

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXIV, Number 1

JANUARY 2011

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

AMBUSH SURVIVOR UP FOR MEDAL OF HONOR

The Marine Corps has recommended that a former Corporal receive the Medal of Honor for braving a hail of enemy fire in September 2009 to pull the bodies of four U. S. troops from a kill zone in eastern Afghanistan, *Marine Corps Times* has learned.

Dakota Meyer, 22, of Greensburg, KY, was recommended for the nation's highest award for valor, according to a source with knowledge of the process, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Meyer could become the first living Marine recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War. Only one Marine, **Cpl. Jason Dunham**, has received the award for actions in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he was honored posthumously after throwing himself on a grenade in Karabilah, Iraq, in 2004 to save the lives of fellow Marines.

Seven U. S. service members have re-

ceived the Medal of Honor in the wars against terrorism, all posthumously. The White House announced in September that an eighth service member, **Army SSgt. Salvatore Giunta**, would become the first living recipient of the medal since Vietnam.

Meyer was recommended for his actions on Sept. 8, 2009, near the village of Ganjgal in Kunar province. He charged into a kill zone on foot and alone to find three missing Marines and a Navy Corpsman who had been pinned down under enemy fire for hours by about 150 well-armed insurgents. Already wounded by shrapnel before braving enemy fire, he found them dead and stripped of their gear and weapons, and carried them out of the kill zone with the help of Afghan soldiers, according to military documents obtained by *Marine Corps Times*.

Reached for comment, Meyer was un-

aware he has been recommended for the Medal of Honor, saying he does not feel like a hero and still dwells on what happened that day. He was a member of Embedded Training Team 2-8 training Afghan forces when the ambush occurred, and good friends with the troops he pulled from the kill zone. He left the Corps in June after his four-year contract with the service expired.

"Whatever comes out of it, it's for those guys," he said of the recommendation. "I feel like the furthest thing from a hero. I feel like I let my guys down because I didn't bring them home alive."

On Saturday, **Commandant Gen. Jim Amos** told reporters at Camp Pendleton, CA, that the Corps' last top officer, Gen. James Conway, made the recommendation shortly before retiring Oct. 22. Amos would not say who had been recommended.

"We have a nomination that **General Conway** signed and forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy his last week as the Commandant," Amos said. "I read the citation; I read the whole paper. As you can imagine for something like that, we're talking binders. I read it cover to cover, and it watered my eyes."

Amos described the Marine as a "great, young courageous" man, and said it is "pretty exciting" to see a living recipient recommended.

A spokesman for Amos, **Maj. Joseph Plenzler**, declined to discuss the recommendation Monday, saying it is Marine

V-A Sends Warning to Veterans

WASHINGTON, DC—An organization calling itself Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on V-A and gathering personal information on veterans.

Department of Veterans Affairs **Veterans Service Officer Liaison Kevin Secor** warns veterans this organization is NOT affiliated with V-A in any way.

"VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal," he states. "Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobi-

lization sites, of this group and its lack of affiliation or endorsement by V-A to provide any services."

In addition, the V-A General Counsel requests that examples of VAS acts that violate Chapter 59 of Title 38, U. S. Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, be communicated to V-A. Please pass any additional information to: **Michael G. Dougherty**, Attorney, Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of General Counsel (022G2), 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC. 20420.

Please see MOH, Page 6



**CENTRAL BUCKS
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7:30 p.m.
2nd Wednesday of Month
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COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Hello Marines,

Again, I would like to wish all Members a Happy Holidays and prosperous New Year. As the holiday season is upon us please keep your Marine brothers 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 the battle.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Again, everyone should be aware that the New Year will also bring thoughts of Officer Nominations in March and 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 to be an elected Officer, you must be a Regular Member. Associate Members can fill any of the Appointed Offices

The Detachment had a very successful year fundraising. We also did our usual parades and we had a great Birthday Ball

for the first time in many years. Hopefully we can keep improving on our Detachment endeavors in 2011. As always, recruiting is the most important function to keep our Detachment growing and thriving, so I'd like to remind all members, whether you attend regularly or not to keep recruitment in mind. Please do your part and when the opportunity arises, encourage those Marines you meet

to consider joining.

Don't forget that at our January meeting that we will be discussing and voting on new Detachment Bylaws. If you would like your voice to be heard on these Bylaws you need to make sure you are present, so make your plans to be there now.

Enjoy the holidays; see you the next meeting on January 12th.

Semper Fi,

POW/MIA Corridor Dedicated

Defense Department officials dedicated a portion of the Pentagon to prisoners of war and troops missing in action, honoring one of the military's guiding principles: Never leave a comrade behind.

Michele Flournoy, the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, hosted the ceremony on the building's third floor.

The hallway is lined with information, artifacts and photographs underscoring and sacrifice of MIAs and POWs dating back to World War II.

"No matter how far away or how long ago, we will do everything humanly possible to bring all those missing service members home," Flournoy said. "We do this for the sake of their family members, and we also do this for all who serve today."

The exhibit was placed in the corridor

because thousands of people--service members, defense civilians and tourists--walk through it each year, Flournoy said. Its location, she added, underscores the importance the Defense Department places on recovering prisoners of war and those missing in action.

"As we stand here today," she said, "many thousands of servicemen and women are deployed around the world in harm's way. In the days and years to come, some of them will give their lives to their country. Some of them may fall into enemy hands.

"Part of what enables our men and women to focus on accomplishing their mission in harsh and dangerous environments is the knowledge that we will do whatever it takes to bring them home," she continued.

DECEMBER DETACHMENT MEETING



M I N U T E S

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held December 8, 2010, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 10 members present including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant and the Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Budd Pearce, and Bob Sundling**; **Past National Northeast Division Vice Commandant/Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**; and **2011 Marine-of-the-Year Jack Gentile**.

The **Minutes** of the November Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The **Paymaster's Report** was unanimously accepted.

Sick Call: Mess Sergeant Wil Haas fell and hurt himself and was resigning as Mess Sergeant because he didn't expect to be attending meetings in the future.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported the the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum Law Clinic will be providing FREE 2010 income tax preparation for veterans who are Pennsylvania residents, have an income under \$75,000 and have no business or real estate investments. They can be contacted at 610-565-0788 or info@paveteransmuseum.org by Feb. 1. He also noted he had been contacted by the County Veterans Affairs Office about three agencies seeking to help needy veterans' families. Contact the County Veterans Affairs Office if you know anyone in need. He also reported there is a link for VA Disability Examination Worksheets, which are used by both doctors working claims and conducting examinations and by rating specialists, hearing officers and decision review officers at VA. The site is <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln21/Benefits/exams>. He also announced the upcoming Department and National Northeast District meetings. He relayed a note from **Department Commandant Leanna Dietrich** that the white duty belt is not authorized for wear with the Marine Corps League at any time and white gloves are authorized only for memorial services. He also informed the members that the Department is "redistricting," expanding to 10 districts. In the absence of the **Senior Vice Commandant, the Adjutant/Paymaster** reported the Detachment strength at 66 including 29 Life Members, 29 Regular Memners, 2 Dual Members, 5 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member. There are 5 members delinquent in their dues.

Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile had nothing to report.

Judge Advocate Bill Mickelson reported the Detachment had no known legal problems.

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 submission of material for the next **LISTEN UP!**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce reported the scheduled highway clean up was not accomplished because too few Chapter members showed up. Therefore, the next clean-up will be in March 2011.

Young Marines Coordinator Bob Sundling, PC, reported the unit's trip to the Philadelphia VA Medical Center was not its usual success because they were only permitted one hour to visit the patients. The unit will return to PVAMC in January and hope more time will be allowed by VA officials. The unit also made a trip to Walter Reed Hospital to visit patients. He also reported the unit planned to visit Arlington National Cemetery on Sat., Dec. 11, to see the annual wreath-laying ceremony.

25th Anniversary Committee Chairman Joe Kier reported a committee meeting was held and the Golf Outing Fund Raiser is "a go." He is still working on refining the Detachment patch.

ByLaws Committee member Don Gee, PC, reported that the proposed ByLaws had been prepared by Commandant Powell and would be e-mailed or mailed to all Detachment members so the ByLaws could be voted upon at the January Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Associate Member Steve Gentile was presented an Individual Commendation Ribbon for his participation in fund-raisers during the past year by Commandant Powell.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made and unanimously accepted to donate \$100 from the ROSE Fund to Operation First Response.

A motion was made and unanimously accepted to donate \$1,000 from the ROSE Fund to the Liberty Young Marines Unit.

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

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT
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**SCHEDULE
OF
EVENTS**

**CHRISTMAS DAY
25 DECEMBER**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
31 DECEMBER**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY
1 JANUARY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
12 JANUARY**

**MARTIN LUTHER
KING JR. DAY
17 JANUARY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
9 FEBRUARY**

**LINCOLN'S
BIRTHDAY
12 FEBRUARY**

**VALENTINE'S DAY
MASSACRE
14 FEBRUARY**

**PRESIDENTS' DAY
21 FEBRUARY**

**WASHINGTON'S
BIRTHDAY
22 FEBRUARY**

**ASH WEDNESDAY
9 MARCH**

2011 January Staff Meeting

7—9 January 2011
Holiday Inn, Grantville
604 Station Road
Grantville, PA
888-465-4329

or
717-469-0661

Room Rates: \$82.00

Deadline: 9 December 2010

National Mid-Winter Conference

10– 12 February 2011
Fairview Park Marriott
Falls Church, VA
703-849-9400

Room Rates: \$92.00

Deadline: 10 January 2011

2011 Spring Staff Meeting

17 –19 March 2011

Meetings at Headquarters Building
Sleeping Arrangements
Days Inn, Lickdale
3 Everest Lane, Jonestown/Lebanon, PA

717-865-4064

Room Rates: \$50.00 double

/ \$54.00 king

Deadline: 1 March 2011

Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc

Meeting Schedule

2011 National Northeast Division Meeting

25 - 26 March 2011
Hampton Inn—Woodbridge
370 Route 9 North
Woodbridge, NJ

732-855-6900

Room Rate: \$99 single/double

BBQ Banquet Saturday \$35.00

See Division Website:

www.northeastdivmcleague.org

2011 Department Convention

22—25 June 2011

Holiday Inn and Conference Center
I-83 and PA Turnpike
New Cumberland, PA

717-774-2721

Use code: MCL

Additional convention information
to be posted after October Staff meeting

Deadline: 23 May 2011

END OF AN ERA: Roy Rogers Museum Closes

The Roy Rogers Museum has closed its doors forever.

Here is a partial listing of some of the items that were sold at auction.

*Roy 's 1964 Bonneville sold for \$254,500, it was estimated to sell between 100 and 150 thousand dollars.

*His script book from the January 14,1953 episode of This Is Your Life sold for \$10,000 (est. \$800-\$1,000)

*A collection of signed baseballs (Pete Rose, Duke Snyder and other greats) sold for \$3,750

*A collection of signed bats (Yogi Berra,

Enos Slaughter, Bob Feller, and others) sold for \$2,750.

*Trigger's saddle and bridle sold for \$386,500 (est. 100-150K)

*One of many of Roy 's shirts sold for \$16,250 and one of his many cowboy hats sold for \$17,500.

*One set of boot spurs sold for \$10,625. (He never used a set of spurs on Trigger.)

*A life size shooting gallery sold for \$27,500.

*Various chandeliers sold from \$6,875 to \$20,000. Very unique and artistic in

their western style.

*A signed photograph by Don Larsen taken during his perfect game in the world series against the Dodgers on Oct.8, 1953, along with a signed baseball to Roy from Don, sold for \$2,500

*Two fabulous limited edition BB guns in their original boxes with numerous photos of Roy, Dale, Gabby, and Pat sold for \$3,750.

*A collection of memorabilia from his shows entertaining the troops in Vietnam sold for \$938. His flight jacket sold for \$7,500.

*His set of dinnerware plates and silverware sold for \$11,875. The Bible they used at the dinner table every night sold for \$8,750.

*One of several of his guitars sold for \$27,500.

*Nellybelle sold for \$116,500.

*A fabulous painting of Roy , Dale, Pat, Buttermilk, Trigger, and Bullet sold for \$10,625.

*One of several sets of movie posters sold for \$18,750.

*A black and white photograph of Gene Autry with a touching inscription from Gene to Roy sold for \$17,500.

*A Republic Productions Poster bearing many autographs of the people that played in Roy 's movies sold for \$11,875.

*Dale's horse, Buttermilk (whose history is very interesting) sold below the presale estimate for \$25,000. (est. 30-40K)

*Bullet sold for \$35,000 (est. 10-15K). He was their real pet.

*Dale's parade saddle, estimated to sell between 20-30K, sold for \$104,500.

*One of many pairs of Roy 's boots sold for \$21,250.

*Trigger sold for \$266,500. Do you remember the 1938 movie "The Adventures of Robin Hood" with Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland? Well Olivia rode Trigger in that movie. Trigger was bred on a farm co-owned by Bing Crosby. Roy bought Trigger on a time payment plan for \$2,500. Roy and Trigger made 188 movies together. Trigger even out did Bob Hope by winning an Oscar in the movie "Son of Paleface" in 1953.

It is extremely sad to see this era lost forever.

MOH

from Page 1

Corps policy to handle deliberations over awards internally until the Defense Department makes an announcement. A spokeswoman for **Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, Capt. Beci Brenton**, declined to comment.

If approved by Mabus, the nomination would be pushed to **Defense Secretary Robert Gates**. With his approval, it would go to President Obama. Traditionally, Marine Corps approval is considered the largest hurdle in the nomination process.

The recommendation adds a new layer to an incident that already was raw with emotion. The ambush made national headlines last year, after a McClatchy News Service journalist embedded with the training team, **Jonathan Landay**, reported that the troops were pinned down for hours without artillery and air support because it was denied by Army officers at a nearby operations center.

Killed in the battle were **GySgt. Edwin Johnson**, 31; **SSgt. Aaron Kenefick**, 30, **1stLt. Michael Johnson**, 25; and **Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class James Layton**, 22. A U. S. soldier, **SFC Kenneth Westbrook**, 41, died Oct. 7, 2009, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington from medical complications tied to wounds he sustained in the attack. About a dozen Afghan soldiers in training with U. S. forces also were cut down by gunfire, according to military documents outlining the attack.

Army officials announced in February that "negligent" leadership at the battal-

ion level contributed "directly to the loss of life" on the battlefield that day by refusing repeated pleas for artillery support from U. S. forces on the ground and failing to notify higher commands that they had troops in trouble. Three unidentified officers--likely Captains or Majors--were recommended for letters of reprimand, potential career killers, but Army officials have not said whether those reprimands were ever delivered.

Two investigations were conducted, with the first headed by an Army Major in the first few days after the ambush. The second, focusing primarily on command post failure, was overseen by **Army Col. Richard Hooker** and **Marine Col. James Werth** in November 2009, military officials said.

In February, the military released a five-page summary report of its investigation, void of many details, including which units were involved. However, a copy of the full report obtained by Marine Corps Times includes first-person statements from more than 35 U.S. troops, describing in grisly detail the chaos on the battlefield and in the operations center, based at Forward Operating Base Joyce and overseen by Task Force Chosin, an Army unit comprising soldiers from 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, out of Fort Drum, NY.

Investigating officers said at least two service members in the field that day "stand out as extraordinary examples of heroism worthy of the highest recognition." The names of the troops cited for bravery were redacted from the report.

Quartermaster Store

DETACHMENT STRIP



\$5.00

USMC SATIN JACKET



\$55.00

LIFE MEMBER BLAZER CREST



\$25.00

COVER



\$22.00

DETACHMENT T-SHIRT



\$15.00

MCL PATCH



\$3.50

DETACHMENT LICENSE PLATE



\$10.00

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

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"

**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 **\$35.00** 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**