

LISTEN UP!



CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

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

#636

VOLUME XX, Number 1

JANUARY 2007

Commandant: **WILLIAM R. MILLER**

Editor: **DON H. GEE**

Berks County Woman & Son to be on Gold Star Monument

Marine Walter Snyder Was Killed at Chosin Reservoir

READING, Pa. - A woman whose son in the Marine Corps Reserves was killed in the Korean War will be featured at the proposed Gold Star Mothers Monument in Washington, DC.

Sculptor **Andrew L. Chernak** chose **Mollie Snyder**, 97, of Wernersville, and her son, **Walter Snyder**, who was killed at age of 21

in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, as models for a bronze relief along a path leading to the monument's centerpiece.

Gold Star Mothers Monument To Be Built in Washington, DC

At a meeting with the sculptor last month at the Pleasantville Inn in Oley Township, Snyder said she was honored.

Snyder recalled when a telegram arrived on Dec. 8, 1950, and she heard her husband, Walter, scream, "He's dead."

She said she first thought he meant a neighbor who was ill, and the moment she realized he was talking about their son remains frozen in her memory.

"I still read his letters now and then," she said. "It brings me closer to him."

The Western Union cable will be placed in a time capsule at the monument.

MARINE'S REMAINS IDENTIFIED

The remains of a Leatherneck from Madera, PA, who had been missing in action since World War II have been identified, the Defense Department said last month.

Sgt. **John H. Branich** was fighting on Guadalcanal with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, on Aug. 19, 1942, and was killed when Japanese fighters overran the unit's position, A Defense Department release said.

U. S. Embassy officials discovered Branich's remains at a construction site in 1992. A ring with the inscription "JHB" was found nearby, according to the release.

Officials used DNA to identify the remains.

TAX EXEMPTION EXPANDED FOR DISABLED VETERANS

by **Dan Fraley**
Director of Veterans Affairs
Bucks County, PA

Great News for 100% service connected disabled veterans in Pennsylvania. House Bill # 2296 passed last month and when signed by the governor will expand the current exemption program.

The old exemption bill which went into effect sometime in 1968 required the exemption application to be filed every two years and caps the veteran's income at \$36,000. The bill that was

passed started as Senate Bill #19 expands filing to every five years and allows income up to \$75,000. Under the old bill many of our Vietnam Veterans who are 100 % Service connected with a wife in the work force were denied.

This is an important bill and won't become law until the Governor signs it into law.

Please call Governor Rendell (717-787-2500) and show your support for this bill or e-mail him at www.governor.state.pa.us.

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

I can't believe another year has passed by so quickly. I look at the calendar and, yeah, reality kicks in. I guess that the older you get, the faster it goes.

It's been another wonderful year for our Detachment and all of the activities we have accomplished. We were definitely out there making

things happen and contributing to our community. This is also the time that I express my gratitude to all of you who made it possible. Thank you, Marines, for a job well done. Also a special thanks goes out to the **Sundlings--Bob and Peggy--** for their tireless effort in collecting and dispersing items for our troops out there in harms way and making their lives a little more bearable.

I'm looking forward with a great deal of enthusiasm entering into the 21st year of existence for the Central Bucks Detachment. I'm anticipating heading in a new direction with new leadership and growth opportunities coming from new ideas. I'm proud to have played a roll in keeping our Detachment out in front as being one of the best in the Marine Corps League. We may be small in

numbers but we're big in recognition. I'm personally looking forward to new opportunities and challenges in my position as an officer in the Department of Pennsylvania.



BILL MILLER
Commandant

I will now end my final article for this year by wishing you all the happiest holiday season. Thank you for your cards, and have a happy and a prosperous New Year.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature of Bill Miller.

Bill Miller



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
JAMES POWELL

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE III, PC

ADJUTANT
GARY SMITH

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JUDGE ADVOCATE
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QUARTERMASTER
ROBERT DUFF

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EDWARD W. HOTH, PDC

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
BOB SUNDLING, PC

MESS SERGEANT
WIL HAAS

WEBMASTER
JAMES E. PEARCE

MARINE OF THE YEAR
ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE III, PC

Where Did 'Oorah' Come From?

By *LCpl. Paul W. Hirseman III*
MCRD, PARRIS ISLAND, S.C.--
"Oorah!" Marines hear it each and every day.

Ingrained into Marine minds since boot camp, this distinctly Marine call is barked back and forth in an almost endless stream of motivation. However, take a step back and ask that Marine, "Where did 'Oorah' come from exactly?"

The answer is rarely the same. Countless stories abound regarding the mysterious origins of our beloved phrase. However, unlike many Marine traditions, "Oorah" is rather new. As any veteran of the past 50 years would say, no Marine before 1950 could be found saying it.

The true popularization of the word came in the '80s and '90s, when it fully emerged from the murky secrecy of Marine reconnaissance

through Drill Instructors and by other means into use by Marines around the world.

"As far as I had been told, 'Oorah' simply means 'let's kill'," said **SSgt. Hugo Monroy**, Drill Instructor for Platoon 1094, Delta Co., 1st RTBn. "As far as its origin, I really don't know. I always assumed it was simply a Marine tradition that was passed down from Marine to Marine.

"The stories of 'Oorah's' origins range from the logical to the absurd, including stories such as it being Turkish for kill, which is in fact *öldürmek*, or even simply a direct counter against the Army's "Hooah."

But where did the word really come from? Marines and historians have determined the true origins of "Oorah" lie with recon Marines stationed in Korea in 1953.

(See **OORAH**, Page 4)

DECEMBER DETACHMENT MEETING



MINUTES



The regular meeting of the **Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc.**, of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held December 13, 2006, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 18 members present including all officers except the Paymaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee and Bob Sundling**, **Past Commandant and Marine of the Year Budd Pearce**, and **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**.

Sick Call: Paymaster Bob Cody still recuperating.

The **Minutes** of the November Meeting were unanimously accepted as new members.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Bill Miller reported on the trip he and Senior Vice Commandant Powell took to Quantico, VA, for the dedication of the National Museum of the Marine Corps on Nov. 10. He also reported the Detachment had received a "Thank You" letter from Iraq for the packages Peggy Sundling has been sending to the troops.

Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell reported the Detachment strength at 48 including 22 Life Members, 21 Regular Members, 4 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member. There are four members delinquent in their dues.

Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC, reported on plans for the January 14 Anniversary Buffet. Uniform for the event was established as Red Blazer or semi-formal.

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.

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

Quartermaster Bob Huff stated he had nothing new to report.

The **Public Relations Officer** reported he, **Junior Vice Commandant Pearce** and **Associate Member Corey Fisher** had made a Flag-Folding Presentation to a Cub Scout Pack at a Council Rock Elementary School. He set Dec. 20 as the deadline for submitting materials for the January issue of Listen Up!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adopt-A-Highway--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce, PC, reported only five members had participated in the Nov. 18 highway clean-up. The next clean-up will be in the spring at on a date to be set later.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Marine Rich Scott gave the members a preview of the slide show he will present at the Anniversary Celebration on Jan. 14.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 1930 on January 10.

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!

OORAH

From Page 2

During this time, reconnaissance Marines in the 1st Amphibious Reconnaissance Co., found themselves traveling via submarine to where they were needed. The memorable call of "dive, dive!" would be called on the intercom and a klaxon alarm, which made a very distinct "Aarugha" sound, would announce the descent of the sub below water. The recon Marines, who heard this sound often, started using it as a motivational tool during runs and physical training. Over time, the word "Aarugha" came to be too much of a mouthful, and eventually molded itself into the familiar "Oorah," according to **Maj. Gary Marte**, a retired Marine. Confirmation for this version of the story rests with the official Marine Corps Training Reference Manual on the history of Marine recon, titled "Aarugha," the manual gives credence on the origination of the phrase with reconnaissance Marines.

"Oorah" is just one of the things that separates Marines from any other branch of service, and has become a part of our lasting history. "It is the traditions, the history, that makes Marines stand out," said **Aulton Kohn**, Parris Island Museum information receptionist. "The stories passed from Drill Instructor to recruit, and from Marine to Marine, they add the color to the Corps."

PHOTOS WANTED

Send your "Boot Camp"
and/or Active Duty
photos to
Budd Pearce
for inclusion in our
20th Anniversary
Program



MARINES!

BUS TRIP TO QUANTICO, VA ON JUNE 8, 2007

Visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps
Then on to 8th & I Marine Barracks for Dinner
and the Evening Parade

Depart:	Doylestown, PA	7:30 a.m.
Arrive:	Quantico, VA	11:30 a.m.
Depart:	Quantico, VA	3:30 p.m.
Arrive:	8th & I Marine Barracks	5:30 p.m.

(For Dinner At Mess Hall)

SNACK, SOFT DRINK & DINNER INCLUDED
IN THE PRICE OF
\$35.00 PER PERSON

For More Information: Contact **BILL HAAS** at
215-257-7828 (Home)
or
215-757-0420 (Office)

You Can Call Bill at his Business Number
Tuesday - Friday between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m.
or at his Home Number Any Other Time

Guided Tour at the Museum for Additional Fee--
Make Your Own Arrangements

USMC Museum of Carolinas Slated for 2009

CAMP LEJEUNE, NC--"There has never yet been a man in our history who led a life of ease whose name is worth remembering," said **Theodore Roosevelt**, the 26th President of the United States."

Remembering the Carolinas' Marines and civilians who sacrificed for their country is a responsibility that will soon fall on the shoulders of the

Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas.

Slated to open late 2008 and located in the Jacksonville Lejeune Memorial Gardens, the museum will display the history of the Marines and the surrounding communities of North and South Carolina from 1941 into the future, said **Jim M. Williams**, retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel and

Executive Director of the Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas.

"We will be a non-profit national class museum here to showcase everything the Marines of the Carolinas have done and what they are currently doing," said Williams.

The preliminary plans display a 40,000 square-foot building with two floors consisting of three major exhibit galleries, which will be comprised of 8-10 subjects of interest and a great hall, according to Williams.

Museum entry will begin with an orientation movie showing a short history of the Marine Corps in a theater modeled to recreate a beachhead, said Williams.

"It will feel like you're walking through time," said **Claire Woodward**, who is in charge of development and communications for the Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas. Many exhibits will show how the Carolinas are home to many Marine Corps firsts -- such as the first major training of females, the first basic training of black Marines, aviation milestones, the birthplace of Marine Corps military dogs, as well as the first large scale testing of the amphibious doctrine, said Williams.

"We want to ensure these unique events that happened here, which were inevitably shaping the future, are highlighted," said Williams.

(See **MUSEUM**, Page 7)

VHS, 30, Dies of Lonliness

After a long illness, the groundbreaking home-entertainment format VHS has died of natural causes in the United States. The format was 30 years old. No services are planned.

The format was expected to survive until January, but high-def formats and next-generation videogame consoles hastened its final decline.

"It's pretty much over," concurred Buena Vista Home Entertainment General Manager North America **Lori MacPherson** last month.

Although it had been ailing, the format's death became official in this, the video biz's all-important fourth quarter.

Retailers decided to pull the plug, saying there was no longer shelf space. VHS is survived by a child, DVD, and by Tivo, VOD and DirecTV. It was preceded in death by Betamax, Divx, mini-discs and laserdiscs.

As a tribute to the late, great VHS, Toys 'R' Us will continue to carry a few titles like "Barney," and some dollar video chains will still handle cassettes for those who cannot deal with the death of the format.

Born Vertical Helical Scan to parent JVC of Japan, the tape had a difficult childhood as it was forced to compete with Sony's Betamax format.

After its youthful Betamax battles,

the longer-playing VHS tapes eventually became the format of choice for millions of consumers.

VHS enjoyed a lucrative career, transforming the way people watched movies and changing the economics of the film biz. VHS hit its peak with "The Lion King," which sold more than 30 million video cassettes State-side.

The format flourished until DVDs launched in 1997. After a fruitful career, VHS tapes started to retire from center stage in 2003 when DVDs became more popular for the first time.

Since its retirement, VHS tapes have made occasional appearances in children's entertainment and as a format for collectors seeking titles not released on DVD.

VHS continued to make as much as \$300 million a year until this year, when studios stopped manufacturing the tapes.

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 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.

2006 'STELLA' AWARDS

Time once again to review the winners of the Annual "Stella Awards." The Stella Awards are named after 81-year-old **Stella Liebeck** who spilled hot coffee on herself and successfully sued MacDonalds (in NM). That case inspired the Stella Awards for the most frivolous, ridiculous, successful lawsuits in the United States.

Here are this year's winners:

5th Place (tie): Kathleen Robertson of Austin, TX, was awarded \$80,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running inside a furniture store. The owners of the store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering the misbehaving little toddler was Ms. Robertson's son.

5th Place (tie): 19 year-old Carl Truman of Los Angeles won \$74,000 and medical expenses when his neighbor ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Mr. Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbor's hubcaps.

5th Place (tie): Terrence Dickson of Bristol, PA, was leaving a house he had just finished robbing by way of the garage. He was not able to get the garage door to go up since the automatic door opener was malfunctioning. He couldn't re-enter the house because the door connecting the house and garage locked when he pulled it shut. The family was on vacation, and Mr. Dickson found himself locked in the garage for eight days. He subsisted on a case of Pepsi he found, and a large bag of dry dog food. He sued the homeowner's insurance claiming the situation caused him undue mental anguish. The jury agreed to the tune of \$500,000.

4th Place: Jerry Williams of Little Rock, AR, was awarded \$14,500 and medical expenses after being bitten on the buttocks by his next door neighbor's beagle. The beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced yard. The award was less than sought because the jury felt the dog might have been just a little provoked at the time by Mr. Williams, who had climbed over the fence into the yard and was shooting it repeatedly with a pellet gun.

3rd Place: A Philadelphia restaurant was ordered to pay **Amber Carson of Lancaster, PA**, \$113,500 after she slipped on a soft drink and broke her coccyx (tailbone). The beverage was on the floor because Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument.

2nd Place: Kara Walton of Claymont, DE, successfully sued the owner of a night club in a neighboring city when she fell from the bathroom window to the floor and

knocked out her two front teeth. This occurred while Ms. Walton was trying to sneak through the window in the ladies room to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge. She was awarded \$12,000 and dental expenses.

1st Place: This year's runaway winner was **Mrs. Merv Grazinski** of Oklahoma City, OK. Mrs. Grazinski purchased a brand new 32-foot Winnebago motor home. On her first trip home, (from an OU football game), having driven onto the freeway, she set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the driver's seat to go into the back and make herself a sandwich. Not surprisingly, the RV left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Mrs. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not advising her in the owner's manual that she couldn't actually do this. The jury awarded her \$1,750,000, plus a new motor home. The company actually changed their manuals on the basis of this suit, just in case there were any other complete morons around.

USMC TRIVIA QUIZ



1. Where was "Bloody Nose" ridge?
2. What is the maximum speed of the UH-1N Huey helicopter?
3. Where should a shooting badge be placed on a Marine uniform?
4. What is the cadence for "double time?"
5. What is the most effective means of warning Marines of an NBC attack?

Answers in next month's **LISTEN UP!**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. SALUTE stands for Size, Activity, Location, Unit, Time, Equipment.
2. Two assault maneuvers used by Marines are Frontal Attack and Single Envelopment.
3. There are five types of discharges: Honorable, General (under Honorable Conditions), General (under Dishonorable Conditions), Bad Conduct, and Dishonorable.
4. The only two flags which may be flown above the American flag are the United Nations Flag and the Church Pennant (ONLY during church services at sea).
5. The first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor was Cpl. John Mackie.

'PIED PIPER OF SAIPAN' GUY GABALDON DEAD AT 80

MIAMI--**Guy Gabaldon**, who as an 18-year-old Marine Private single-handedly persuaded more than 1,000 Japanese soldiers to surrender in the World War II battle for Saipan, has died. He was 80.

Gabaldon died of a heart attack at his home in Old Town, his son, **TechSgt. Jeffrey Hunter Gabaldon**, said.

Using an elementary knowledge of Japanese, bribes of cigarettes and candy, and trickery with tales of encampments surrounded by American troops, Gabaldon was able to persuade soldiers to abandon their posts and surrender. The scheme was so brazen — and so amazingly successful — it won the young Marine the Navy Cross, and fame when his story was told on television's "This Is Your Life" and the 1960 movie "Hell to Eternity."

"My plan, as impossible as it seemed, was to get near a Japanese emplacement, bunker, or cave, and tell them that I had a bunch of Marines with me and we were ready to kill them if they did not surrender," he wrote in his 1990 memoir "Saipan: Suicide Island."

"I promised that they would be treated with dignity, and that we would make sure that they were taken back to Japan after the war," he wrote.

The 5-foot-4-inch Gabaldon used piecemeal Japanese he picked up from a childhood friend to earn the trust of the enemy, who believed his story of hundreds of looming troops.

In a single day in July 1944, Gabaldon was said to have gotten about 800 Japanese soldiers to follow him back to the American camp.

His exploits earned him the nickname the "Pied Piper of Saipan."

The Private acknowledged his plan was foolish and, had it not been pulled off, could have resulted in a court-martial. His family suspected his ini-

tial disobedience—though they say of-ficers later approved—might have kept him from receiving the Medal of Honor.

"My actions prove that God takes care of idiots," he wrote.

Born March 22, 1926, in Los Angeles, Gabaldon signed up for the service on his 17th birthday and arrived

on Saipan on D-Day. His military career was cut short after two-and-a-half years by injuries from machine gun fire. He spent the years that followed running a variety of businesses, including a furniture store, a fishing operation and an import-export firm, and the unsuccessful pursuit of a California Congressional seat in 1964.

MUSEUM

"So many advancements have occurred here."

Exhibits will also explore the impact of war on the surrounding families, the landowners who gave up their land for the creation of Marine Corps installations and how Marines responded to world campaigns and crises, continued Williams.

"We will make sure that while we are displaying the history, to also show the unit and individual Carolina Marines' achievements," emphasized Williams.

The museum will provide an accurate representation of the events using hundreds of pieces such as uniforms, personal letters, a Landing Ship Medium and a Landing Vehicle Tracked Mark 4, said Williams.

As well as providing a comprehensive history, the museum will have a full catering kitchen and operate as a place to hold events such as birthday balls, reunions and conferences, said Williams.

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The great hall will be a stunning entrance and will contain more than enough space for any event, explained Woodward.

"This museum will spur economic development through the construction, and when completed, by the estimated 150,000 to 200,000 annual visitors," said Williams.

Raising more than \$4.8 million to date, Williams stressed that this is a reality and that Camp Lejeune leadership has agreed on the use of the land.

"Even though Camp Lejeune signed off on it, we still have to receive final approval from the Navy for the land use," said Williams. "We expect approval by the end of December when we will have our ground breaking." The Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas is currently accepting donations. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.mcmuseum.com> or call 910-937-0033.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Katie Couric, while interviewing a Marine sniper, asked: "What do you 'feel' when you shoot a terrorist?"

The Marine shrugged and replied: "Recoil."





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 \$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

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"