

# LISTEN UP!



VOLUME XXVIII, Number 2

Commandant: Joseph M. Kier

February 2015

Editor: Alexandra M. Kier

## OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON FEB 11TH 2015 AT 1930

### COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines, this will be a very brief column as there is not very much going on this time of the year.

We had a great meeting on the 14th and hopefully we will have more attendance at the February meeting, remember we need you at the monthly meetings. Everyone should expect to get an email with two very similar proposed by-law changes keep your eyes open for this important information. Bill McBride is contacting many of the members that we don't see at the meetings about the 2015 Birthday Ball, we also need you to reply to him by email about the Ball form that was emailed out at the beginning of January. Please cooperate with him on this project it is very important whether you plan on attending the ball or not. For those of you that attend the meetings Thanks, for those of you that don't we hope to see you soon. The following information was sent to me from Sgt at Arms Bob Sundling PC, enjoy it is a very informative article.

Semper Fi, Joe.

#### The Wall

A little history most people will never know.

Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam ..

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam ..

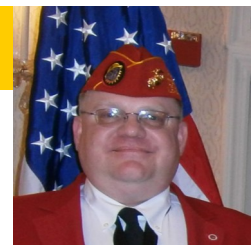
31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia . I wonder why so many from one school.

8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.

(con't P.6)



#### Dept. Meeting Schedule

2015 SPRING DEPT. STAFF MEETING  
20-21 MARCH 2015 FORT  
INDIANTOWN GAP, PA

2015 DEPT CONVENTION  
24-27 JUNE 2015  
STATE COLLEGE PA

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**DETACHMENT, INC. #636**

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# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

BY CHAPLAIN SAM DIVALENTINO

I just reread the story of Jonah in the Good Book today. This dude got swallowed by a whale! What's with that? Why did God want Jonah to go to Nineveh? I guess the better question is why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh?

God wanted Jonah to preach against the Ninevites because of their great sin. God wanted the Ninevites to stop sinning and follow Him. Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh because anyone who spoke against them would be put to death.

So Jonah bolted, left town, beat a path for Tarshish, in the exact opposite direction, and across the sea from where God wanted him to go.

Now at this point, our Supreme Commandant could have said "Ok Jonah, since you don't want to go, I'll get Abe, or Fred, or Harry to go in your place." But God wanted Jonah to go, so He had the crew of the ship throw Jonah overboard, and a whale swallow him, and deliver him to the shore of Nineveh, then puke him out onto the beach.

I am a lot like Jonah, and so are a lot of other people. We get the command, we hear it loud and clear, and we bolt, we leave town, we run and hide so we don't have to follow what He wants us to do. Why does He come and get us no matter where we hide? He gets us because He loves us! He gets us because He is the Supreme Commandant. If we think He will give up on us, we are wrong, and in our minds we are trying to reduce Him from Supreme Commandant to a buck private.

What are the commands that He wants us to follow? He spells them out in the Ten Commandments. We have to follow the commands, if not, He will get our attention, let us know we are breaking the commands, and show us the path to take back to Him. He always wants us back with Him because of His great love for us. We can run, but we can't hide!

Semper Fidelis Brothers!

PS. Please be with, watch over, and bless our brother, Budd Pearce.

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held January 14th, 2014, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA. There were 10 members present including all officers except for the Junior Vice Commandant, Junior Past Commandant, Quartermaster and Public Relations Officer Kier 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 November Meeting as published in *Listen Up!* were adopted.

**Sick and Distressed:** **Bob Sundling, PC** reported on his brother, Kenny who has aortic stenosis and will have a procedure this Friday. **Commandant Kier** reported that **Junior Past Commandant Pearce** has prostate cancer and is undergoing treatment. Marine Haqq reported that the oldest cousin of his one Aunt's passed away in October from an aneurism and this past Saturday the next oldest cousin died of a heart attack. The funeral will take place on Thursday.

#### **OFFICER REPORTS**

**Commandant Joe Kier** reported on the January Department Meeting he attended. He would like to get out and sell Youth and Veterans tickets this year and will bring it in the upcoming months. He presented correspondence from National to possibly attend the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Washington, DC this year. He also encouraged everyone to respond to the Birthday Ball questionnaire sent out by Marine McBride.

**Senior Vice Don Gee, PC** reported the Detachment strength at 88 with 6 delinquent members.

**Junior Vice** was excused and Marine McBride reported on his ongoing efforts to help the Junior Vice look into next year's Birthday Ball venue. He has already visited 10 prospective places to have the Ball.

**Paymaster Jim Powell, PC** presented the Paymaster's financial report and it was adopted.

**Adjutant** is vacant, no report.

**Judge Advocate Tom Spoltore** reported that he has received 2 bylaws changes to be considered. They were similar in that they both will change what accounts for a meeting quorum. They will be sent out to the membership prior to their consideration at the March Meeting.

**Public Relations/Newsletter Editor Alex Kier** was excused and **Commandant Kier** announced that January 20th is the cutoff date for anything to be put into the next newsletter

**Chaplain Sam DiValentino** had nothing to report.

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC** reported that there was no requests for the Color Guard. He also reported that the Young Marines will be holding their Cold Weather Training the last weekend in Feb in the Poconos. It was then reported that the Young Marines are looking for new members.

**Quartermaster Corey Fisher** was excused, no report.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Commandant Kier** presented Marine Sam DiValentino with the Distinguished Service Medal and the Marine of the Year Award. Sam was unable to attend the Birthday Ball so it was presented at this meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Jim Powell, PC** announced that he would be moving to the Allentown area in the April time frame.

**Commandant Kier**, reporting for **Bud Pearce, PC** asked everyone to consider running for office for the upcoming year. If you have any interest, please contact Budd.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 1930 on Wednesday, February 11, 2015.**



## DETACHMENT INFORMATION

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT from the SR. VICE

**88**: TOTAL MEMBERSHIP **6**: DELINQUENT OVER 30 DAYS



The Southeastern Pennsylvania Cold War Historical Society  
proudly announces  
The Spring 2015

### ***“History in Our Backyard” Lecture Series***

The Fuge/ 780 Falcon Circle/ Warminster, PA 18974

Mar 10	7:30pm	Commercial Spaceflight	Richard Hamilton, MD
Apr 14	7:30pm	History of the Trenton Propulsion Center	James Thaler
May 12	7:30pm	NADC Contributions to the Gulf War	Jerry Guarini

Events are open to the general public / Doors open at 7:00pm

Lectures begin promptly at 7:30pm

[ColdWarHistory.org](http://ColdWarHistory.org)

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# DETACHMENT INFORMATION

CONTINUED

(con't from P.1)

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered.

They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.





# DETACHMENT CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 St. Valentine's Day
15	16 Washington's Birthday	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

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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)

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Applicant's Signature