

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXV, Number 2

FEBRUARY 2012

Commandant: BUDD PEARCE

Editor: DON H. GEE

'Seamus' Garrahy, Friend of Generals & Privates, Dies at 70 in Gettysburg

James L. "Seamus" Garrahy, 70, 30 Plank Road, Gettysburg, PA died Monday, January 9, 2012 at his home.

He was born June 29, 1941, in Chicago, IL the son of the late John R. and Marie Lydon Garrahy. He is survived by his wife Linda Bell.

Jim was a veteran of the U. S. Marine Corps and remained active in Marine affairs for the rest of his life. Through the years he has hosted thou-

sands of active and retired veterans at his home in what had become known as "Steaks and Beers." Seamus has also for the last five years hosted the finish line and post race event for the "Face of America-Wounded Warriors Bike Ride."

Jim owned and operated "Jim Garrahy's Fudge Kitchen." What started as a single store on Baltimore Street grew over the years into 78 dif-

ferent locations in the United States, England and Scotland. Headquartered in Gettysburg, the company was sold in 2009.

Seamus lived a full life filled with adventures, friendships and fun. For a year he served as a crew mate aboard the HMS BOUNTY, tall ship sailing the Atlantic. He founded a singing group known as the "Sault Antlers Men's Choir," singing Irish drinking songs. They recorded an album and later were a fixture in the area every St. Patrick's Day.

In addition to his wife he is survived by two step-children; Jessica Sparaco and her husband Gerard of Arizona; Joshua Rutan of Ohio; two step grandchildren--Haley Rutan, Avery Rutan; a sister, Nancy Crawford of Chicago, IL; a brother, John R. "Jack" Garrahy, Jr. of Chicago, IL; and a number of nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service and celebration of Seamus life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, 825 College Blvd, Suite 102, Oceanside, CA 92057 or the Adams County SPCA, 11 Goldenville Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Online obituary and condolences available at monahanfuneralhome.com. The Monahan Funeral Home in Gettysburg are in charge of the arrangements.

PA Gulf War Veterans Bonus Still Available

FT. INDIANTOWN GAP--Pennsylvania recognizes the service of its Gulf War veterans--as well as certain surviving family members--through a bonus program officially launched on Apr. 4, 2008.

The state's Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus provides a one-time benefit for everyone who:

- * served with the Armed Forces, a reserve component of the Armed Forces or the Penna. National Guard;
- * served on active duty in the Persian Gulf theater from Aug. 2, 1990, until Aug. 31, 1991, and received the Southwest Asia Service Medal; and
- * was a legal resident of Pennsylvania at the time of active service.

Eligible veterans qualify for payment of \$75 per month--up to \$525--for each month of active serve in the

Gulf War theater. An additional benefit of \$5,000 may be awarded if the veteran was declared a prisoner of war at any time during the period of qualifying service or died in active service as a result of service-connected injury or disease. In the case of deceased veterans, payments go to the surviving spouse, children or parents, in that order.

An estimated 32,000 military personnel from Pennsylvania served on active duty in the Gulf War theater.

Individuals who received a bonus or similar compensation from any other state are not eligible for the PA program. The deadline for applying for benefits is Aug. 31, 2015.

For detailed instructions on how to apply, visit www.persiangufbonus.state.pa.us.



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Editorial

San Diego *Union-Tribune* Names MARINE 'Person of the Year'

Early this month,, the San Diego (CA) UNION-TRIBUNE launched a new tradition.

Each Jan. 1, we will honor the Person of the Year, an individual or category of individuals with San Diego ties.

We can think of no better way to begin this tradition than by selecting as our first winner the Marine. Since

Since Sept. 11, 2001, America has relied on the Marine to keep us safe from terror at home and to take the fight to our enemies abroad, a task our Marines have handled with immense courage, professionalism and honor.

Some of the 56,000 Marines based in San Diego County — the West Coast hub for Marine ground and air forces — have served a half-dozen or more tours of duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their sacrifices, and those of all the other military personnel based in our county, have been enormous.

Some have died, some have suffered horrific injuries, some are wounded in less-obvious ways. The Marine's family also has borne a huge

burden.

Yet the Marine perseveres, caring for loved ones, protecting our nation and demonstrating the wisdom of **Marine Commandant Charles McCawley's** 1883 decision to make "Semper Fidelis" — Latin for "always faithful" — the Marine Corps motto. When not defending this nation abroad, the Marine is our neighbor, our friend, our children's coach, our school's supporter, a welcome, constructive and beloved member of our community.

The U-T is far from alone in its admiration. "Some people work an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference to the world. But the Marines don't have that problem," President Ronald Reagan wrote in a letter to a young Marine about to deploy on a dangerous mission.

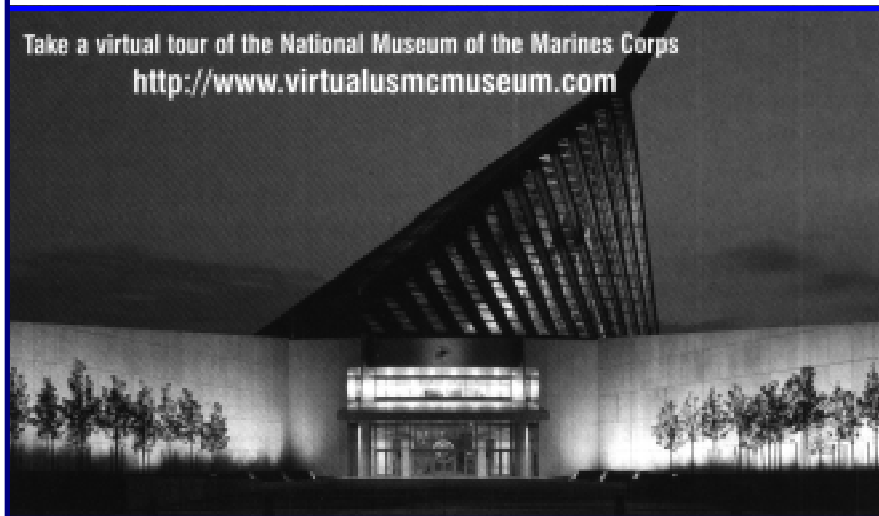
We couldn't agree more.

In recognition of all the Marine has done for San Diego, for the United States and for the cause of freedom, the U-T salutes the **Marine--our 2011 Person of the Year.**

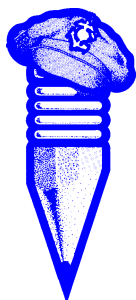
Semper Fi!

VIRTUAL MUSEUM TOUR

Take a virtual tour of the National Museum of the Marines Corps
<http://www.virtualusmcmuseum.com>



JANUARY DETACHMENT MEETING



MINUTES

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held January 11, 2012, at Doylestown Wealth Management, 165 W. Ashland St., Doylestown, PA

There were 12 members present including all officers except the Junior Vice Commandant and the Adjutant/Paymaster/Public Relations Officer. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Parzanese Sr. and Bob Sundling; Department of Pennsylvania Junior Vice Commandant/Junior Past Commandant & Marine of the Year Jim Powell;** and **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant/Past National Northeast Division Vice Commandant Ed Hoth.**

New Member: Marine Jason Hoffman, SSgt., USMC (Ret), of Warrington was unanimously accepted for membership.

Sick Call: James L. (Seamus) Garrahy, of Gettysburg, who for decades entertained Commandants through Privates, alike, at his home died Jan. 9. The Detachment observed a moment of silence in his memory.

***Marine Bill Mickelson** is undergoing extensive dental work and could not attend the meeting.

***Department Northeast Division Vice Commandant/Past Detachment Commandant Bill Miller** is recovering from his operation.

***Eileen Parzanese,** wife of our Judge Advocate and mother of our Chaplain, is recovering from an auto accident.

The **Minutes** of the December Meeting as published in *Listen Up!* were unanimously approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Budd Pearce, PC, reported he had made very early contact with officials at Buckingham Springs pursuant to the Detachment's 2012 Marine Corps Birthday celebration.

Senior Vice Commandant Joe Kier reported the Detachment strength at 73 including 28 Life Members, 37 Regular Members, 2 Dual Members, 5 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member.

* He also reported on the Department Staff Meeting he attended on Jan. 6-7.

* The Marine Corps League of PA Foundation is asking Department members to choose Stream Energy as your electricity provider. The Foundation receives \$4 per person per month for each household which chooses that Stream Energy. Check it out at: www.mclofpafoundation.org.

Judge Advocate Don Parzanese Sr., PC, reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

*He also reported on legal problems being experienced by the Greater Nevada Detachment.

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

Chaplain Don Parzanese Jr. reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting.

Quartermaster Corey Fisher had nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

25th Anniversary Committee Chair Joe Kier reported the 25th Anniversary celebration is set for 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Waterwheel Restaurant & Country Inn in Doylestown.

He passed out extra reservation forms and noted if members do not want to pay in advance, they can pay at the door. Price is \$40 per person. Those not paying in advance need to contact **Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile** so he can provide accurate numbers to the restaurant.

* The Detachment patch has been prepared and will be available free to members at the anniversary dinner. Funds for the patches were provided by **Cindy Powell's** company (she's Past Commandant Jim Powell's wife). Surplus patches will be sold as part of the Quartermaster's stock at a price to be determined later. A discussion was held related to having the patch transferred to a large magnet. Sr. Vice Commandant Kier will follow up on this item.

* **Young Marines Unit Liaison Bob Sundling** reported the Unit will be holding its Cold Weather Training trip at the end of January and invited the membership to attend the outing.

* **Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Joe Kier** reported the Central Bucks Detachment took 1st Place in the Expert Class at the Department Rifle Match.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling** reminded members about the **Veterans I.D. Program** in Bucks County and cited a problem a Detachment member had in obtaining a discount from a local business. Past Commandant Powell added that the Pennsylvania Legislature is dealing with a bill to add a "veteran stamp" on Driver's Licenses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012.

BUCKS COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS OFFICE OFFERS VETERANS DISCOUNT CARDS IN OTTSVILLE JAN. 27

Since its inception during November, 2011, the Bucks County Veterans ID Discount Card program has processed approximately 1,500 cards for county veterans. The program, previously available only at the Recorder of Deeds office on the second floor of the Bucks County Courthouse, will be available from 9:30-11 a.m. on Friday, January 27, during **Pennsylvania Rep. Marguerite C. Quinn's** Annual Senior Forum. The event will be held at the Ottsville Volunteer Fire Company,

249 Durham Rd., Ottsville, PA 18942.

"We continue to have great success with this program and want everyone to know that we will be at Rep. Quinn's event to take pictures and issue photo ID's," stated Bucks County Recorder of Deeds Joseph J. Szafran Jr.

Interested veterans must bring their original DD-214 form in order for the Recorder of Deeds staff to proceed with issuing the cards. Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP to Representative

Quinn's office at 215-489-2126.

To date, more than 50 Bucks County businesses have agreed to offer substantial veterans discounts to those holding the Bucks County Veterans ID card. To register a business to participate in the Veterans ID Card Discount Program, please call **Betty Carleo** in the county Veterans Affairs office at 215-345-3885 or visit **www.BucksCounty.org** to fill out a form stating intent to take part. A list of participating businesses is available on the website, as well.

GOODIES FOR THE TROOPS

Peggy Sundling, who continues to send "Goodies to the Troops," has provided a sampling of items which are needed for the shipments. She cautions, "NO CHOCOLATE!" Items include Moist Wipes--with or without aloe (some people are allergic); Beef Jerky/Slim Jims--very popular; Hard Candy--no lollipops; Lotions and Moisturizers; Lip Balm; Chewing Gum; Crackers/Snacks/Granola Bars--in individual packages for easy toting; Fruit Snacks/Raisins--in individual packages; Writing Tablets/Envelopes/Pens; Crossword Puzzles; Magazines--military, automotive, hunting, etc. (used, are fine); Drink Mixes--individual envelopes.

Thanks, Marines, for your continued support!

Extra Social Security Benefits for Veterans

EXTRA SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT for those with active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001.

See the web site & notes below to possibly increase your Social Security Benefits.

Please share this with anyone who had active duty service between January 1, 1957 to December 31, 2001, and planning for retirement. In a nutshell it boils down to this:

You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your Military service, for active duty

any time from 1957 through 2001 (the program was done away with 1 January 2002). Up to \$1,200.00 per year of earnings credit credited at time of application--which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement. You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office and you must ask for this benefit to receive it!

Social Security Administration website: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

This is something to put in your

files for when you apply for Social Security down the road.. It is NOT just for retirees, BUT anyone who has served on active duty during this period.

This benefit is not automatic, **you must ask for it!**

Most of us served on active duty between 1957 and 2001 or know someone who has.

Passing on good information for all you military folks when you apply for social security.

This may be too early for some of you to think about social security but, keep living and you will

Forrest Gump Goes to Heaven

The day finally arrived. **Forrest Gump** dies and goes to Heaven.

He is at the Pearly Gates, met by St. Peter himself. However, the gates are closed, and Forrest approaches the gatekeeper.

St. Peter said, "Well, Forrest, it is certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must tell you, though, that the place is filling up fast, and we have been administering an entrance examination for everyone.

"The test is short, but you have to pass it before you can get into Heaven. "

Forrest responds, "It sure is good to be here, St.. Peter, sir. But nobody ever told me about any entrance exam. I sure hope that the test ain't too hard. Life was a big enough test as it was."

St.. Peter continued, "Yes, I know, Forrest, but the test is only three questions.

"First: What two days of the week begin with the letter T?

"Second: How many seconds are there in a year?

"Third: What is God's first name?" Forrest leaves to think the questions over.

He returns the next day and sees St. Peter, who waves him up, and says, "Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers."

Forrest replied, "Well, the first one -- which two days in the week begins with the letter 'T'?

"Shucks, that one is easy. That would be Today and Tomorrow."

The Saint's eyes opened wide and he exclaimed, "Forrest, that is not what I was thinking, but you do have a point, and I guess I did not specify, so I will give you credit for that answer. How about the next one?" asked St. Peter.

"How many seconds in a year?"

"Now that one is harder," replied Forrest, "but I think and think about that, and I guess the only answer can be 12."

Astounded, St. Peter said, "Twelve? Twelve? Forrest, how in Heaven's name could you come up with twelve seconds in a year?"

Forrest replied, "Shucks, there's got to be 12: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd..."

"Hold it," interrupts St. Peter.

"I see where you are going with this, and I see your point, though that was not quite what I had in mind....but I will have to give you credit for that one, too.

"Let us go on with the third and final question.

"Can you tell me God's first name?"

"Sure," Forrest replied, "it's Andy."

"Andy?" exclaimed an exasperated and frustrated St Peter.

"Ok, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with the name Andy as the first name of God?"

"Shucks, that was the easiest one of all," Forrest replied. "I learnt it from the song,

ANDY WALKS WITH ME,

ANDY TALKS WITH ME,

ANDY TELLS ME I AM HIS OWN."

St. Peter opened the Pearly Gates, and said: "Run, Forrest, run."



DEVIL PUPS SPONSORS--C-B Detachment member Tony Parzanese (r) and his wife Ann (l) with Devil Pups Athena Young and Iliana Diaz, during the Southern Nevada Devil Pups Sponsor Appreciation Award Ceremony on Sept. 24 in Las Vegas. Tony's and Ann's donation to the Devil Pups provided the financial support for the two girls to participate in the program. Tony and Ann were Guests of Honor at the event.

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT MARINES ON THE NET

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**25TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
28 JANUARY**

**GROUNDHOG DAY
2 FEBRUARY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
8 FEBRUARY**

**ST. VALENTINE'S
DAY MASSACRE
14 FEBRUARY**

**NATIONAL
MID-WINTER
STAFF MEETING
15-19 FEBRUARY**

**PRESIDENTS
DAY
20 FEBRUARY**

**ASH
WEDNESDAY
22 FEBRUARY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
14 MARCH**

**DEPARTMENT
SPRING STAFF MEETING
16-17 MARCH**

**NATIONAL
NE DIVISION
CONFERENCE
30-31 MARCH**

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

DETACHMENT LICENSE PLATE



\$10.00

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