

LISTEN UP!



VOLUME XXVI, Number 1

Commandant: Joseph M. Kier

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Editor: Joseph M. Kier

Marine Awarded Silver Star for 2011 Action

OAKLAND, Pa. -- Marine Sgt. David M. Gerardi said risking his life to save his platoon members while under enemy fire in Afghanistan "just made sense."

The military on Monday awarded Gerardi, 22, of Moon, Pa., a Silver Star Medal during a ceremony in Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum in Oakland.

"The individuals who accompany you are a direct reflection of yourself," said Gerardi, who served in the Marine Corps from June 2008 to April 2012 and is a member of the Army National Guard.



Army Sgt. David Gerardi, a former reconnaissance Marine, will receive the Silver Star on Dec. 10 for heroic actions during a 2011 deployment with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion out of Okinawa.

"I've been blessed to serve with the best Marines and soldiers. I've had the best leadership that taught me everything leading up to that gunfight."

The honor of receiving the military's third-highest decoration for valor stems from Gerardi's actions during a June 6, 2011, ambush in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in which enemy fire pinned down his platoon.

Gerardi, then a corporal, was a sniper with the 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. He risked his life to get into a position to suppress the attack.

Gerardi crossed open fire to a position behind a 21/2-foot-tall stone wall, which offered him a clear line of sight to the enemy positions. He suppressed an enemy machine gun long enough for an adjacent team to extract an Afghan National Army casualty from open terrain.

With enemy fire hitting around him, Gerardi coordinated with another team and fired a light antitank assault rocket to reduce a second enemy position, allowing his unit to move to safety.

"Basic training kicks in," Gerardi said. "We spend a lot of time preparing for a situation like that, and you see points of advantage. To go to that

position made sense."

Maj. Gen. Melvin G. Spiese, who presented the medal, spoke of Gerardi's "heroic and personal sacrifice," risking his life to ensure the safety of fellow Marines.

"He could have chosen to do something other than accept responsibility for the safety of his country," Spiese said.

Gerardi is a 2008 graduate of Fox Chapel Area High School. The family moved to Moon.

His parents, Mike and Young Gerardi, were overcome with emotion when speaking of their son's honor.

"We thank God for protecting them and helping them come home safely," said Young Gerardi, 57. "We are so proud of the team and proud of our son."

Mike Gerardi, 58, said his son has "been a special kid all his life."

"He's very unselfish. He's just a good kid, a great kid. We're very proud of him."

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Department Meeting Schedule.

- 2013 DEPARTMENT WINTER STAFF MEETING 4-5 JANUARY, HOLIDAY INN, GRANTVILLE, PA
- 2013 NATIONAL MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AND STAFF MEETING 9-11 FEBRUARY FALLS CHURCH, VA
- 2013 NATIONAL NORTHEAST DIVISION CONFERENCE 21-23 MARCH MATAMORAS, PA

Inside this issue:

COMMANDANTS' COLUMN	2
DETACHMENT STAFF ROSTER	2
DETACHMENT INFORMATION	3
VETERANS REPORT	4
DETACHMENT MEETING MINUTES	5-6
DETACHMENT EMAILS AND IMPORTANT DATES	7
QUARTERMASTER	8



**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

COMMANDANT

Joseph Kier Sr.
215-822-1036
joseph.kier@verizon.net

SR. VICE COMMANDANT

A. J. (Jack) Gentile
215-968-2291
jgentile@singerequipment.com

JR. VICE COMMANDANT

Vincent DeBella
215-514-2237
vincdebe@aol.com

ADJUTANT/PAYMASTER

James Powell, PC
215-862-6280
usmc80@comcast.net

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Donald Parzanese Sr., PC
215-491-3275
donparzsr1@verizon.net

QUARTERMASTER

Corey Fisher
215-822-6898
cbquartermaster@aol.com

CHAPLAIN

DON PARZANESE Jr.
267-404-2152
donald.parzanese@us.army.mil

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

BOB SUNDLING, PC
215-348-8925
sundling@tiniusolsen.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Joseph Kier Sr.

MESS SERGEANT

Vincent DeBella

WEB SERGEANT

James Powell, PC

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN



Marines,

First I want to wish you all and your families a very Merry Christmas, Hanukkah, or holiday season whichever applies I hope the season goes well for all.

Our Detachment Toys for Tots team did very well for the Bucks County area this year putting in over 80 hours of time and bringing in close to 3,000 toys. My thanks goes out to **Marine Don Gee, PC, Quartermaster Corey Fisher**, and my daughter **Alexandrea Kier** for all the hard work put in to get toys to needy children in Bucks County.

This Holiday Season also brings some changes to our Detachment, that were much needed. Our long time **Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC**, had to step down from that position due to an increased work load in his regular job. We all need to thank Don for all of his years at that position, and welcome him to a much needed break from the large task of being our Public Relations Officer. That being said we are looking for someone to fill that position, the position consists of many tasks including the Newsletter

Editor. For now I will be filling in at that position and any other tasks that come up in the Public Relations area, anyone interested should contact me to go over what the position would require of them. This is a appointed position by the Commandant and can be filled by any member, regular or associate, in good standing with the Marine Corps League.

Our Color Guard did an outstanding job at the Wreaths Across America ceremony on December 15th at the New Britain Baptist Church. **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, Adjutant/Paymaster Jim Powell, PC, and Marine Bill McBride** served in the color guard from 1130 to 1245 when the colors were retired. Thanks to Bob and all for performing the ceremony for the Detachment.

Looking forward we are closing out our 25th Anniversary year in the Detachment, anyone who did not get, or purchase anniversary rockers for their Detachment patch, contact **Quartermaster Corey Fisher** to purchase the rockers, and the patch if

you did not get one.

The patch goes for \$5.00



and with the rockers are \$7.50.

I look forward to another great year in 2013, and with some new members, donations, and Youth and Veteran ticket sales brought in from the Valley Forge Gun Show, held in Warrington, we should have an exciting year ahead.

Jr. Vice Commandant Vince DeBella is setting up more dates for the upcoming Gun Shows. If you are interested in being a part of it contact him directly.

Semper Fi,

Joseph M. Kier



DETACHMENT INFORMATION

FROM THE COMMANDANT

Something was brought to my attention at the November meeting that I overlooked in October, we have officially changed from summer to winter dress as far as Marine Corps League uniforms go. The official winter uniform is worn from October 16th until April 30th and is as follows;

UNIFORM – MALE UNDRESS - (Long Sleeve)

- Standard cover - with Devil Dog patch when authorized. Sunburst insignias for associate members only, in place of the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor.
- Devil Dog collar (optional), Name tag over right breast pocket (optional).
- Sunburst insignias affixed to the collar anchors inboard, square emblems with MCL for associate members only.
- Marine Corps League shoulder patch (left sleeve) - Devil Dog patch (right sleeve) when authorized, or U.S. flag 2"x 3 1/2" if not member of MODD.
- Marine Corps League ribbons OR DOD ribbons and Badges (NOT MIXED) over left breast pocket.
- White shirt, long sleeve, military crease (to be Airline pilot style with two (2) pockets with button down flaps and epaulets)
- Tie, black, with Marine Corps or Marine Corps League gold tie bar.
- Trousers, Blue dress (with NCO "red" stripe-regular members only) with belt, Marine Corps web with brass buckle.
- Trousers, Black (optional) belt, black with Marine Corps emblem on square gold buckle or Belt, black, dress (optional).
- Socks, black. Shoes, black, plain toe.
- The Red satin USMC jacket, can be worn as the weather permits.

Additional Female Undress Uniform Options:

- Please see Enclosure 3 of the National Bylaws & Administrative Procedures.

The official uniform for our monthly Detachment meetings will be the Detachment red, Department yellow and red, or National yellow cover as authorized by the individual. As the cover is the only uniform item needed to complete the uniform for Detachment meetings please remember that we will be wearing the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, so the rest of your clothing and foot wear should be neat, respectful and clean. Anyone with any uniform issue please do not hesitate to contact me.

VETERANS REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2012

DoD Prepares for Fiscal Cliff

The Office of Management and Budget has instructed the Department of Defense (DoD) to pursue internal planning to meet required budget cuts if sequestration goes into effect Jan. 3, 2013. For the DoD, sequestration would cut the defense budget by \$500 billion over the next 10 years in addition to the nearly \$500 billion in cuts already directed by the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA). The core of the effort for DoD during December is planning against the possible cuts. However, if the cuts do go into effect Jan. 3, DoD should still have the first couple of months in 2013 to determine the best way to handle the effects.

Visit the (<http://militaryadvantage.military.com/2012/12/2013-basic-allowance-for-housing-rates/>) Military Advantage blog to stay updated on how sequestration may affect your military benefits.



Fiscal Cliff looms for the DOD and other agencies futures.

Run for Vets

On November 11, 2012, USMC veteran Sergeant Brendan O'Toole set out on a 3,600 mile run across the U.S. in honor of the selfless men and women who have served in Operations Iraqi and Afghanistan. The Run for Veterans' goal is to raise \$2 million to support the United States Armed Forces veterans, combat veterans, disabled veterans, and their families. The Run for Veterans started in Oceanside, CA, and will end in Portland, ME. The Run for Veterans will engage local communities, collaborate with existing organizations, and work with local veteran non-profit groups to connect civilian and military personnel. The Run for Veterans invites any and all warriors, veterans, and civilians to run alongside Sgt. O'Toole throughout the route, as a show of support for our servicemen and women. (<http://www.therunforveterans.org/>) Click here to learn more and offer your support.

The Run for Veterans invites any and all warriors, veterans, and civilians to run alongside Sgt. O'Toole throughout the route

Vet Homelessness Down

The Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have announced that a new national report shows that homelessness among Veterans has been reduced by approximately 7 percent between January 2011 and January 2012. VA has also announced the availability of \$300 million in grants for community organizations to serve approximately 70,000 Veterans and their family members facing homelessness. The deadline for applying to the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program is Feb. 1, 2013. Community organizations seeking more information on the SSVF program may also contact VA at 1-877-737-0111 or SSVF@va.gov.

**CHECK US OUT
ON THE WEB AT
WWW.MCLCB.ORG**

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held December 12, 2012, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA. There were 16 members present including all officers except **Chaplain Don Parzanese Jr.** who was excused. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Budd Pearce, Bob Sundling, Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., Department of Pennsylvania Junior Vice Commandant and Past Detachment Commandant Jim Powell, Department of Pennsylvania District 2 Vice Commandant and Past Detachment Commandant Bill Miller and Past Department of New Jersey Commandant and Past National Northeast Division Vice Commandant Ed Hoth. 2012 Marine of the Year Vince DeBella** was recognized.

New Members: None.

The **Minutes** of the November Meeting as published in *Listen Up!* were adopted.

Sick and Distressed: **Commandant Joe Kier** reported that **Marine Bill Mickelson** is still not doing well. Vice Commandant Vince DeBella report that Associate Member, Dave Rubin's mother who lives in Florida was diagnosed with lung cancer and is not doing well.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Kier reported on the Thank You card from the Krout Family for our participation at Marine Krout's Funeral Service.

* He also announced that he is looking for someone to step forward and take over as Newsletter Editor. He requested that anything for the Newsletter should be to him by the 20th.

* He spoke on uniforms and stated that the Red cover is the official uniform. Any time a more formal uniform is required he let the members know well in advance.

* He also announced that he will be attending the Department Staff Meeting in January and if anyone was interested in attending to contact him for information.

* He reported on progress of the Detachment float trailer.

Senior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile reported that the Detachment had 39 regular members of which 2 are dual, 25 life members and 6 associates for a total of 70.

Junior Vice Commandant Vince DeBella reported on the Gun Show in Warminster on December 8 and 9th. He thanked those that participated; Marines Pearce, Kier, Powell, Hoffman and McBride. He reported that from the show that we sold over 200 Youth and Veteran Raffle Tickets, received donations and that there were 5 prospective new members.

* He also reported on situation where a member of the community who he knew had been diagnosed with stage 3 cancer. He and Associate Rubin went out and purchased a full Thanksgiving Dinner for her and her family. He spoke about the Store Manager helping by giving a large discount on the purchase.

Adjutant/Paymaster Jim Powell, PC presented the Paymaster's financial report.

Judge Advocate Don Parzanese Sr., PC had no report.

Historian Don Gee, PC had no report.

Assistant Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC had no report.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, announced that there will be a Color Guard at the Baptist Church Cemetery at the corner of Route 202 and Tamenend Ave. on Saturday at 1130.

* He also reported on the Liberty Young Marine shooting 22s at the Bucks County Fish and Game Range with instruction from NRA Certified Instructors.

Quartermaster **Corey Fisher** had no report.

Junior Past Commandant **Bud Pearce** had no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Joe Kier, after turning the gavel over to the Senior Vice made a motion to purchase a copy of Microsoft Publisher so that he could produce a professional type Newsletter. It was seconded by **Jim Powell, PC**. A discussion followed and Marine Hoffman indicated that he may have a valid copy that can give the Detachment. The motion was passed to make the purchase if a free, legal copy was unavailable.

Don Gee, PC made a motion to donation \$100 to the Give a Christmas program sponsored by The Intelligencer. It was seconded by **Bud Pearce, PC** and was approved.

Bud Pearce, PC made a motion to donation \$100 to the MCL of PA Foundation Scholarship Program in memory of Marine Ray Krout. It was seconded by **Don Gee, PC** and was approved.

Bud Pearce, PC made a motion to donation \$100 to the Philadelphia Comfort House. It was seconded by **Don Gee, PC** and was approved.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Powell, PC announced that the Department Staff meeting will be on January 4th and 5th in Grantville. Also the National Mid-Winter Conference will be Feb 7-9, 2013 in Falls Church, VA.

Commandant Kier announced that MODD Pound 179 will be having their next Growl on Sunday, December 16th at the Chester County Home.

Marine Hoffman announced that his son had just shipped out to Navy Boot Camp on the 11th of December.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 1900 on Wednesday, January 9, 2013.

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

MARINES ON THE NET

CAPRIO Jr.	Paul	midupe@aol.com
CONCORDIA	Michael L.	m.concordia@verizon.net
DeBELLA	Vincent	vincdebe@aol.com
DiVALENTINO	Samuel J.	samathome1218@yahoo.com
EMERY	Phillip D.	p_emery@comcast.net
FISHER	Corey A.	cbquartermaster@aol.com
GEE	Don H.	usmcca@aol.com
GENTILE	Joseph F.	joeypgentile@gmail.com
GENTILE	David	dgentile1985@gmail.com
GENTILE	Jack	jgentile@singerequipment.com
GENTILE	Steven A.	sgentile89@aol.com
HAGAN	Vincent J.	vincent.hagan@pnc.com
HOFFMAN	Jason	thehoffmans4@yahoo.com
HOTH	Edward W.	edhothusmc@aol.com
KIER Sr.	Joseph M.	joseph.kier@verizon.net
KLEVA	Richard P.	aquafun2@aol.com
KOHLER	William C.	mustangcaptbill@cox.net
KOPP	Jacob T.	jkopp14@mac.com
MARTUSCIELLO	Aldo	aldomartx@gmail.com
MATTIE	Michael, J.	michael.mattie@lpl.com
McBRIDE	William G.	jabcaat@verizon.net
McCOMB	James E.	jim_mccomb@verizon.net
McGINNISS	Hugh	ginniss2@comcast.net
MICKELSON	William L.	billmikelson@verizon.net
MILLER	William R.	billjae2@verizon.net
MOMORELLA	Robert A.	mombo@starlinx.com
MONAHAN	Frederick	fredmonahan@gmail.com
MURRAY	Kenneth M.	giashot@gmail.com
PARZANESE Jr.	Donald D.	donald.parzanease@us.army.mil
PARZANESE Sr	Donald D.	donparzsr1@verizon.net
PARZANESE Sr.	Anthony J.	tonyparz@hotmail.com
PEARCE III	Ellis M. (Budd)	buddpearce@comcast.net
POPP	Staci L.	staci1978@yahoo.com
POWELL	James	usmc80@comcast.net
PURA	John A.	purateam@aol.com
RUBIN	David	newlineelectric@gmail.com
SCHEETZ	Larry	scheetzsr@yahoo.com
SCOTT	Richard G.	richgscott@gmail.com
SMITH	Gary J.	sgarysemperfi@aol.com
SPILLANE Jr.	John J.	spillane3@verizon.net
SPOLTORE	Thomas A.	tomspoltore1@verizon.net
SUNDLING	Robert M.	rsundling@tiniusolsen.com
SUNDLING	Robert A.	bsundling@tiniusolsen.com
TUTTLE	Justin	j_tuttle85@yahoo.com
VANDEGRIFT Jr.	Benjamin F.	jarhead219@gmail.com
WALDRON	Paul A.	pwal534589@aol.com
WARNER	F. Donald	62tarry@gmail.com
WEIGAND	Roy G.	rgweigand@verizon.net
WEIR	Steve	moonrocket48@aol.com
WIMER	Leland	leewimer@aol.com
YEASTED	Vincent J.	vyeasted@comcast.net

IMPORTANT DATES

NEW YEARS DAY
1 JANUARY 2013

DEPARTMENT MEETING
4-5 JANUARY

DETACHMENT MEETING
9 JANUARY

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
21 JANUARY

GROUNDHOG DAY
2 FEBRUARY

MCL NATIONAL MID-
WINTER CONFERENCE
9-11 FEBRUARY

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
12 FEBRUARY

DETACHMENT MEETING
13 FEBRUARY

VALENTINE'S DAY
14 FEBRUARY

PRESIDENTS' DAY
18 FEBRUARY

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COLLAR ORNAMENTS**

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**MARINE
CORPS
LEAGUE
PATCH \$3.50**



**MCL RIBBONS
AND MEDALS**

\$1.25 AND UP

**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT PATCH**

\$5.00



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SEMPERFISTORE](http://WWW.MCLEAGUE.COM/SEMPERFISTORE)) AND HAVE THEM
READY FOR PICKUP AT THE NEXT
DETACHMENT MEETING, CONTACT**

**QUARTERMASTER COREY FISHER
AT**

PH: 215-822-6898

EMIAL: 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 _____

DOB ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commission _____ Date of Discharge/Separation/Ret _____

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 a subscription to the MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MAGAZINE).

I hereby certify I have served as a U.S. Marine, or Corpsman attached to a Marine unit, 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 an Honorable Discharge/Service upon request.



Sponsor (if applicable)

Applicant's signature

Remit this form with check or money order (made payable to CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MCL)