

OLDEST MARINE MADE HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

DARBY-Alfred DeSerio celebrated an important birthday on Tuesday, Nov. 25. The Southwest Philadelphia native turned 102 that day, which makes him the oldest living Marine in America. He was honored by servicemen and women, both past and present, at a ceremony that took place at the St. Francis Country House, where DeSerio currently resides.

DeSerio joined the Marine Corps in 1940 and served for more than 40 years, attaining the rank of Master Sergeant. According to information read at the ceremony by Marine Major Jeff Kenney, DeSerio received dozens of commendations throughout his career, including eight Good Conduct Medals. He served in World War II in addition to the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

"There is no such thing as a former Marine," Kenney said. "We're all brothers in arms."

Two Marine Sergeants in Dress Blue uniforms flanked DeSerio at attention, while Kenney and Master Sergeant Gregory Hall made the presentations.

Among the items presented to the most tenured member of the Corps was a Challenge Coin, given by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The tradition of the coin dates back to World War I, when Ivy League pilots carried them as identification in case they were shot down behind enemy lines.

DeSerio also received a letter from the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, the highest ranked enlisted man in the Corps.

"Your faithful and honorable service is an inspiration to all who wear the eagle, globe and anchor," the letter said, describing the insignia given to all Marines at the completion of Basic Training.

JANUARY MEETING WILL BE AT AMERICAN LEGION POST

A Congressional letter of recognition was also presented to DeSerio, specifically citing his dedication to the protection of freedom at home and abroad.

A flag was given to DeSerio that had

flown over the Marine Corps Memorial on Nov. 3 of this year. The memorial depicts a group of Marines raising an American flag on top of Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. The two sergeants flanking DeSerio's chair made the presentation.

Cardinal Justin Rigali also sent a letter to DeSerio in addition to a specially blessed set of Rosary beads.

Concluding the ceremony, the Upper Darby Detachment of the Marine Corps League made DeSerio an Honorary Life Member. A representative of the League told of how neighborhood children knew DeSerio simply as "Sarge."

DeScrio handed off all of the items he received to a friend, saying that he doesn't have any family left. Having lived in the Country House since he had a stroke several years ago, DeScrio has since lost his sight. A friend from the Country House held onto the items.

"The Marine Corps will always be your family," one voice shouted.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! Doesn't seem quite enough, but it's very heartfelt! For all the donations and the cash contributions (you know who you are); I am thrilled that we have been able to keep this up for the duration – long after some have forgotten! We have sent pounds and pounds of goodies, necessities and treats to many, many units who are quite happy to receive and share! Twelve boxes alone just for the holidays totaling approximately 500 lbs!!

Thanks for helping to make the holiday more "tolerable" for our troops and to make sure they know they are not forgotten!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!!

Peggy Sundling



COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Hello Marines,

First, I would like to wish all Marines a Happy Holidays and prosperous New Year. As the holiday season is upon us please keep you Marine brothers and sisters, past and present, in your thoughts and prayers. As we all know, freedom is not free and our Marine brotherhood has always been and will always be at the forefront of that battle.



CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372
Meets
7:30 p.m.
2nd Wedneaday of Month
American Legion Poet 210
315 North Street, Doylestown, PA

Sr. VICE COMMANDANT WILLIAM L. MICKELSON

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT BEN JONES

ADJUTANT-PAYMASTER DON H. GEE, PC

JUDGE ADVOCATE
JAMES McCOMB

COREY A. FISHER

CHAPLAIN ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE, PC

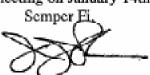
> SERGEANT-AT-ARMS BOB SUNDLING, PC

MESS SERGEANT VINCENT J. HAGAN

WEB SERGEANT JOSEPH F. DOHERTY Again, everyone should be aware that the new year will also bring thoughts of Officer elections in April. As always, if you have any interest in serving your Detachment, please talk to any of the current Officers with your interest. We are always on the lookout for new blood to fill the Officer rolls. The only restriction is that you be a Regular Member of our Detachment.

Don't forget that our next meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 210 on North Street in Doylestown. At the December meeting the membership decided it would be best to return to the Legion--at least temporarily. Everyone should keep in mind that we would like to find a permanent place to hold our meeting and, if you find a place that you think would be suitable, please inform one the Officers and we can bring it up at the next meeting.

That's all for now, see you the next meeting on January 14th.



WARS FLAGS BRING \$17.4 MILLION

NEW YORK--Long may they wave, somewhere.

An anonymous bidder paid nearly \$17.4 million last month for four rare flags from the American Revolution—remarkably intact regimental standards that had been captured by a British officer in 1779-80 and were put up for auction by one of his direct descendants 225 years later.

"These are inspirational, an extraordinary window into the birth of our country," said David Redding, a vice president of Sotheby's, which conducted the sale.

Redding noted that during wars of the 18th century, the primary targets in a battle were the opposing commanders and their units' flags, as trophies of victory.

"You can imagine the soldiers carrying them, who suffered grievous wounds and made sacrifices to defend what were sacred objects," he said in a telephone interview. "You look at them, and you really get a sense of looking at something that has a great deal of spiritual significance."

The final sales price for the four flags was well over Sotheby's presale estimate of \$4 million to \$10 million. The eventual buyer, bidding by telephone, asked not to be identified.

Bidding in the packed room was intense and limited in each case to three bidders — one present and two by telephone in the first case, two in the room and one by telephone in the second. The same buyer prevailed each time, Gioia said.

Only about 30 Revolutionary War Flags are known to exist, and all except the four sold at auction are in museums or other institutional collections, Sotheby's said.

DECEMBER DETACHMENT MEETING



was held December 10, 2008, at Advanced Medical Solutions, 54 E. Oakland St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 16 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 Jim McComb.

The Minutes of the November Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The Paymaster's Report was presented by the Adjutant/Paymaster and was unanimously accepted.

OFFICER REPORTS

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.,

Commandant Jim Powell reported he and the Adjutant/Paymaster attended the VFW Post meeting earlier in the month and presented the Marine of the Year Medallion to Post Commander Jim McComb, our Marine of the Year. He also announced the Department's Quarterly Staff Meeting will be held Jan. 9-10 at the Holiday Inn in Grantville.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Mickelson reported the Detachment strength at 55 including 27 Life Members, 23 Regular Members, 4 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Life Member. He reported on an e-mail he had received from the Toy-for-Tots Coordinator for Franklin and Fulton Counties seeking donations for toys for the Scotland School. (We approved a \$100 donation at the November Meeting).

Junior Vice Commandant Ben Jones reminded the members if anyone needs more Department Raffle tickets they should contact him.

The Adjutant/Paymaster reported the Detachment's donation to the Intelligencer's "Make-A-Christmas" fund had becallisted in the newspaper and that the Detachment had received a letter of appreciation from the Cumberland County Young Marines Unit for supporting the Young Marines. The Detachment received a "Thank You" note from Scotland School for our \$100 donation to it's "Tree of Lights" drive. He also noted the Marine Corps League's Mid-Winter Staff Meeting will be held Feb. 12-14 at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel in Falls Church, VA.

Judge Advocate Jim McComb reported the Detachment had no known legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Color Guard had not been requested since the last meeting.

Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting.

The Public Relations Officer set Dec. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the January issue of "Listen Up!"
He also reported on the Travis Manton Awards Presentation ceremony at Bucks County Courthouse on Dec. 5. 1stLt.
Manion was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal and the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V." Additionally, he reported about the funeral service for WWII veteran Jim Bartow which he and other Detachment members attended earlier in the day. Jim Bartow was a WWII POW and served on the WWII Memorial Committee which erected the WWII monument at the Bucks County Courthouse.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Young Marines Liaison Bob M. Sundling, PC, reported the unit held a rock climbing outing. Young Marines Instructor Bob A. Sundling reported about the Unit's upcoming Young Marines promotions.

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Powell proposed the Detachment return to the American Logion Post for meetings until a more suitable meeting site could be found. The motion was unanimously accepted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Adjutant/Paymaster reported a photo of Doylestown's only Medal of Honor recipient—Pvt. Charles R. Francis—is displayed on the Medal of Honor Wall at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico.

Marine Don Parzanese Jr. reported the birth of his daughter at 12:36 a.m. on Nov. 11 (36 minutes earlier and she would have been born on the Marine Corps Birthday). He also announced he had orders to leave in January for pre-deployment training to Iraq.

Scrgcant-at-Arms Sundling relayed sincure appreciation from his wife, Peggy, for the extraordinary support she reorived in the "Goodies for the Troops" program.

Judge Advocate McComb put on a presentation about significant event dates in Marine Corps history. He hopes to make this a quarterly presentation. He also reported about his witnessing the unveiling of the Tun Tavern Historical Marker (see *TUN TRIBUTE*, Page 4).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until January 14 at 7:30 p.m. when the Detachment will again meet at the American Legion Post on North St.

A Tun Tribute

MARINE ASSURES LANDMARK IS RECOGNIZED

PHILADELPHIA--When Commandant General James Conway planned his trip to Philadelphia on Dec. 6 for the annual Army-Navy football game, he was scheduled to make a stop at the site revered by Marines: the Tun Tavern, widely recognized as the Corps' birthplace.

"Marines came out of that pub swinging in 1775, and we've been fighting ever since," Conway said.

But Conway's homage would have been less significant had it not been for the efforts of a retired Marine determined to help others find their heritage —even if it meant swiping his credit card to speed the process.

Retired Chief Warrant Officer-3 Thomas Gregory was serving with Willow Grove-based Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772 in 2004 when a Marine sought to re-enlist at the site of the tavern. Simple enough, Gregory assumed--until he went in search of it.

The tavern, which sat along the city's waterfront, burned down in 1781. The site now rests in the shadow of Interstate 95.

That complicated Gregory's search. But, with typical Marine grit, he found what they figured was the location, conducted the re-enlistment ceremony and departed determined to honor that sacred site.

After learning the funds were slow in arriving for an historical marker, Gregory whipped out his plastic and covered the \$1,900 expense to hasten its installation.

"As a young man, the Marine Corps saved me. I was lost," Gregory said from his home in suburban Philly. "This is my way of paying the Marine Corps back."

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT MARINES ON THE NET

CAPRIO, Paul	midupe@aol.com
CAPRIO, Paul CODY, Bob	
CUPITT, Steve	scupitt@sol.com
	scupitt@motorola.com
GEE, Don	USMCCCA@aol.com
HOTH, E4	Edhothusmo@sol.com
JONES, Ben	henisminiones I @omoil com
KELLER, Bruce	
McCOMB lim	oruce sytaylosoucks.com
McCOMB, Jim	jim_mccomb@verizon.net
MILLER, Bill	billjae@verizon.net
MOMORELLA, Bob	mombo@starlinxcom
PARZANESE, Tony	tonyparz@hotmail.com
PARZANESE, Don, St	parzanese@quigleyco.com
PARZANESE, Don, Jr.	
PEARCE, Budd	Buddpearce@comcast.net
POWELL, Jim	iim.powell@aig.com
	usmc80@comcast.net
SCOTT, Rich	
SUNDLING, Bob	nem din o Sussian and
The state of the s	
WALDDON MISS	sundling@tiniusolsen.com
WALDRON, Mike	waldron@quigleyco.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

1 JANUARY NEW YEAR'S DAY

DETACHMENT MEETING 14 JANUARY

21 JANUARY MARTIN LUTHER KING BIRTHDAY

> DETACHMENT MEETING 11 FEBRUARY

> LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY 12 FEBRUARY

VALENTINE'S DAY 14 FEBRUARY

PRESIDENTS' DAY 16 FEBRUARY

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY 22 FEBRUARY

ASH WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 8 MARCH

ST. PATRICK'S DAY 17 MARCH

4

UNCLASSIFIED//

ALMAR 052/08

MSGID/GENADMIN/CMC WASHINGTON DC CMC//

SUBJ/CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS//

REF/A/DESC:DOC/CMC WASHINGTON DC/05MAY 2003// AMPN/REF A IS MCO P5060.20, MARINE CORPS DRILL AND CEREMONIES MANUAL.

GENTEXT/REMARKS:

- THIS ALMAR REINFORCES THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS AND AMPLIFIES THE PROVISIONS OF THE REFERENCE FOR RENDERING SALUTES AND HONORS TO THE NATIONAL FLAG; THE PROPER CONDUCT OF THE MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY; AND THE PLAYING OF THE MARINES' HYMN.
- 2. CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS PROVIDE A LINK TO THE PAST; THEY BOND MARINES WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE WITH MARINES WHO WILL CARRY THE TORCH THROUGH THE FUTURE. ANY LOSS OF TRADITION OR IMPROPER OBSERVA-TION OF CUSTOM BLURS OUR IDENTITY AND WEAKENS US AS AN INSTITUTION. THROUGH THE FAITHFUL ADHERENCE BY COMMANDERS AND EACH INDIVIDUAL MARINE, WE PRESERVE OUR IDENTITY AND REPUTATION AS A UNIQUE AND ELITE FIGHTING ORGANIZATION.
- 3. SALUTING. A RECENT CHANGE TO THE LAW HAS AUTHORIZED ACTIVE DUTY AND RETIRED SERVICEMEMBERS TO SALUTE THE NATIONAL COLORS, WHETHER COVERED OR UNCOVERED, INDOORS OR OUT. BY CUSTOM AND TRADI-TION, MARINES DO NOT RENDER THE HAND SALUTE WHEN OUT OF UNIFORM OR WHEN UNCOVERED. LET THERE BE NO CONFUSION; THAT HAS NOT CHANGED. DURING THE PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, OR THE RAISING, LOW-ERING, OR PASSING OF THE NATIONAL FLAG, MARINES WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW NAVAL TRADITIONS AND THE POLICY / PROCEDURES CONTAINED IN REFERENCE (A).

SPECIFICALLY, MARINES NOT IN UNIFORM WILL FACE THE FLAG, STAND AT ATTENTION, AND PLACE THE RIGHT HAND OVER THE HEART. IF COVERED, MARINES NOT IN UNIFORM WILL REMOVE THEIR HEADGEAR WITH THE RIGHT HAND AND PLACE THEIR RIGHT HAND OVER THEIR HEART. WHEN THE FLAG IS NOT PRESENT, MARINES WILL ACT IN THE SAME MANNER WHILE FACING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE MUSIC. IN CASES SUCH AS INDOOR CEREMONIES, WHEN MARINES ARE IN UNIFORM AND UNCOVERED, THEY WILL FACE THE FLAG, OR THE DIRECTION OF THE MUSIC WHEN THE FLAG IS NOT PRESENT, AND STAND AT ATTENTION.

- 4. THE MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY. THE MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY IS ONE OF OUR TIME-HONORED TRADITIONS IN GARRISON, IN THE FIELD, AND IN COMBAT. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE CEREMONY IS THE TRADITIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE OLDEST AND YOUNGEST MARINES PRESENT. TO CLARIFY THE LANGUAGE IN REFERENCE (A), THE COMMANDER CUTS THE CAKE AND HANDS THE FIRST PIECE TO THE GUEST OF HONOR. THEN THE COMMANDER HANDS THE SECOND PIECE OF CAKE TO THE OLDEST MARINE PRESENT AS A SIGN OF HONOR AND RESPECT TO EXPERIENCE AND SENIORITY. AFTER TAKING A BITE, THE OLDEST MARINE PASSES THE SECOND PIECE OF CAKE, AND A CLEAN FORK, DIRECTLY TO THE YOUNGEST MARINE PRESENT; THIS ACTION SYMBOLIZES THE PASSING OF WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, AND EXPERIENCE, AS WELL AS TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THOSE WHO WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY ON OUR MARINE CORPS TRADITIONS.
- 5. PLAYING OF THE MARINES' HYMN. THE MARINES' HYMN IS THE OFFICIAL HYMN OF THE MARINE CORPS. IT IS THE SONG OF PRAISE TO OUR INSTITUTION AND THE LYRICS ARE A DIRECT TRIBUTE TO OUR WARFIGHTING CULTURE. BY CUSTOM AND TRADITION, THE MARINES' HYMN IS THE LAST SONG PLAYED AT CEREMONIES AND GATHERINGS OF MARINES. ALTHOUGH THE REFERENCE ALLOWS FOR THE PLAYING OF SPECIAL MUSIC REQUESTS BEFORE THE MA-RINES' HYMN, SUCH AS "ANCHOR'S AWEIGH," THIS IS BY EXCEPTION AND AT THE DISCRETION OF THE LOCAL COM-MANDER.
- 6. ONE OF OUR HALLMARKS AS MARINES IS THAT WE ARE AS GOOD ON PARADE AS WE ARE IN THE ATTACK. OUR SHARP APPEARANCE - IN AND OUT OF UNIFORM - AND OUR SUCCESS IN BATTLE ARE TWO IMPORTANT PARTS OF OUR IDENTITY. WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR TRADITIONS, AND THEIR UNIFORM APPLICATION, WHEREVER MARINES ARE AS-SIGNED.
- 7. SEMPER FIDELIS.

JAMES T. CONWAY, GENERAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS, COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS.//

MV-904SO (09-04)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Bureau of Motor Vehicles Special Tag Unit

P.O. Box 68293

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8293

APPLICATION FOR SPECIALTY REGISTRATION PLATE

Fee: \$20.00

(PLUS ANY ADDITIONAL FEES CHARGED BY THE ORGANIZATION)

A FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY A

A	VEHICLE DESCRIPTION AND APPLICANT	TINFO	RMATI	ON (complete this see	ction exactly	as information	appears or	current	ragistro	ntion card)
	TITLE NUMBER	CURRE	ENT REC	L PLATE #	CURRENT	EXPIRATION	MAKE OF	VEHICL	E	YEAR
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	STREET ADDRESS - Must list a street address, P.O Bo	x # alone	is not a	scceptable. CITY				STATE	ZIPC	00E
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В	TO BE COMPLETED BY ORGANIZATION		11 744						-	
	NAME OF ORGANIZATION: N	AARI	NE C	ORPS LEAGU	E of PA	Inc.	DET	ACHME	NTPAY	MASTER'S
				BUCKS DI	ETACE	IMENT		15) 8.		*
	238 Cornwall Ci	ircle	1	Ch	alfont		P		891	4-2318
C	TO BE COMPLETED BY ORGANIZATION	OFFICE	AL (se	e special instruct	ions belo	w)		-	-	
	I certify that the individual named in Section A i	is a mer	nber in	good standing of th	e organiza	tion listed in	Section B:			
	KATHY VAN GORDER		TITLE	PAYMAST	NT	SIGNATURE				
D	I CERTIFY THAT ALL INFORMATION GIVEN ON THIS A HAMED ORGANIZATION, I WILL IMMEDIATELY RETURN X	APPLICA BN THE F	TION IS	TRUE AND CORNECT RATION PLATE TO THE	AND THAT V DEPARTME	WHEN I CEASE INT OF TRANSP	TO BE A ME	EMBER O	OF THE	ABOVE
	APPLICA	NTS SI	GNATU	RE IN INK	100			DATE		

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING A SPECIALTY PLATE

- This application, with Sections A and D completed in full, must be returned to the organization official for submission to the Department.
 No applications sent directly to the Department by the organization member will be processed. All applications must be sent to the Department by the organization.
- The applicant listed in Section A must be a registered owner of the vehicle as indicated on the vehicles registration credential.
 If the vehicle is a leased vehicle, Form MV-1L, "Application for Lessee Information", must be completed and attached.
- Fee required with this application is \$20.00. The participating organizations may charge additional fees to offset the cost of plate production and a contribution to the organization. Please contact the organization representative for correct payment method. DO NOT SEND CASH.
- No specialty plate will be duplicated. If your plate is lost, stolen or defaced, we will reissue you the next available plate in our series for \$7.50. To apply for a replacement, complete Form MV-44 and submit the required fee.
- Requests for specialty registration plates are restricted to passenger vehicles, trucks and motorhomes with a registered gross weight of not more than 9,000 lbs. Motorcycles and trailers do not qualify for specialty registration plates.
- NO REFUND OF FEE will be issued when applicant cancels request after order is placed.
- When the applicant ceases to be a member in the organization or ceases to be a notary public as listed in Section B, the registration plate must be returned to the Department. Complete Form MV-44 and submit a fee of \$7.50 for reissue of a regular series registration plate.
- Specialty plates are issued in number sequence only and may not be personalized.
- To avoid possible problems with citations with your old registration plate, return it to: Department of Transportation, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Return Tag Unit, P.O. Box 68597, Harrisburg, PA 17106-8597 after you have received your special organization plate.
- Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

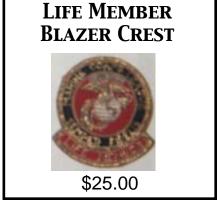
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS - SECTION C

- If applicant is a notary applying for a notary public plate, the applicant's notary seal must be affixed in this section instead of an official's signature.
- If applying for a Fraternal Order of Police plate, the PA State Lodge seal and the PA State Lodge Recording Secretary simplement he affixed to this application.

Quartermaster Store



USMC SATIN JACKET

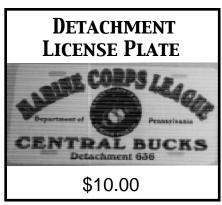




\$55.00







\$15.00

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



Application for Membership Marine Corps League

(Da	te)		

Name		
Street	City	State Zip
Date of Birth/	Date of Enlistment/Commissioning	
Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement	SSN	I
Type of Application New () Renewal	I () Associate () Phone ()
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I hereby apply for membership in the CE year's membership (which includes subscr I hereby certify I have served as a U.S. N	ENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, Marine Cription to MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MAGA Marine for more than 90 days, the character able Discharge. By signature on this applic	corps League, and enclose \$35.00 for one (AZINE). of my service has been honorable and

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"