

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.**

VOLUME XXI, Number 2

FEBRUARY 2008

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

A STAMP FOR BEIRUT FALLEN

For more than two decades, survivors and families of those who served in Lebanon have asked the U. S. Postal Service to issue a stamp commemorating the Beirut peacekeeping mission.

Now, they're getting congressional backing.

Rep. Walter Jones (NC) introduced a resolution Dec. 18 expressing the opinion of the House that a commemorative stamp should be issued to remember the victims and honor the veterans of the mission, according to a news release.

Two hundred forty-one Marines, sailors and soldiers were killed Oct. 23, 1983, when a terrorist drove a bomb-laden truck into their barracks

"Since the tragic events of Sept. 11, Americans have joined in solidarity to defend the ideals upon which our nation was founded, and to combat the evils of terrorism," Jones said in the release.

"We must not forget that the soldiers who lost their lives in Beirut were some of our first victims of terror. These soldiers went to restore peace in a war-torn nation.

"A commemorative stamp in their honor would not just further mourn their loss, but would celebrate peace in the American spirit that was embodied in the mission of these fallen heroes."

Most of those killed in the attack were Camp Lejeune, NC-based Marines.

A Leader Remembers His Brave Marines

A Marine Vietnam veteran was in Washington, DC, for a business meeting.

"I wanted to share with you what we saw in Washington, DC. last week.

"After the mid-term brief, we toured the

Mall and made the usual stops at the WWII Memorial, the Wall, Lincoln Memorial, etc. At the Vietnam Wall we saw something unbelievable.



Gen. PETER PACE

something unbelievable.

"We noticed three small index cards at the base of the Wall. I knelt down for a closer look and noticed that a four-star General's rank insignia was pinned to each card. The cards were personally addressed and said:

'These are Yours- not mine!

With Love and Respect,

Your Platoon Leader,

Pete Pace

1 Oct'

"The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs had laid down his rank for his men who died in Nam just the day before!

"I later found out that 1 Oct was also the same day he stepped down as chairman."

Disabled Veterans Earn COLA Increase

WASHINGTON, DC--Millions of veterans and eligible family members will see their disability compensation, pension, and survivors' benefits increased as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides an annual cost-of-living increase for key benefits.

"This increase ensures that those veterans who have earned this benefit for incurring a disability in defense of our country receive payments that keep pace with today's cost of living," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "VA is committed to the needs of our veterans and their families. We owe America's defenders no less."

A recent law signed by President Bush provides a 2.3 percent increase in disability compensation and survivors' benefits. Eligible veterans and family members

saw this increase starting in their January 2008 checks.

Under the veterans' disability compensation program, tax-free payments will generally range from \$117 to \$2,527 per month depending on the degree of disability. Special payments up to \$7,232 per month apply to the most severely injured veterans.

Pension disability benefits will also be increased by the same percentage and effective on the same date. The maximum annual rate for permanently and totally disabled veterans or veterans over age 65 can range from \$11,181 to \$18,654, based on household income and whether veterans are in need of help with activities for daily living.

Turn to COLA, Page 4



COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Hello Marines,

Well, another year has come and gone. Time passes quickly when you're having fun. It was another successful year and, as we enter our Detachment's 22nd year, I believe that we can make this one even more successful.

A summary of things we were involved in this past year were:

1) Annual Fund Raiser on Memorial Day weekend, which brought in a record amount of money for the Detachment.

2) Participated in the Doylestown Memorial Day Parade, which we believe may be the oldest Memorial Day Parade in the country.

3) Department of Pennsylvania Pistol Match.

4) Participated in the Chalfont 4th of July Parade.

5) Department of Pennsylvania Rifle match.

Other noteworthy accomplishments were:

Our 20th Anniversary Party, with guest speaker **Colonel Scott McGowan** from MAG 49.

The Doylestown Township "Community Service & Veterans Memorial," groundbreaking ceremony attended by several Detachment Marines.

Bill Miller became Junior Past Commandant when the Detachment "elected" me as the new Commandant.

Bill Miller was appointed as Department of Pennsylvania Assistant Southeast Division Vice Commandant.

Our Detachment participated in the Nockamixon Day celebration in Revere, PA, by performing Color Guard duties at the event.

Our Detachment did a great job by increasing our membership by six new Marines.

Several of our Marines throughout the year participated in many school and veterans functions, which included flag folding presentations.

All in all, it was a very successful year with many activities for our Marines to participate in. I hope that during the coming year some of our newer members will have the opportunity to enjoy participating in some of the events as they unfold during the next year. And, one the first things on the agenda for the new year is elections of officers. This is a great way to be involved and serve your Detachment. So, if you have any interest, don't hesitate to step up.

Well, its time to put down the pen. Hope everyone enjoyed their holidays.

Semper Fi,



**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**

**PAST DEPARTMENT
OF PENNSYLVANIA
COMMANDANT
JOHN MOYSE
DIED 21 JANUARY.
NO OTHER
INFORMATION WAS
AVAILABLE AT
PRESS TIME.**

ONLY 1 ISSUE 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).

JANUARY 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 January 9, 2008, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 22 members present including all officers except the Junior Vce Commandant. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee and Bob Sundling; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth; and Past Commandant, Assistant Southeast Division Vice Commandant & Marine of the Year Bill Miller.**

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

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

New Member: Marine Nicholas Guillen, LCpl., USMCR, of Doylestown, was unanimously accepted as a member.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported on correspondence the Detachment had received since the last meeting and advised the members about the United Veterans of Doylestown on Jan. 16.

Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, reported the Detachment strength at 52 including 22 Life Members, 25 Regular Members, 4 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member.

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 and updated the members on the Detachment's tax-exempt status.

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 and updaed the members on the registration for the float trailer.

Quartermaster Corey Fisher reported there was only \$4.00 in Quartermaster sales in December

The Public Relations Officer set Jan. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the February issue of *Listen Up!* He also reminded the members the Detachment was looking for a Public Relations Officer/newsletter editor.

NEW BUSINESS

Past Commandant Bill Miller reported on the Department Staff Meeting and advised the members about the situation of **LCpl. Derrick L. Sharpe,** a severely wounded Iraq war veteran. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to send a \$200 donation to the fund established in his name. He also announced there would be a National Northeast Division Meeting in Hampton, NJ, April 18-19.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously accepted to have the Detachment pay the annual dues of members who are serving on active duty, including Reservists called to active duty.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb 9.

U. S. ONE DOLLAR BILL: History in Your Pocket

Take out a one dollar bill, and look at it.

The one dollar bill you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design. This so-called paper money is in fact a cotton and linen blend, with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It is actually material.

We've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know.

It is overprinted with symbols and then it is starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look.

If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for a balanced budget. In the center you have a carpenter's square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath is the Key to the United States Treasury.

That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know.

If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that **Benjamin Franklin** and a group of men come up with a Seal.

It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it

approved.

If you look at the left-hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted, and the western side is dark.

This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization.

The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity.

It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything. "IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means, "God has favored our undertaking."



The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means, "a new order has begun."

At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776 (MDCCLXXVI).

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States.

It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, FL, National Cemetery, and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments.

Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States, and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet very few people know what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons:

First, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong, and he is smart enough to soar

above it.

Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England.

Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor.

We were coming together as one nation.

In the Eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM," meaning, "one nation from many people."

Above the Eagle, you have thirteen stars, representing the 13 original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one.

Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace.

The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief.

You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But think about this: 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in the Latin above, 13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum," 13 stars above the Eagle, 13 bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits, and if you look closely, 13 arrows. And, for minorities: the 13th Amendment.

I always ask people, "Why don't you know this?"

Your children don't know this, and their history teachers don't know this.

Too many veterans have given up too much to ever let the meaning fade. Many veterans remember coming home to an America that didn't care. Too many veterans never came home at all.

All this is what can be learned of this country of the

**UNITED STATES
ONE DOLLAR BILL.**

COLA

From Page 1

This increase also applies to survivors of veterans who died in service or from a service-connected disability. Dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) survivors' benefit payments can range from \$1,091 to \$2,499 per month.

Survivors of wartime veterans receiving death pension are also entitled to an increase. The maximum annual payment rate for a surviving spouse can range from \$7,498 to \$11,985. Benefits under this program are intended to bring an eligible spouse's income to a level established by law.

Under each benefit program, additional allowances may be payable for helpless, minor or school age children.

For more information about VA benefits and services, go to VA's website at www.va.gov or call 1-800-827-1000.

WOUNDED MARINE NEEDS ASSISTANCE

by Bill Miller, PC

The Department of PA recently held it's winter meeting at the Holiday Inn Grantville, PA.

The first order of business on Saturday was the introduction of a very special guest **LCpl. Derrick L. Sharpe**, USMC. Cpl. Sharpe is special due to the fact that he sustained injuries that were considered the third worse that had survived.

Cpl. Sharpe was helped to the front of the room by members of the Anthracite Detachment MCL from Hazelton, PA to a standing ovation that seemed to last forever. Marine Sharpe spent over a hour telling us about his life of twenty years, his boot camp experience, his deployment to Iraq and the horrors of his war experience that brings us all together.

Cpl. Sharpe was born in Berwick, PA and was raised in a pretty much dysfunctional family. His parents were divorced. After graduation from high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and was sent to Parris Island for recruit training. He plowed right through boot camp until the dreaded Crucible which is the true test of one's ability to endure. It took Cpl. Sharpe nine months to complete boot camp because during the Crucible, he broke a bone in his leg. He was healed and returned to active status where all he had to do was complete the Crucible in order to graduate. As luck would have it, he broke another leg bone and was sent back, hospitalized, healed, and given the opportunity to leave the Marine Corps. He refused and insisted to continue on

this time, completing the Crucible course and finally graduating. This brought the room to a standing ovation as well. It was also noted that he was advanced to the rank of PFC due to time in grade.

After advanced training, Cpl. Sharpe was assigned to a unit (don't remember which one) and sent to fight the war in Iraq. While out on patrol one day with his team of four (I assume a fire team and he was the team leader) they came in contact with an "IED" which detonated and blew them fifteen feet into the air. After the dust had settled, it was discovered that Cpl. Sharpe was the only survivor of his team but had sustained massive trauma to his head and severe internal injuries. He stated that his guts were outside his body. He was not expected to survive. (At this point about five minutes had passed as Cpl. Sharpe began grieving for the loss of his buddies.)

Cpl. Sharpe wound up in Bethesda Naval Hospital and has undergone many surgeries and still has many more to go through. Life will never be normal for this young warrior. He's missing a leg all the way up to his hip. His one leg is in tact, but not strong enough to support his weight. He walks on crutches but requires assistance to help him along. He has a lot of spirit, determination and the will to live. He also has shown a humorous side.

Cpl. Sharpe resides in Berwick and travels back and forth to Bethesda for his treatments and surgery. His father lives with him to help out but not financially. The father has no income.

The Anthracite Detachment has taken Cpl. Sharpe under its wing supporting him financially and members helping out wherever they can. He was sworn in as a member of the detachment at the Department meeting and was given a life membership in the Marine Corps League by the Department of PA.

By his own admission, Cpl. Sharpe stated that the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League is the only family he has.

Marines, the subject of financial help had come up during the meeting and it was suggested that representatives from all the detachments in attendance go back to their detachments and seek a donation to be forwarded to the Anthracite Detachment acting as trustee for Cpl. Sharpe. It was noted that in the past, monies sent to his family intended for Cpl. Sharpe never made it and was kept by his estranged mother and her now family. That's the reason for having a Trustee. I brought the story of Cpl. Sharpe to our Central Bucks Detachment meeting. A motion to donate a sum of \$200 was made and accepted. The check has been sent. Also several members of our detachment have expressed a desire to donate as well. At the time I did not have the contact information where donations may be sent. I have that information now as follows:

Anthracite Detachment #428
c/o Neal Graziano

102 Cross St. Harwood Mines
Hazelton, PA 18202-9769

Make checks payable to the **Anthracite Detachment**.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

GROUNDHOG DAY
2 FEBRUARY

DETACHMENT MEETING
13 FEBRUARY

VALENTINE'S DAY
14 FEBRUARY

PRESIDENTS' DAY
18 FEBRUARY

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME BEGINS
9 MARCH

DETACHMENT MEETING
12 MARCH

PALM SUNDAY
16 MARCH

ST. PATYRICK'S DAY
17 MARCH

1ST DAY OF SPRING
20 MARCH

GOOD FRIDAY
21 MARCH

EASTER
23 MARCH

DETACHMENT MEETING
APRIL 9

2007 INCOME TAX
FILING DEADLINE
APRIL 15

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Past Commandant Don Parzanese Sr. for any additional information.

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**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.

**USMC TRIVIA
QUIZ**  

1. Who were the first to call Marines "Devil Dogs?"
2. When did the Korean Conflict begin?
3. Who was the only Marine Commandant to be found guilty at a General Court-Martial and expelled from the Corps?
4. When was the Uniform Code of Military Justice established?
5. What code name was used to identify Marine recon-pilots in Vietnam?

Answers in Next Month's Newsletter

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. Captain Dale Dye, USMC (Ret.) was the technical advisor for "Platoon."
2. The 7th Marines conducted "Operation Starlite."
3. The defensive mission of a Marine rifle squad is to repel the enemy's assault by fire and close combat.
4. CS and CN riot control agents are considered irritants.
5. The 43rd Regiment of Foot was known as "Gooch's Marines."