



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: WILLIAM R. MILLER

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XVII, Number 1

JANUARY 2005



**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
JAMES POWELL**

**ADJUTANT
GARY SMITH**

**PAYMASTER
ROBERT J. CODY**

**JUDGE ADVOCATE
WILLIAM E. JERROM**

**QUARTERMASTER
ROBERT DUFF**

**CHAPLAIN
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**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
WILLIAM L. MICKELSON**

**MESS SERGEANT
BOB SUNDLING, PC**

**WEBMASTER
JAMES E. PEARCE**

**MARINE OF THE YEAR
WILLIAM E. JERROM**

GEN. HUGH FOSTER, AUS, DEAD AT 86

The Army General who served our Nation and our community in war and peace has died.

Major General Hugh F. Foster Jr., Army of the United States (Retired) died Dec. 13 at the age of 86.

The Detachment will remember the General from his entertaining and educational address to us at the 222nd Birthday Ball celebration at the Orion Club at NAS, Willow Grove, in 1997.

A native of Brooklyn, NY, served in World War II and in Vietnam, and was the Commanding General of Fort Monmouth, NJ, at the time of his retirement from active duty in 1975.

As a Second Lieutenant, he was assigned to Ft. Benning, GA, in September 1941 to train 17 Comanche soldiers as "Code Talkers." He devised the secret Indian vocabulary used by the Army Code Talkers to confound the Germans during WWII.

The Comanche Code Talkers served in the European Theater in much the same capacity as our Navajo Code Talkers did the the Pacific.

His Code Talkers called him "Poo-ee-whee-tay kwop Eksah-bah-nah" which means "Telephone Red Sash," referring to Foster's service in the Signal Corps and to the red sashes worn by Army officers in the West in the late 1880s.

An officer in the 4th Signal Co., 4th Infantry Division, he wrote 250 key terms and worked with the Indians to devise the Comanche equivalents.

On D-Day in 1944, 14 Comanches were among the troops landing at Normandy and using their language to relay messages over field telephones from the battlefield to upper echelon headquarters.

Gen. Foster also helped design the unique World War II Memorial at the Bucks County Courthouse. The monument consists of a large Roman numeral "II" in front of a courtyard of bricks dedicated to individual veterans.

When he presented a sketch to the County Commissioners in 1997, Foster said tongue in cheek, "Many years from now, schoolteachers will bring their students here to the courthouse and the kids will ask, 'What's that?' And the teacher will say 'That's the Roman numeral two.' And the kids will say, 'What's a Roman?'"

The General was among the veterans who, in 1990, persuaded the county to restore the water flow to the World War I Memorial Fountain at Broad & Main Sts. in Doylestown after two decades without water.

Hugh Foster began his military career at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1941.

He then joined the Signal Corps and served in North Africa and Italy in addition to landing at Normandy.

(See Gen. FOSTER, Page 6)

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Here we are at the end of another year and looking forward with enthusiasm to the year ahead.

2004 was a good year for our detachment in that your Commandant was subject to a minimum of abuse.

I wish at this time to express my personal gratitude to all those members who volunteered their time doing fund raisers, highway clean-up, parade details, ceremonial details, and the work accomplished by the appointed committees.

One of the highlights was our Detachment Birthday Ball held on November 6th. **Junior Vice Commandant Jim Powell** worked very diligently seeing that all the details were worked out mak-

ing the ball a success. Even though we had a couple minor distractions and overkill on door prizes, everyone had a good time. One of the most anticipated moments is the announcing of the "Marine of the Year". Our **Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom** was this years recipient. Congratulations Bill! Wear the title proudly.

We also welcomed into our Detachment **Doylestown Mayor Bill Neis** as an "Honorary Member." Mayor Neis is a fine man, a long time dedicated public servant and has coordinated the annual Memorial Day Parade for decades.

The "GOODIES FOR THE TROOPS" program put together by **Peggy Sundling** just continues to be on

a roll. All of her hard work and dedication to this effort cannot go unrecognized. Thank you, Peggy, for a job well done, and thanks to all the members who have donated to this cause.

Also my appreciation to the members who have donated to the "Toys for Tots" program and making an unprivileged child's life a little happier on Christmas day.

As we wind down our activities for this year, I wish the happiest of holidays to all of you and a happy and prosperous new year.

Semper Fidelis,

Bill Miller

Commandant & Sergeant Major Visit Troops in Iraq

AL ASAD, Iraq. Dec 15-- Commandant of the Marine Corps, **General Michael W. Hagee**, made a visit today to Al Asad, Iraq to bring inspiration and hope to Marines stationed here.

Standing alongside **Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps John L. Estrada**, Hagee spoke to a capacity crowd at the base theater, giving them words of encouragement and motivation.

"I'm very proud of what you're doing out here," he said. "Over this past year you have done a great job ensuring that every mission is successfully accomplished."

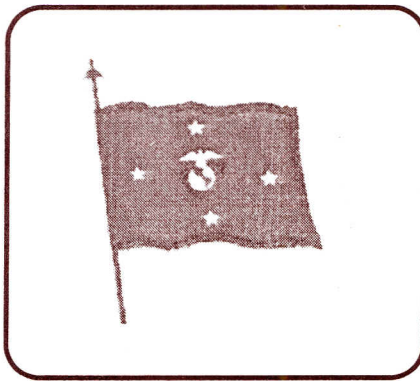
"We ask a lot of you, and you respond with vigilance," said Estrada. "It is special individuals like you that are responsible for making the Marine Corps the best in the world."

LISTEN UP!

LISTEN UP! is the internal information publication of the CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636, Inc. of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc. It is published monthly by and for the members of the Central Bucks Detachment.

Hagee reminded everyone that every single job is vital and they should be proud of what they've achieved.

"Everyone here participated in the overall mission," he emphasized.



"Whether you were out there fighting or back here in support, everyone has played an important part."

The General addressed issues concerning length of deployment and the use of reservists.

"Some units have been extended to past a year," he said, "but I am fully committed to the seven-month troop rotation we currently have in place."

Yet, even with the assurance of seven months, Gen. Hagee made sure the Marines know that the Corps is willing to do everything possible to win the war.

"If there is a change in the battlefield, we'll respond to that change," he said.

As the diverse crowd was commended for their hard work, he also charged them with the responsibility of taking care of one another.

"One of the things we're known for, besides being great warriors, is being great leaders, and the most important things about being a leader is taking care of your people," he said.

"During this fight, especially during this holiday season, we need to stay focused on what we're doing so that we can bring every single Marine back."

Through his heartening words, the commandant showed he truly cared for the well-being of his Marines, and concluded his speech with greeting the troops and posing for photos with dozens of different units on base.

"This is the first time I've ever seen the commandant in person," said **Sgt. Matthew B. Thomas**, nuclear biological and chemical defense specialist, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

"He was walking around shaking hands and joking with the Marines. It was nice to see that he could be just a regular guy."

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held December 8, 2004, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 14 members present including all officers except the Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Budd Pearce and Bob Sundling**; **Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth**; and **Marine of the Year Bill Jerrom**.

The Minutes of the November 2004 Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The Paymaster's Report was delivered by **Paymaster Bob Cody**. The Paymaster's Report was unanimously accepted.

Guests at the meeting were former Marine **James Chapman** and **PFC Sundling** of the Liberty Young Marines Unit.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment had received a "Thank You" note from the family of **Marine Corporal Barton Russell Humlhanz** who was killed in action in Iraq. **Marine Rich Scott** sent flowers for the funeral on behalf of the Detachment.

Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, reported the Detachment strength at 50 including 21 Life Members, 26 Regular Members and 3 Associate Members.

Junior Vice Commandant Jim Powell reported he had Department of Pennsylvania Raffle tickets available and urged members in attendance to pick up some at this meeting.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no communications from either the Department or the National Headquarters since the last meeting.

Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Mickelson reported he had received no requests for the detachment Color Guard since the last meeting.

Chaplain Ed Hoth, PDC, reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUNG MARINES--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Liberty Young Marines Unit was helping with the "Toys for Tots" program and that the Unit recently went on a Cold weather Survival trip.

Public Relations-- The Public Relations Officer set Dec. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the January issue of *Listen Up!*

GROCERY RECEIPTS--Redners Market Coordinator Gary Smith reported he had forwarded more than \$10,000 in receipts to the market and the detachment should be receiving a donation of more than \$100 in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS

Past Commandant Sundling reported the detachment Trailer had been moved to Tinius-Olson for storage and that there should be no problem in keeping it there.

NEW BUSINESS

The Senior Vice Commandant reported the United Veterans of Doylestown is seeking a Parade Marshall for the Memorial Day Parade to replace retiring **Mayor Bill Neis** in that position. Anyone wanting to apply for the position should contact Don Gee at (215) 822-9094. He stated that anyone desiring to take on the job should be willing to commit to at least five years of service as Parade Marshall.

Paymaster Bob Cody motioned to donate \$100 to the *Daily Intelligencer's* "Give A Christmas" Fund. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Mess Sergeant Wil Haas tendered his resignation as Mess Sergeant. Past Commandant Sundling volunteered to serve as Mess Sergeant.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Past Commandant Sundling asked the members to continue to donate the food for the troops program and Past Commandant Budd Pearce pointed out the troops especially like beef jerky.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Senior Vice Commandant informed the members he was working with several members of the cast of "The D. I." (1957) to arrange a reunion of the cast at the U. S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association Conference in Reno, NV, in August. Past Commandant Sundling announced the "Blue Angels" will return to the Memorial Day Weekend Air Show at Willow Grove.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2005.

Corps Makes It Easier for Wounded to Remain in Uniform

by *Gordon Lubold*
MarineTimes staff writer

It's easier to stay green, even if you're wounded in combat. It used to be that a lost limb could spell certain discharge or medical retirement. Not so much anymore.

The Defense Department is trying to keep as many service members who want to stay on active duty as possible. Ditto for the Corps, which has seen some of the highest numbers of injuries in Iraq, especially recently.

"If we have Marines who want to stay in, we do what we can to keep them in the Marine Corps," said **Capt. Steven Mays**, who heads the Disability Retirement Section of Manpower and Reserve Affairs at Quantico, VA.

The number of Marines wounded in Iraq continues to grow. Corps officials reported a total of 3,395 Marines injured there since the invasion last year. While most of those Marines are treated before returning to duty within days, hundreds more whose injuries are more serious begin a recovery process that has as much to do with medical rehabilitation as it does bureaucratic navigation. But the process is now tailored to help return these Marines to full duty if that's what they want.

The process begins in Mays' five-person office at Quantico where he holds about 30 "limited duty boards" per month, up from the roughly five boards held each month before the war in Iraq began.

Manpower officials use the boards to authorize limited duty status for a service member, or to refer them to more thorough boards if the injury or condition of the patient requires it. In most of those cases, these limited duty boards permit Marines to recover and possibly return to full duty.

However, about three cases per month are referred to the next higher level. If a Marine on limited duty status remains there for more than three months, and is not performing well at his unit during his recovery, his case will likely be referred to the physical evaluation board in Washington, DC.

That board, run by Navy and Marine

Corps personnel, looks at the whole picture of the Marine and his suitability to return to full duty, considering factors such as the doctor's recommendation, the commanding officer's input and other information.

If all parties concur, the board may make a final determination to allow the Marine to stay in or be medically discharged or retired. If the Marine doesn't agree with the findings, he may take the issue to a full hearing of the physical evaluation board.

But the intent of the Defense Department is to help get as many Marines back

to full or limited duty as possible, instead of simply retiring or separating them, officials said.

One of the best examples of how the system worked was in the case of **Sgt. Chris Chandler**, who lost his left foot and lower leg when he stepped on a mine near Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 2001, but was allowed to stay on active duty. Chandler not only returned to active duty but was the first service member to graduate from the Army's airborne school.

"If they have a strong desire to remain on active duty, we do everything we can to make that happen."

VFW Furious About Planned Vietnam Draft-Dodger Memorial

WASHINGTON--Recent news coverage about a proposed memorial being built in Canada to honor Vietnam draft-dodgers has drawn the fury of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

We urge the President and Congress to do whatever is necessary to communicate to the Canadian government that this exercise of free expression is an absolute slap in the face to every man and woman who ever served in uniform both in our military and theirs, said **John Furgess**, the national commander of the largest organization of combat veterans in the U.S.

Everything America holds dear and every freedom we cherish today came from the blood, sweat and sacrifice of more than 42 million Americans who have answered the call to duty since the Revolutionary War, said Furgess.

More than one million of them died helping to create our country, to save our Union, and to defend the world from tyranny.

To create a memorial to those who

chose to flee instead of doing their duty must not be allowed to take place.

According to news reports, an estimated 125,000 Americans fled to Canada to avoid the Vietnam draft. Half returned to the U.S. when then-President Jimmy Carter granted them amnesty in 1977.

The dedication of the bronze stature honoring draft-dodgers is planned for July 2006 in Nelson, British Columbia, about 140 miles north of Spokane, Washington.

The VFW fully supports freedom of expression and the arts, said Furgess, a Vietnam veteran from Nashville who retired at the rank of colonel from the Tennessee Army National Guard.

"But to honor draft-dodgers, deserters, people who brought grief to the families they left behind and anguish to those American men who took their place, is an abomination," he said.

"You can say what you want about the war we all did and some still do but do not dishonor the warrior by memorializing cowards."

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 and without aloe (some people 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 --again, in individual packages; Writing Tablets/Envelopes/Pens; Crossword Puzzles; Magazines - military, automotive, hunting, etc. (used are fine); Drink Mixes - individual envelopes. **Thanks for your continued support! Especially during this Holiday Season!**

JANUARY DATES IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

1--(1804) Tradition established of Marine Band serenading Commandant.

2--(1960) Marine Corps Air Facility, Futenma, Okinawa, commissioned under Colonel L. S. Reeve.

3--(1945) VMF-124 & 213 from the USS ESSEX struck Formosa and the Ryukyus in first Marine land strike off a carrier.

4--(1928) Marines participated in Battle of Quilali during the occupation of Nicaragua.

(1944) 5th & 7th Marines overran 53rd Japanese Infantry on New Britain.

5--(1904) Marine Detachment landed to protect Legation at Seoul, Korea.

(1991) 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (SOC) rescued Americans and foreign dignitaries from embassies in Mogadishu, Somalia, utilizing Super Stallions from HMH-461.

6--(1859) Brigadier General Archibald Henderson died in office after 39 years as Commandant.

7--(1969) Medal of Honor posthumously awarded to 1st Marine Division Chaplain, Lieutenant V. R. Capodanno, killed in action in Vietnam.

8--(1815) Marines, with Andy Jackson's help, repulsed British at New Orleans.

9--(1847) Marines participated in Battle of La Mesa, CA, during Mexican War.

10--(1861) Captain Josiah Watson and 38 Marines surrendered with Navy Yard, Pensacola, FL, during Civil War.

11--(1945) MAG-24 landed in

Philippines to provide air support to U.S. Army.

12--(1919) 55th Company of Marines arrived in Cuba aboard USS MAINE.

(1991) 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, embarked, arrived in North Arabian Sea in support of DESERT STORM.

13--(1943) 2d Marine Division launched westward coastal attack at Guadalcanal.



14--(1920) Caco insurrectionists defeated in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

15--(1943) Captain Joe Foss bagged three Japanese planes for record total of 26 kills.

16--(1991) Marines participated in offensive air action against Iraq as Operation DESERT STORM began.

17--(1944) Company B, 1st Tank Battalion, spearheaded assault against Japanese positions on Arawe Peninsula, New Britain, forcing enemy to withdraw.

18--(1902) Famous "March Across Samar" ended during Philippine Insurrection.

(1961) Sergeant Major Bertha Peters became the first woman appointed to the top enlisted NCO rank in Marine Corps.

19--(1929) Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler's 3d Brigade disbanded in Tientsin, China.

20--(1968) 26th Marines killed 100 enemy as second Battle for Khe Sanh, Vietnam, began.

21--(1918) First Marine aviation unit overseas in World War I arrived in Azores.

22--(1837) Marines fought in Battle of Hatchee-Lustee in Florida.

23--(1780) Marines participated in capture of a British brig by PROVIDENCE and RANGER off Charleston, SC.

24--(1968) 26th Marines held Khe Sanh Combat Base. Awarded Presidential Unit Citation.

25--(1856) Marines landed to protect settlers from Indian raids.

(1928) Marines participated in Battle of El Chipote, during occupation of Nicaragua.

26--(1904) Emperor decorated Captain G. C. Thorpe, USMC, in Addis Ababa.

27--(1778) Landing at New Providence, Bahamas, Flag flew for first time over foreign soil.

28--(1942) 4th Marines assigned to support Philippine Scouts on Bataan.

29--(1914) Marines, with British, French and German units, landed in Haiti.

(1991) Marines participated in first major ground action of DESERT STORM, repulsing Iraqi mechanized battalion.

30--(1848) Marines from USS DALE landed to capture Cochon during Mexican War.

(1943) Marines participated in Battle for Rennell Island.

31--(1944) Flag first raised over Japanese soil by B/1/25 on Guadalcanal.

Gen. FOSTER (From Page 1)

After the war, in 1946, he married Mary Jane, a former Army nurse.

His Army career included teaching electrical engineering at West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, developing a data processing system and commanding the 1st Signal Brigade for a year in Vietnam.

Services for Gen. Foster will be held on Jan. 3 in the Old Cadet Chapel at West Point, NY. He will be buried in the West Point Cemetery.

The family will receive condolences from 3 to 5 p.m. on Jan. 2 at the Shelly Funeral Home, 1460 Easton Rd., Warrington.

The Central Bucks Detachment of the Marine Corps League will post an Honor Guard between 1520 and 1540 at the funeral home. Anyone interested in participating in the Honor Guard should contact **Sr. Vice Commandant Don Gee** at (215) 822-9094 or e-mail: **USMCCCA@aol.com**.

2004-2005
SCHEDULE
OF EVENTS

CHRISTMAS
25 DECEMBER

NEW YEAR'S DAY
1 JANUARY

DETACHMENT MEETING
12 JANUARY
1930

GROUNDHOG DAY
7 FEBRUARY

DETACHMENT MEETING
9 FEBRUARY
1930

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY
14 FEBRUARY

PRESIDENTS DAY
16 FEBRUARY

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The Sands of Christmas

by Michael Marks

I had no Christmas spirit when I breathed a weary sigh,
and looked across the table where the bills were piled too high.
The laundry wasn't finished and the car I had to fix,
My stocks were down another point, the Chargers lost by six.

And so with only minutes till my son got home from school
I gave up on the drudgery and grabbed a wooden stool.
The burdens that I carried were about all I could take,
and so I flipped the TV on to catch a little break.

I came upon a desert scene in shades of tan and rust,
No snowflakes hung upon the wind, just clouds of swirling dust.
And where the reindeer should have stood before a laden sleigh,
eight Humvees ran a column right behind an MIA.

A group of boys walked past the tank, not one was past his teens,
Their eyes were hard as polished flint, their faces drawn and lean.
They walked the street in armor with their rifles shouldered tight,
their dearest wish for Christmas, just to have a silent night.

Other soldiers gathered, hunkered down against the wind,
To share a scrap of mail and dreams of going home again.
There wasn't much at all to put their lonely hearts at ease,
They had no Christmas turkey, just a pack of MREs.

They didn't have a garland or a stocking I could see,

They didn't need an ornament--they lacked a Christmas tree.

They didn't have a present even though it was tradition,
the only boxes I could see were labeled "ammunition."

I felt a little tug and found my son now by my side,
He asked me what it was I feared, and why it was I cried.

I swept him up into my arms and held him oh so near
and kissed him on the forehead as I whispered in his ear.

There's nothing wrong my little son, for safe we sleep tonight,
our heroes stand on foreign land to give us all the right,
to worry on the things in life that mean nothing at all,
instead of wondering if we will be the next to fall.

He looked at me as children do and said it's always right,
to thank the ones who help us and perhaps that we should write.
And so we pushed aside the bills and sat to draft a note,
to thank the many far from home, and this is what we wrote:

God bless you all and keep you safe, and speed your way back home.
Remember that we love you so, and that you're not alone.
The gift you give you share with all, a present every day,
You give the gift of liberty and that we can't repay.

(Copyright 2003 Michael Marks: "I freely submit this poem for reprint without reservation--this is an open and grateful tribute to the men and women who serve every day to keep our nation safe.")

C-B Detachment Marines on the Net

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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 \$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.

(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**

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Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
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"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"