



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XV, Number 7

JULY 2003



**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**

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**MARINE OF THE YEAR
ELLIS M. "BUDD" PEARCE, PC**

War Memorial Sculptor de Weldon Dies in Virginia Nursing Home

Felix de Weldon, 96, whose sculpture of Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima is a well-recognized Washington sentinel and one of the world's best-known memorials to valor, died June 2 of congestive heart failure at a nursing home in Woodstock, VA.

Inspired by a Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph by Associated Press photographer **Joe Rosenthal**, Dr. de Weldon's massive Marine Corps War Memorial took hundreds of assistants, and more than nine years, to complete. The memorial was installed in 1954 on the hillside next to Arlington National Cemetery. Weighing 100 tons, it looms over the landscape it has come to define.

Rosenthal took his photograph in February 1945 as six young men struggled to raise the flag. The image mesmerized Dr. de Weldon, who began sculpting a model the day the photo was released. His model galvanized war-weary Americans, helping prompt them to buy billions of dollars in war bonds. The war ended that August.

Dr. de Weldon's memorial went on to become, in the words of one writer, "one of the most charged and powerful cultural symbols of patriotism to mainstream Americans."

It draws hundreds of thousands of visitors annually and remains the best-known of Dr. de Weldon's more than 1,200 public works. The Vienna-born sculptor created monuments that are on display on seven continents, including Antarctica. He sculpted more than 30 monuments for the Washington area alone, including the equestrian statue of Simon Bolivar near the Pan American Union, the American Red Cross Memorial, memorials to servicemen and servicewomen, works for cathedrals, and busts of President Eisenhower and Capitol Hill luminaries.

He was Jacqueline Kennedy's choice to create a bust of her slain husband, President John F. Kennedy, for the Kennedy Library in Boston. The artist's bronze bust of Elvis Presley was unveiled at the Presley home, Graceland, on what would have been the singer's 60th birthday.

Dr. de Weldon was the son of a wealthy Austrian textile manufacturer who was killed during Soviet bombing toward the end of World War II.

Regarded as an artistic genius from childhood, he won international recognition as a teenager after besting his art professor in a competition to create a monument commemorating Herbert Hoover's Children's Relief in Europe effort.

After graduating from Vienna's Marchetti College, he received master's degrees in art and science from the University of Vienna. He took a doctorate in architecture there at age 22.

(See De Weldon, Page 7)

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

As you know we rescheduled the highway clean-up. If Mother Nature ever stops raining on our parade, we plan to clean the road on Saturday 12 July. We will meet at Tilly's at 0800 for breakfast, as usual. Because the weather has been so very wet so far this year, I think it might be wise to assign a rain date for this clean-up. The rain date will be the following Saturday (19 July). By the time of the July meeting maybe we will have a better idea if we'll need that date or not. We tried a rain date in the past and everyone forgot to show up, so if it happens this month, please try to re-

member. I get very lonely out there alone.

Speaking of Mother Nature and Parades, don't forget the 4th of July parade in New Britain/Chalfont. We meet at Clemens Market at about 0845/0900 to decorate the float and the parade starts at 1000. Keep your fingers crossed that we get about 4 or 5 days of sun and no rain so we can get the float out of the garage. Because of the location of the garage door, the float must be driven across the yard. This is a problem when the yard is about one rain storm away from being named as official wetlands. I will make every effort to get it out of

there somehow. When I return from vacation 30 June I will go over again and see what can be done. Unless you hear differently from me, assume that everything is a go and be at Clemens ready to parade. Suzanne is making sure that all the stuff for lunch will be at the end of the parade waiting for us as she usually does. See you guys on the 4th!

Semper Fi,



Budd Pearce

Congressman Files 'Concurrent Receipt' Bill

On May 23, 2003, Congressman Jim Marshall (D-GA), a combat disabled veteran of the Vietnam War, filed a discharge petition regarding H.R. 303, a bill to permit retired members of the Armed Forces to receive both military retirement pay and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A discharge petition is an official motion to relieve a committee of its responsibilities over a given piece of legislation. Essentially, the bill is taken out of committee and forced to the floor of the full House for a vote. Congressman Marshall's discharge petition would take H.R. 303 from the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and require the full House to vote on concurrent receipt.

To succeed, a discharge petition requires the signatures of a majority of members of the House-or 218 out of the 435 representatives. To date, 292 members of the House (143 Democrats, 148

Republicans, 1 Independent) have cosponsored H.R. 303.

It would appear that if sincere support for concurrent receipt exists, Congressman Marshall's discharge petition should pass.

However, disabled military retirees carry the bitter knowledge that, in the past, such apparent support has instantly withered when called upon.

We encourage you to contact your

Representative at the district office during the week of the Memorial Day holiday and urge him or her to sign the discharge petition. If your Representative is fully in support of ending the injustice of disabled military retirees bearing the cost of their own service-connected disabilities, he or she should be willing to sign the discharge petition.

A prepared e-mail is available by entering your zip code in the box provided.

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.

HOW TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS

The Department of Defense has asked the general public to stop sending unsolicited letters and packages to service members in Iraq.

Instead, DoD suggests: (1) sending e-mail or donating a prepaid calling card to members at www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html; (2) donating \$25 to Operation USO Care Package by calling 866-USO-GIVE (866-876-4483) or visiting www.usocares.org; (3) supporting families of service members by calling the local American Red Cross chapter or visiting [\[cross.org\]\(http://cross.org\); \(4\) sending a \\$10 or \\$20 "Gifts from the Homefront" certificate that troops can use at post exchanges by calling 1-877-770-GIFT or visiting \[www.aafes.com/docs/homefront.htm\]\(http://www.aafes.com/docs/homefront.htm\); \(5\) visiting veterans under care at Veterans Affairs hospitals in your area; or \(6\) sending donations to one or more of the service relief organizations: Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society at \[www.nmcers.org/iraq-war.html\]\(http://www.nmcers.org/iraq-war.html\); Air Force Aid Society at \[www.afas.org\]\(http://www.afas.org\); Army Emergency Relief at \[www.aerhq.org\]\(http://www.aerhq.org\); and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, \[www.cgmahq.org\]\(http://www.cgmahq.org\).](http://www.red-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held June 11, 2003, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 17 members in attendance including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant, the Junior Vice Commandant, and the Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., Bob Sundling, and Frank Yohe; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth; and Past Commandant and Marine of the Year Budd Pearce.**

Sick Call: **Marine Mike Waldron's** wife, Dot, will undergo an overnight procedure at Doylestown Hospital and **Paymaster Cody's** sister has a broken hip and is in a Nursing Home.

The **Minutes** of the May Meeting were unanimously approved.

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

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Budd Pearce, PC, reported on correspondence he had received from the Department of Pennsylvania about the Department Convention.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had no correspondence other than that reported by the Commandant.

Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom reported proposed changes to the National By-Laws and that the Detachment had no legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Mickelson reported the Color Guard has been requested for the 4th of July Parade in New Britain.

Chaplain Ed Hoth, PDC, had nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rifle & Pistol Team--Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger reported on the Department Pistol Match and the unusual way in which it was scored because of rain. The Department Rifle Match is scheduled for September.

Adopt-A-Highway--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce scheduled Saturday, July 12, for the next highway clean-up. Those Detachment members and family members taking part will meet at Tilley's Restaurant for breakfast (on the Detachment) at 8 a.m.

Ypung Marines--Young Marines Coordinator Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Liberty Bell Unit had postponed its "White Water Rafting" trip until Sept. 17.

Grocery Receipts--Redners Coordinator Gary Smith reminded the members that Redners grocery receipts were an easy way for the Detachment to raise money. Past Commandant Don Parzanese Sr. reviewed the procedure for registering with Genuardi's to take advantage of the chain's grocery receipt program.

The Public Relations Officer set June 20 as the deadline for submitting materials for the June issue of *Listen Up!*

NEW BUSINESS

A "Member-at-Large" is interested in joining our Detachment. A discussion about procedures to facilitate his joining the Detachment ensued.

A discussion was held about the Detachment's finances. The Detachment has to find additional ways to raise funds because our "A-Day" Parking effort and the Department Raffle are not keeping up with expenses.

It was reported that a couple of our members had seen **All-Divisions Detachment** members set up and selling Department Raffle tickets at Redner's Market. Commandant Pearce will check in to this and find out why they were doing this in our area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commandant Pearce is pursuing setting up a boat ride for the Detachment in New Hope.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9.

Darwin Awards for 2003 Announced

It's that time again They are finally out. You know about it. The Darwin Awards: The annual honor given to the person who did the gene pool the biggest service by killing themselves in the most extraordinarily stupid way.

Last year's winner was the fellow who was killed by a Coke machine which toppled over on top of him as he was attempting to tip a free soda out of it.

And this year's nominees are:

Semifinalist #1 A young Canadian man, searching for a way of getting drunk cheaply, because he had no money with which to buy alcohol, mixed gasoline with milk. Not surprisingly, this concoction made him ill, and he vomited into the fireplace in his house. The resulting explosion and fire burned his house down, killing both him and his sister.

Semifinalist #2 Three Brazilian men were flying in a light aircraft at low altitude when another plane approached. It appears that they decided to moon the occupants of the other plane, but lost control of their own aircraft and crashed. They were all found dead in the wreckage with their pants around their ankles.

Semifinalist #3 A man in Alabama died from rattlesnake bites. It seems that he and a friend were playing a game of catch, using the rattlesnake as a ball. The friend, no doubt a future Darwin Awards candidate - was hospitalized.

Semifinalist #4 Employees in a medium-sized warehouse in West Texas noticed the smell of a gas leak. Sensibly, management evacuated the building extinguishing all potential sources of ignition; lights, power, etc. After the building had been evacuated, two technicians from the gas company were dispatched. Upon entering the building, they found they had difficulty navigating in the dark. To their frustration, none of the lights worked. Witnesses later described the sight of one of the technicians reaching into his pocket and retrieving an object that resembled a cigarette lighter. Upon operation of the lighter-like object, the gas in the ware-

house exploded, sending pieces of the building as far as three miles away. Nothing was found of the technicians, but the lighter was virtually untouched by the explosion. The technician suspected of causing the blast had never been thought of as 'bright' by his peers.

AND THE WINNER IS....The Arizona Highway Patrol came upon a pile of smoldering metal embedded into the side of a cliff rising above the road at the apex of a curve. The wreckage resembled the site of an airplane crash, but it was a car. The type car was unidentifiable at the scene. The lab finally figured out what it was and what had happened. It seems that a guy had somehow gotten hold of a JATO bottle (Jet Assisted Take Off) which is actually a solid fuel rocket used to give heavy military transport planes an extra "push" for taking off from short airfields. He had driven his Chevy Impala out into the desert and found a long, straight stretch of road. Then he attached the JATO unit to his car, jumped in, got up some speed and fired off the JATO! The facts, as best as could be determined, are that the operator of the 1967 Impala hit the JATO ignition at a distance of approximately 3.0 miles from the crash site. This was established by the prominent scorched and melted asphalt at that location. The JATO, if operating properly, would have reached maximum thrust within 5 seconds, causing the Chevy to reach speeds well in excess of 350 mph and continuing at full power for an additional 20-25 seconds. The driver, and soon to be pilot, most likely would have experienced G-forces usually reserved for dog fighting F-14 jocks under full afterburners, causing him to become insignificant for the remainder of the event. However, the automobile remained on the straight highway for about 2.5 miles (15-20 seconds) before the driver applied the brakes and completely melted them - blowing the tires and leaving thick rubber marks on the road surface, then becoming airborne for an additional 1.4 miles and impacting the face of the cliff at a height of 125 feet leaving a blackened crater 3 feet deep in the rock. Most

of the driver's remains were not recoverable; however, small fragments of bone, teeth and hair were extracted from the crater and fingernail and bone shards were removed from a piece of debris believed to be a portion of the steering wheel. Epilogue: It has been calculated that this moron nearly reached Mach 1, attaining a ground speed of approximately 420 mph.

The next item is not part of this year's Darwin Awards, but it should be:

HOW NOT TO KILL A RACCOON

In rural Carbon County, PA, a group of men were drinking beer and discharging firearms from the rear deck of a home owned by Irving Michaels, age 27. The men were firing at a raccoon that was wandering by, but the beer apparently impaired their aim and, despite an estimated 35 shots the group fired, the animal escaped into a 3-foot diameter drainage pipe some 100 feet away from Mr. Michaels' deck. Determined to terminate the animal, Mr. Michaels retrieved a can of gasoline and poured some down the pipe, intending to smoke the animal out. After several unsuccessful attempts to ignite the fuel, Michaels emptied the entire 5-gallon fuel can down the pipe and tried to ignite it again, to no avail. Not one to admit defeat by wildlife, the determined Mr. Michaels proceeded to slide feet-first approximately 15 feet down the sloping pipe to toss the match. The subsequent rapidly expanding fireball propelled Mr. Michaels back the way he had come, though at a much higher rate of speed. He exited the angled pipe "like a Polaris missile leaves a submarine," according to witness Joseph McFadden, 31. Mr. Michaels was launched directly over his own home, right over the heads of his astonished friends, onto his front lawn. In all, he traveled over 200 feet through the air. "There was a Doppler Effect to his scream as he flew over us," McFadden reported, "followed by a loud thud." Amazingly, he suffered only minor injuries. "It was actually pretty cool," Michaels said, "Like when they shoot someone out of a cannon at the circus. I'd do it again if I was sure I wouldn't get hurt."

SEMPER
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EDITION

**TOP BUMPER STICKERS
FOR 2003**

Jesus loves you... but everyone else thinks you are a jerk.

The proctologist called... they found your head.

Save your breath... You'll need it to blow up your date.

I used to have a handle on life... but it broke off.

If you can read this... I can slam on my brakes and sue you.

Some people are only alive because it is illegal to shoot them.

**2003
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY
PARADE
JULY 4**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
JULY 9**

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
JULY 12**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
AUGUST 13**

CRSC

(From Page 4)

* The CRSC Branch has established a toll-free information line at 1-877-DON-CRSC (1-877-366-2772). This liner will provide basic eligibility requirements and information on how to obtain an application. **Please be aware that this is an information line only and will not connect to CRSC Branch personnel.**

* The Naval Council of Personnel Boards (NCPB) maintains an information website. The CRSC Branch page of this website contains information similar to this article. The NCPB website is <<http://www.hq.navy.mil/ncpb>>.

New GENUARDI Markets Receipt Form

Clip it and forward to the address shown. Contact Past Commandant Don Parzanese Sr. for any additional information.

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Problem-Solving at Quantas Airlines

After every flight, pilots complete a gripe sheet which conveys to the mechanics problems encountered with the aircraft during the flight that need repair or correction. The form is a piece of paper that the pilot completes, and then the mechanics read and correct the problem.

They then respond in writing on the lower half of the form what remedial action was taken and the pilot reviews the gripe sheets before the next flight. Never let it be said that ground crews and engineers lack a sense of humor.

Here are some actual logged maintenance complaints and problems, as submitted by QUANTAS pilots, and the solution recorded by maintenance engineers. By the way,

Quantas is the only major airline that has never had an accident.

P = The problem logged by the pilot.

S = The solution and action taken by the engineers.

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.

S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except autoland very rough.

S: Autoland not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.

S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

S: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 fpm descent.

S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.

S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

S: That's what they're there for.

P: IFF inoperative.

S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspected crack in windshield.

S: Suspect you're right.

P: Aircraft handles funny.

S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

P: Target radar hums.

S: Reprogrammed target radar with words.

P: Mouse in cockpit.

S: Cat installed.



Application for Membership Marine Corps League

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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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"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"