

LISTEN UP!



VOLUME XX, Number 7

JULY 2007

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

VA Medical Centers Extending Hours and Changing Benefits

WASHINGTON--In order to provide more health care for more veterans, especially mental health services, **Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson** has directed the 153 medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to keep their doors open longer.

"Illness doesn't follow a 9-to-5 schedule," Nicholson said. "I'm directing our medical centers to provide extended hours to ensure we're there for the veterans who have earned our care."

Although the extra hours apply to many hospital-based programs and services, Nicholson said his latest decision was based upon a desire to ensure VA's more than 9,000 mental health professionals are available when veterans need them.

VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the country and the nation's largest mental health program. About 5.5 million veterans are expected to seek health care from VA's nationwide system this year, accounting for about 800,000 hospitalizations and 60 million outpatient visits.

In recent months, Nicholson has announced a number of initiatives to improve mental health care for returning combat veterans, including the hiring of suicide prevention coordinators for each medical center, 100 new

Please turn to VA HOURS on Page 5

GEN. PACE PLEDGES BEST 'TIL END

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

NORFOLK, VA--Although he would never voluntarily leave the battlefield while troops are at war, **Marine General Peter Pace** said he accepts the decision to not renominate him for a second term.



Gen. PETER PACE

On June 8, **Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates** announced that he was going to recommend that President Bush nominate **Admiral Michael G. Mullen** as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff rather than nominate Pace for another two-year term.

Pace discussed that decision process in response to a question posed following an address to students, faculty, and local military and community leaders at the Joint Forces Staff College here last month. The General was the featured speaker of the Henry Clay Hofheimer

Lecture Series.

The General said that he and Gates discussed whether Pace should voluntarily retire and take the decision off the table.

"I said I could not do it for one very fundamental reason, and that is that 'PFC Pace' in Baghdad should not think ever that his Chairman, whoever that person is, could have stayed in the battle and voluntarily walked off the battlefield," he said.

Out of his sense of leadership, he could not even consider the idea, Pace said. Therefore, he did not submit his retirement papers until after it became publicly known that he was not going to be renominated.

"That is very important to me," Pace said. "That piece holds true for anybody in this position -- anybody."

The General learned of the dilemma in May, within a day or two of the Secretary learning from some members of Congress that they had concerns about renominating Pace.

"He brought me in the office and sat me down and said: 'Pete, this is what's happening. I want to renominate you. I want you to know that this is what I'm beginning to hear; this is what I'm going to go do; this is how I'm going to go do it,'" Pace said.

Gates went back to the Senate and "pulsed" some of the members. Pace told the Secretary that he was "all for it" if Gates wanted to push forward with the renomination.

But Pace also told the Secretary to do

Please turn to PACE on Page 5

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Greetings to all, I hope all is well with you and your's. Another busy month has passed and our Detachment is doing great work.

Our Memorial Day fund-raising weekend was an enormous success. We raised significantly more than last year and that helped supplement the A-Day fund-raiser results. "Thank You" to all who came out to help make these fund raisers pos-

sible.

We also participated in the 141st Annual Doylestown Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by the United Veterans of Doylestown. The parade was a smashing success and seems to get bigger every year. The parade lasted about 1 hour & 45 minutes this year. It was a long wait for the veterans groups before we could do the ceremony at the cemetery.

Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC, was nominated for Department of Pennsylvania Marine of the Year by our detachment. The vote by the membership present was unanimous. The paperwork will be delivered to the convention by **Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller**. He will be attending the convention representing our detachment. We'll all be hoping for Budd to get prestigious award!

We sold 659 Department Youth and Veterans tickets and they will also be delivered to the convention by Bill. I'd like to give special thanks to **Marine Kenny Murray** for his outstanding effort as he sold over 100 tickets. Great job Kenny!

It was announced that there will be a memorial service for Bill Plante on July 6 in Mt. Holley, NJ. Contact **Semior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC**, for more information.

We were again invited to participate in the Nockamixon Day Celebration on September 22. Anyone who is interested in helping out with this can contact Se-

nior Vice Commandant Don Gee, who will have more information as we get closer to the date.

The next highway cleanup will be July 14th, please contact **Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce** if you will be present for this detail.

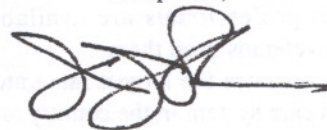
Mess Sergeant Wil Haas is putting a trip together to go to Parris Island in October of 2008, if you are interested, please contact him.

We also formed a committee to help the Detachment decide what we should do concerning our float trailer. The volunteers for the committee are **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC**, (chairman), **Marine Mike Waldron**, **Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom**, **Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC**, and **Marine Bill Mickelson**. They will start meeting after the 4th of July parade and will report back to the Detachment sometime later this fall. Speaking of the 4th, don't forget the Chalfont 4th of July Parade. We will be meeting at the Town Center on Route 202 in New Britain at about 8:30 a.m. on the 4th.

The Pennsylvania Department Rifle Match is September 28-30.

Signing off for now, see at the next meeting.

Semper Fi,




**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
DON H. GEE, PC

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

ADJUTANT
GARY SMITH

PAYMASTER
ROBERT J. CODY

JUDGE ADVOCATE
WILLIAM E. JERROM

QUARTERMASTER
ROBERT DUFF

CHAPLAIN
EDWARD W. HOTH, PDC

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
BOB SUNDLING, PC

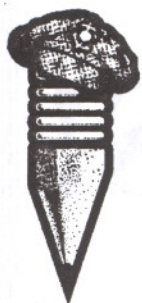
MESS SERGEANT
WIL HAAS

WEBMASTER
JAMES E. PEARCE

LISTEN UP! Seeks Editor

Someone familiar with desktop publishing is needed to edit our Detachment newsletter. If you're interested in serving your Detachment as its P-R Officer, contact **Commandant Jim Powell** (215-862-6280) or **Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee** (215-822-6898).

JUNE DETACHMENT MEETING



M I N U T E S

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held June 13, 2007, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 17 members present including all officers except the Paymaster, the Quartermaster and the Chaplain. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Budd Pearce and Bob Sundling.**

The **Minutes** of the May Meeting were unanimously accepted by the members.

Sick Call: Paymaster **Bob Cody** is in Doylestown Hospital undergoing observation for shortness of breath. **Marine Bobby Sundling** is recovering from his auto accident. **Commandant Powell** is scheduled to undergo knee surgery in September.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported on the South East Division Meeting. He noted the Department Junior Vice Commandant is seeking new fund-raising ideas for the Department. He reminded the members the Department Convention is next week and the 2008 Department Convention is scheduled to be held in Carlisle, PA. He also mentioned visiting the Veterans Museum in Media, PA. He also noted that Peggy Sundling had sent more than 2,500 pounds of items to the troops in Iraq.

Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, reported the Detachment's strength at 50, including 22 Life Members, 23 Annual Members, 4 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member.

Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC, reported the Detachment had sold 600 raffle tickets in the Department's annual raffle. He also reported on the highly successful fund-raiser during the Memorial Day weekend. He stated he would contact Marine Rich Scott to get a truck to tow the Detachment's float in the 4th of July Parade in Chalfont.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no correspondence from either the Department or the National organizations since the last meeting.

Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported there were no requests for the Detachment Color Guard since the last meeting.

The **Public Relations Officer** set June 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the June issue of *Listen Up!* He also reported the Detachment had fielded a Color Guard for the Delaware Valley College graduation ceremony last month. He also reminded the members about the 4th of July Parade in Chalfont and the Nockamixon Days event in Revere in September. Detachment members are to muster at 8:30 a.m. at the Town Center Shopping Center in New Britain. He also reported receiving a request from Bill Plant's daughter to provide the full Detachment Funeral Service at 6 p.m. on July 6 in Mt. Holly, NJ. He informed her he would respond to the request after learning how many Detachment members would be willing to participate. **Anyone interested in assisting with the program can contact the P-R Officer at (215) 822-6898.**

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Budd Pearce, PC, reported the Department Rifle Match is scheduled for Sept. 27-29. **Anyone interested in joining the team should contact him at: (215) 343-5609.**

OLD BUSINESS

The **Audit Committee** will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 11.

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Powell presented a proposed recommendation nominating **Ellis M. (Budd) Pearce III** as Department "Marine of the Year." A motion was made seconded and unanimously approved to send the nomination to the Department.

Marine Mike Waldron moved that a committee be appointed to look into repair of the Detachment Float. Motion was unanimously approved and Commandant Powell appointed **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC,** to chair a committee consisting of Junior Vice Commandant Pearce, Marine Waldron and Marine Bill Mickelson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mess Sergeant Wil Haas is exploring organizing a "Return to Our Roots" bus trip to Parris Island in October 2008 (See notice, Page 4).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 1930 on July 11.

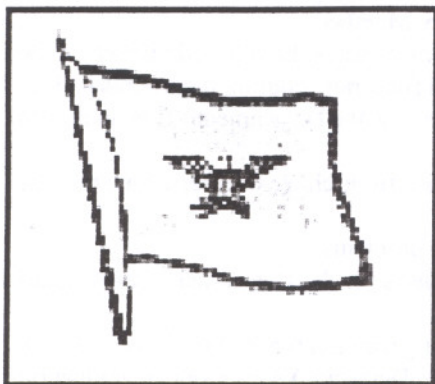
PACE

(From Page 1)

what he thought was best for the institution. "Whatever he and the President decided was going to be best for the institution was what Pete Pace was going to do," the general said.

During the June 8 news conference, Gates said confirmation hearings for Pace would be contentious and not in the best interests of the country.

"I am no stranger to contentious confirmations, and I do not shrink from them," Gates said. "However, I have decided that at this moment in our history, the nation, our men and women in uniform, and General Pace himself would not be well served by a divisive ordeal in selecting the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff."



In his remarks last month, Pace also spoke of a more personal reason that effected his decision to not voluntarily retire.

"The other piece for me personally was that some 40 years ago I left some guys on the battlefield in Vietnam who lost their lives following Second Lieutenant Pace," he said. "I promised myself then that I will serve this country until I was ish line I will have met the mission I set for myself," he said to a standing ovation.

LYNCH

(From Page 1)

adjustment counselors for VA's 207 Vet Centers, and 100 new medical center employees to serve as advocates for the severely wounded.

VA's mental health experts will gather in Washington in July for a four-day conference reassessing the Department's programs for veterans, especially veterans from the conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan.



MARINES!

BACK TO ROOTS

BUS TRIP TO

PARRIS ISLAND, SC

IN

OCTOBER 2008

If Interested,
Call

BILL HAAS at

215-257-7828 (After 2 p.m.)

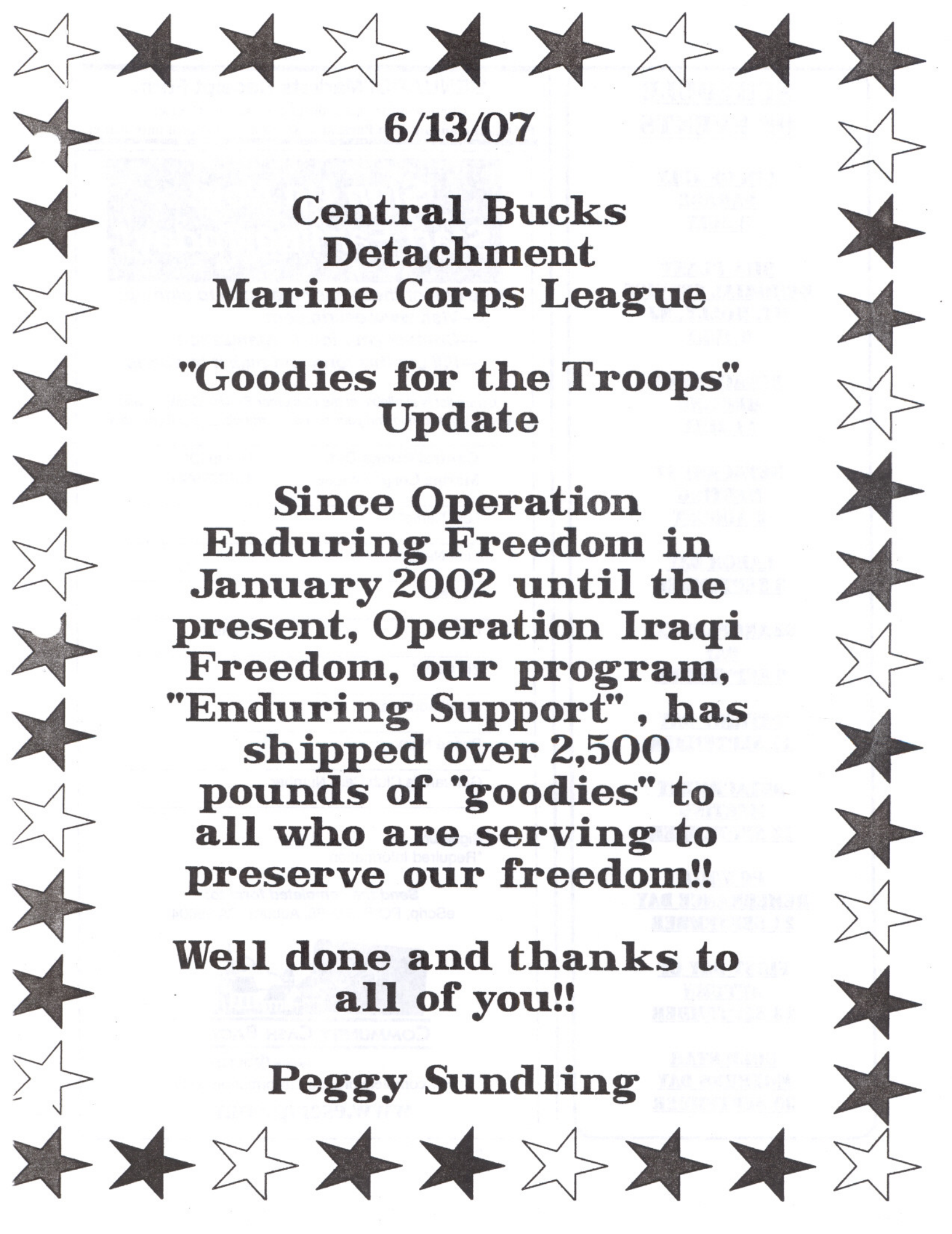
or

215-757-0420 (Between 7 a.m. & 1 p.m.)

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 Jim--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!

A decorative border of stars surrounds the text. The stars are arranged in a rectangular frame, with some stars filled in and others outlined. The top and bottom rows have 10 stars each, while the side rows have 10 stars each. The stars are in various shades of gray and black.

6/13/07

**Central Bucks
Detachment
Marine Corps League**

**"Goodies for the Troops"
Update**

**Since Operation
Enduring Freedom in
January 2002 until the
present, Operation Iraqi
Freedom, our program,
"Enduring Support", has
shipped over 2,500
pounds of "goodies" to
all who are serving to
preserve our freedom!!**

**Well done and thanks to
all of you!!**

Peggy Sundling

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**4TH OF JULY
PARADE
4 JULY**

**BILL PLANT
MEMORIAL SERVICE
MT. HOLLY, NJ
6 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
11 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
8 AUGUST**

**LABOR DAY
3 SEPTEMBER**

**GRANDPARENTS
DAY
9 SEPTEMBER**

**PATRIOT DAY
11 SEPTEMBER**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
12 SEPTEMBER**

**POW/MIA
REMEMBRANCE DAY
21 SEPTEMBER**

**FIRST DAY OF
AUTUMN
23 SEPTEMBER**

**GOLD STAR
MOTHERS DAY
30 SEPTEMBER**

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IRIS P. GEE
President

DON H. GEE
Vice President

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 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.

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USMC TRIVIA QUIZ



1. What are the two types of defensive positions employed by Marines?
2. What does the blood stripe on the Marine dress blue uniform represent?
3. What does FEBA stand for?
4. Which two types of knots are authorized for the Marine necktie?
5. Which Marine Corps League Detachment elected position is responsible for providing refreshments after the Detachment meeting?

Answers in next month's LISTEN UP!

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. The 3rd Tank Battalion was the first USMC tank unit deployed in Vietnam.
2. SNCOIC stands for Staff Non-commissioned -Officer-in-Charge.
3. The 3rd Marine Brigade was activated at Camp Pendleton, CA.
4. The first Amphibious Landing School was located at New London, CT.
5. The M16A1 rifle with M7 bayonet attached is 44.25 inches long.



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"