

LISTEN UP!



VOLUME XXIX, Number 2

February 2016

Commandant: Don H. Gee

Editor: Alexandra M. Kier

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON FEB 10TH AT 1930

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

We will be seeking members to serve as Detachment officers beginning with the February Meeting. The Nominations Committee, chaired by Past Commandant Joe Kier, will be activated at this meeting and he will be actively seeking candidates to fill leadership positions. The slate he develops will be presented and voted on at the March Meeting. If you are interested in serving your Detachment or know someone you think would make a good Detachment officer, let Past Commandant Kier know.

Upon a suggestion from Judge Advocate Tom Spoltore, we will be initiating a "Member Profile" at the March Meeting. This gives the Detachment members the opportunity to learn about our members from the members themselves. The February "Profile"

will be from our Service Officer Jim McComb. You really don't want to miss this session. He is an extremely interesting person with a great personal history.

We are working in consonance with the Third Marine Division Association and the Vietnam War Commemorative Committee to issue Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Pins to ALL Vietnam-Era Veterans in the Detachment. A special ceremony will be scheduled at a future Detachment Meeting to present the pins to our RVN Vets. More on this as plans progress.

Hope to see you at the February Meeting.

Semper Fidelis
Don Gee
Commandant



**OUR NEXT
HIGHWAY
CLEANUP IS ON
SATURDAY
4/16/2016 WE
MEET AT THE
BACK TO THE
FIFTIES
RESTURANT ON
THE CORNER OF
EDISON-FURLONG
RD AND RT 263
AT 0800**

Dept. Meeting Schedule

- 2016 SPRING PA PACK GROWL
18 MARCH 2016
HQ. BUILDING FT. INDIANTOWN GAP
- 2016 SPRING STAFF MEETING
18-19 MARCH 2016
HQ. BUILDING FT. INDIANTOWN GAP
- 2016 PA PACK SUPREME GROWL
24 JUNE 2016
DAYS INN, STATE COLLEGE, PA
- 2016 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
22-25 JUNE 2016
DAYS INN, STATE COLLEGE, PA

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**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, INC. #636**

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Doylestown, PA 18901-1372
Meets 7:30 p.m.
2nd Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
315 North Street, Doylestown, PA
website <http://www.mclcb.org>

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

BY CHAPLAIN SAM DIVALENTINO

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven, a time to weep and a time to laugh.”

This passage is from Ecclesiastes 3:1 and 3:4. It means that there is a proper time for humans to do anything that happens on Earth. But can we laugh and shed tears at the same time? This little story of 5th grade students will answer that question with a resounding “yes”.

I was teaching a class of 5th graders at a local elementary school in the winter of 2005. I was reading a chapter from the book, Harry Potter. The kids sat on the floor in front of a large chair that I sat in to read the story. As I was reading, the kids were listening very intently when one of the boys left some audible gas. He looked around to see if the other kids had heard him. They did, and all the kids put their hands over their mouths to suppress their urge to laugh. I just kept reading as if I did not hear the boy break wind. The kids were now squirming to suppress the laughter inside them. The young culprit had tears in his eyes as he struggled to keep from bursting out loud with laughter.

I got to the end of the chapter where I was going to stop reading. The words in the book were “And Hermione ran to her room and closed the door behind her.” That was what I should have read, but instead I read it this way. “And Hermione ran to her room, closed the door behind her, AND BROKE WIND!”

The kids all lost control. They laughed out loud so hard that tears started to drop down their cheeks! They were rolling all over the floor holding their bellies to get out all the laughter.

And that is how I witnessed kids laughing and crying at the same time.

Keep laughing Marines, it's good for the soul!

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held January 13, 2016, at the Albert R. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA. There were 11 members including all officers except for the Junior Vice Commandant, Quartermaster, and the Public Relations Officer all were excused. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Bob Sundling, Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., Budd Pearce, Joe Kier** and **Jim Powell, DC**.

New Members: none

The **Minutes** of the December Meeting as published in the January edition of *Listen Up!* were adopted.

Paymaster Jim Powell, DC presented the Paymaster's financial report for December and it was adopted.

Sick and distressed: Jr Vice Bill McBride has a bad cold and is resting at home.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Don Gee Attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor this past Sunday, and presented a MCL Eagle Scout award to the new Eagle Scout. The Detachment Color Guard attended the New Brittan Baptist Church memorial service.

Sr. Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC 69 Regular members, 22 Life, 15 Associate, and 16 Delinquent.

Junior Vice Commandant Bill McBride. excused

Adjutant/Jr. Past/D2 Vice Joe Kier, PC Minutes from the December Meeting were published in the January Newsletter. Washington's Crossings foundation sent a "dues" letter looking for donations. We received a letter from the Bucks County Opportunity Council documenting where their moneys go and thanking the Detachment for our donation. Showcased the new tri fold recruiting tool, and we are having a District 2 meeting in the near future and I am looking for a Detachment to host the meeting. Our focus at the meeting will be recruiting and retention, I will be asking the Commandants/Paymasters or their representatives what the Detachments plans are to get this under control. The Department Web site has received a new look but can be accessed at the same address.

Judge Advocate Tom Spoltore none

Chaplain Sam DiValentino Explained some of the finer details of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains award, and stated that anyone wanting to nominate someone should contact him.

Sergeant-at-Arms/Young Marines Bob Sundling, PC none

Quartermaster Corey Fisher -excused, anyone needing any special items should contact Cory at the contact information in the Newsletter.

Public Relations/Newsletter Alexandra Kier-excused, all submissions for the February Newsletter must be in by January 20th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Shooting Awards were given out at the MCL foundation Dinner held after the winter staff meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

James Powell, DC We have received \$200.00 so far for the trailer Eagle Globe and Anchor project, there will be another notification in February's newsletter on how to donate to the project. If anyone wants to get on the honor guard at the Washington's Crossings Cemetery, they should contact the honor guard. The National Jr Vice Commandant is implementing a new program to increase recruitment, and retention anyone who gets a new member or an old member to come back will have his or her name thrown in a hat at the National Convention and they will pick winners from those names. First place is \$1000.00 for the recruiter and for the new member, second place is \$500.00, and there will be ten \$100.00 prizes. Indiantown Gap Cemetery is looking for serviceable internment flags to be flown around the Cemetery, they are cotton and are 5'x9', some of their extra flags were destroyed so they are in great need. Both National and Department web sites have been replaced but are at the same address they were before.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion and second to buy a Brick from the Army fund raiser was passed at a cost of \$250.00, discussion followed on putting the Detachment Members who are serving or have served in the US Army on the brick.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

At the February Meeting Veterans Service Officer Jim McComb will be presenting his BIO at the Detachment Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

James Powell, DC MCL Auxiliary Fall fund raiser tickets are available. MODD Lottery fund raiser tickets for the month of April are available. New Tri fold recruiting forms are available from National.

Budd Pearce, PC The next Highway Cleanup is on April 16th 2016, the Saturday after the Detachment Meeting.

Commdant Gee announced that a big supporter of the Marine Corps League, VFW, and American Legion passed away, you can read the obituary below.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 1930 on Wednesday, February 10th 2016.

Oliver A. Groman, a lifelong resident of Doylestown, died Dec. 27. He was 84. He was the loving husband for 58 years of Martha M. Kepler Groman. Born in Doylestown, he was the son of the late Oliver and Evelyn Smith Groman. Judge Groman graduated from Doylestown High School and Penn State University. He served in the United States Navy, as well as the Army receiving honorable discharges from both branches of the military. He began his career as Assistant Director at Neshaminy Manor. In 1970 he was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace, now known as a Magisterial District Judge, a position that he held until his retirement in 2010. Oliver was a member of Doylestown Fire Company No. 1 for over 60 years, having served as President, Vice-President and Public Information Officer. He initiated the Youth Review Panel, helping many young people through the years.



DETACHMENT INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP REPORT from the SR. VICE

**69: REGULAR 15: ASSOCIATE 2: DUAL 22: LIFE
16: DELINQUENT OVER 30 DAYS**

We are asking the Membership to send Donations to the Detachment to help fund the new Eagle, Globe, and Anchor sign for the Detachment Parade Float. This would replace the wooden sign that was made by Marine Will Hass many years ago, the new sign will be made of high quality Aluminum with a lithograph of the Eagle Globe and Anchor on it. Any question can be directed to Chaplain Sam DiValentino, and donations can be sent to the Detachment Paymaster Jim Powell, DC at 500 Longacre Drive Cherryville, PA 18035-9707. We need everyone's support on this, it is your opportunity to help out if you cannot make the Detachment programs, meetings, parades, or fundraisers.

Persian Gulf Veterans Can Apply for Bonus

The highly popular bonus program for Persian Gulf veterans was extended until Aug. 31, 2018, thanks to legislation passed by the General Assembly late last year.

The bonus pays \$75 per month for qualifying, active-duty service members, up to a \$525 maximum. For personnel whose death was related to illness or injury received in the line of duty in Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm, an additional \$5,000 is available to the surviving family. Service members who were declared prisoners of war may also be eligible for an additional \$5,000.

The program was overwhelmingly endorsed by Pennsylvania voters in 2006.

For more information or to check eligibility, visit www.persiangulfbonus.state.pa.us.



DETACHMENT INFORMATION

CONTINUED

Valley Forge Military Academy & College names Colonel John C. Church, Jr., USMCR, President



January 28, 2016 (WAYNE, PA) – The Board of Trustees of Valley Forge Military Academy & College has unanimously approved the appointment of Colonel John C. Church, Jr., USMCR, as President. Colonel Church will take office at the end of this academic year, succeeding current President Dr. Stacey R. Sauchuk. Colonel Church is a combat decorated US Marine Corps Reservist, educator, leader, mentor, role model, and author. William R. Floyd, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Trustees, was pleased to make the announcement stating that “Colonel Church possesses a unique combination of military leadership experience and an academic background. His prior experience at Valley Forge, serving as a Professor of Leadership and later as Dean of the College, make him uniquely qualified to lead Valley Forge into the future. The entire Valley Forge community welcomes Colonel Church back and looks forward to his inspirational leadership.” “It is a great honor and humbling privilege to be given the opportunity to lead such a storied institution as Valley Forge. I am grateful for the appointment. However, I am also thankful for the manner in which the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Immaculata community embraced our family during my tenure here. Our family will truly miss all the Mighty Macs, but Mary Kay and I are truly thrilled to return to the VF family,” said Colonel Church. Colonel Church is an active Marine Corps Reservist, currently commanding the 3D Civil Affairs Group in Great Lakes, IL, and intends to conclude his career at the end of his command tour. As a combat engineer officer, Colonel Church commanded Company C, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion in Lynchburg, Virginia, from where he led a deployment to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. With 4th Civil Affairs Group, Colonel Church served in Kosovo, completed two tours of duty in Iraq, served in Afghanistan, and taught Civil Affairs to soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia. In addition to being an Assistant Professor at Immaculata University he has taught at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, the U. S. Naval War College, George Mason University, Temple University, Holy Family University, and Rosemont College. Colonel Church is a doctoral student in Mass Media and Communication at Temple University and has earned a M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U. S. Naval War College, a M.A. in Communication Journalism and Public Affairs from American University in Washington, D.C. and a B.S. in Political Science from the U.S. Naval Academy. His personal reflections of duty throughout the world have been featured in both the *Washington Post* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. In 2009, John’s submission, "The Best Seven Months of Our Lives: The War in Iraq and the Battle in Hollywood" won first prize for "Top Graduate Competitive Papers" in the Pennsylvania Communication Association Writing Competition. In 2010, his “This I Believe” essay was featured on WHYY and National Public Radio. His essays regarding the service of minorities, what constitutes good training, and the true meaning of Memorial Day were featured in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and the *Mainline Suburban*. His personal decorations include: the Meritorious Service Medal with two Gold Stars, the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two Gold Stars, the Army Commendation Medal, the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon. As a midshipman John was a member of the U.S. Naval Academy’s nationally ranked lacrosse program. As a junior officer, he was a member of the USMC All-Marine Rugby team on four occasions. Colonel Church and his wife, Mary Kay, a retired Marine major, are the proud parents of John Carl Church, III (10) Travis Joseph Church (9) and twins Harper and Claire (6). He is the son of Colonel and Mrs. John C. Church, Sr., USMC (Retired) of Mount Clemens, Michigan. Valley Forge Military Academy & College (VFMA&C) is a private, co-educational, residential coeducational college that offers the freshman and sophomore years of college and an all-male boarding and day academy offering grades 7-12. The primary mission of VFMA&C is to prepare students, regardless of race, creed, or national origin, for transfer to competitive four-year colleges and universities. Established in 1928, VFMA&C has a long tradition of fostering personal growth through a comprehensive system built on the five cornerstones that make Valley Forge unique: academic excellence, character development, personal motivation, physical development, and leadership. Valley Forge is the alma mater of such distinguished alumni as Rhodes Scholar, White House Fellow and author Westley W. O. Moore ’96/’98C; author J. D. Salinger ’36; U. S. Senator Warren B. Rudman ’48; GEN H. Norman Schwarzkopf ’52, Commander of Operation *Desert Shield/Storm*; former Governor of Puerto Rico, The Honorable Rafael Hernandez Colon ’54; and 2003 Heisman Trophy runner-up, 2004 third overall NFL draft pick Arizona Cardinals player, Larry Fitzgerald ’02. —VF—

Col. Church was the guest of honor and speaker at the Central Bucks 2014 Birthday Ball.



DETACHMENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2 Ground Hog Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Cent. Bucks Detachment Meeting 1930 American Legion post 210	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13
14	15 Presidents Day and Washington's Birthday	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	1	2	3	4	5

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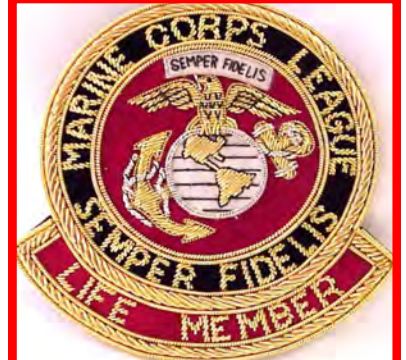
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P.O. Box 1372
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



“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)

Applicant's Signature