was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on 15 May 1980. The following day, his widow, Mrs. Laurette Cook, received the Medal of Honor on behalf of her husband from the Secretary of the Navy.



### MARINE CORPS TRIVIA QUIZ



1. What are the four parts of the M-16 rifle's magazine?
2. When saluting an officer, when should an enlisted Marine cut his/her salute?
3. How many Marines are needed to form a Marine rifle team?
4. What are the three purposes for establishing an interior guard?
5. What are the dimensions of a stradle trench?

**Answers in Next Month's Newsletter**

#### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. The first Marine Corps recruiter was Captain Robert Mullen.
2. The six Iwo Jima flag raisers in the Rosenthal photo were Sgt. Michael Strank, Cpl. Harlon Block, Pharmacist Mate 2d Class John H. Bradley, PFC Ira Hayes, PFC Rene A. Gagnon, and PFC Franklin R. Sousley.
3. There are five stars on the Medal of Honor ribbon.
4. The rope on a flagpole is called a halyard.
5. The three official publications which regulate the Marine Corps are: U.S. Naval Regulations, the Marine Corps Manual, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

## Bring 'Toys for Tots' To December Detachment Meeting

The Detachment's "Toys for Tots" Program is in high gear.

**Marine Wil Haas** will collect the toys at the Dec. 10 Detachment Meeting.

"These toys are distributed to an abused women's program in Quakertown," states Wil. "The children of these women would have an extremely sparse Christmas if it weren't for the toys donated to the program," he continues. "Imagine what Christmas would be like if you were a child of an abusive relationship and did not get anything for Christmas," Haas says. "This is just one more chance for the Central Bucks Detachment to have a positive impact in the community," he states.

Detachment members should bring their new toy donations to the next meeting in order to get them to the children in time for Christmas.

## 'Sam's Club' Membership Renewal Due; See Marine Jim Marckstein to Join

It's time to renew our "Sam's Club" membership.

**Marine Jim Marckstein**, who coordinates membership in the cut-rate shopping club, says he must renew our Detachment's membership in the club early in December.

"Those who want to renew their individual memberships or those Marines who want to join the club have to have their money to me at the next detachment meeting (Dec. 10)," he states. "In order to remain a club member, we have to renew our memberships each year."

Membership in Sam's Club costs \$25 annually for the group and an additional \$10 per person. The total cost per person is dependent upon the number of Detachment and Auxiliary members who sign up for the club.

"Last year, the cost was \$12 per member since we only had seven members," Marckstein reports. "Obviously, if we

can get more people to join, the cost per member will be much lower this year."

Sam's Club is located on Old York Road in Willow Grove, just north of Home Depot.

According to Marckstein, you can save from 10 to 50% on a wide variety of purchases.

"They have everything from home appliances to groceries to electronics," Jim says. "You can save more than the annual fee on your first shopping trip to Sam's," he concludes.

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## Sample Letter to Congress

**Please send the following letter, revised as you prefer,  
to your two Senators and Congressperson**

---

[Date]

The Honorable [full name]  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator [last name]:

[-or-]

The Honorable [full name]  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative [last name]:

I am writing to express my concern over the plan to locate an Air Force Memorial in the Iwo Jima Park between the Marine Corps Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon.

I believe that the proposed Air Force Memorial will detract from the Marine Corps Memorial and destroy the peaceful setting of the Iwo Jima Park. I am also opposed to the plan to build a parking lot in the wooded area behind the Netherlands Carillon.

I strongly support an Air Force Memorial, but I believe it should have a unique site of its own, a site that is not already dedicated to another branch of the Armed Services.

I urge you to support HR-2313 which will prohibit any new construction in Iwo Jima Park.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

---

Provided by: Friends of Iwo Jima, P. O. Box 10409, Arlington, VA 22210

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# WWII

## Citizens of Bucks County Commemorative Committee

A DESIGNATED DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATIVE COMMUNITY

### BRICK ACQUISITION FORM

I wish to purchase a Bucks County World War II Commemorative Brick, honoring a WWII loved one, unit or comrade, to be incorporated into the design of the future Bucks County WWII Monument. Cost of the brick is \$100.00 and will aid in the building fund. Please engrave the brick as follows:

(Three lines, twenty letters & spaces per line (OR LESS) - no punctuation)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Bricks to be laid during completion of the monument. Brick space is limited.

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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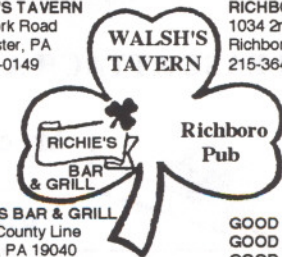
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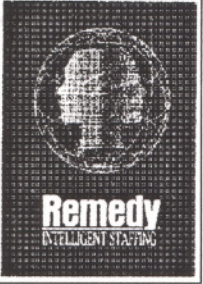
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Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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(Applicant's Signature)

Remit this form with check or money order (made payable to **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MCL**)  
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