

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXV, Number 7

JULY 2012

Commandant: JOSEPH M. KIER

Editor: DON H. GEE

Montford Point Marines Getting Congressional Gold Medal

"It's been a long time coming," said retired **SgtMaj. Nathaniel James**, President of the Montford Point Marine Association, Camp Lejeune, Chapter 10. "I think it's well deserved and it's long been waited on."

Congress announced recently that a ceremony will be held June 27 in Washington, DC, to award the Montford Point Marines the Congressional Gold Medal.

The Montford Point Marines were the first blacks to ever serve in the U. S. Marine Corps. Overall, 19,168 black men trained at the segregated Montford Point in Jacksonville, NC, from 1942 to 1949.

Many of the Montford Point Marines participated in the Pacific Theater Campaign of World War II, according to the release.

"They're a special group of men," James said. "These men did so much for their country."

There are around 400 surviving members of the almost 20,000 original Montford Point Marines and all remaining survivors will receive an invitation to the ceremony, according to the release.

Designed and approved by the Montford Point Marine Association, the U. S. Marine Corps, and the U. S.

Please see MEDAL, Page 4

VVMF Seeking Support for Ed Center

2012 is an important year for Vietnam War veterans and their families.

This is the year that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) will break ground to build an Education Center at The Wall designed to connect future visitors with the 58,272 names of the MIA/KIA's on the Vietnam Wall. The Education Center, to be constructed across the street from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, will contain photos and personal stories about those whose names are on The Wall. Congress has given the project its approval.

For the last few years, VVMF has conducted a campaign to collect photos of all the 58,000+ names on the wall and to raise private contributions to pay for the more than \$85 million in projected costs. To assist VVMF staff with these efforts, VVMF

founder and **President Jan C. Scruggs** has formed a National Campaign Committee with Honorary Chairman **Gen. Colin Powell, USA (Ret.)**, Advisory Board Chairman **Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, USA (Ret.)** and National Spokesman actor (and Vietnam era veteran) **Tom Selleck**.

Both of these tasks, the collection of 58,000+ photos and the raising of \$85+ million, are daunting. However, Scruggs faced and overcame an even more daunting challenge when he initially conceived the idea for The Wall in 1979, which he dedicated in 1982. Since then, The Wall has been one of the most visited sites on the National Mall.

There are two important ways that

Please see VVMF, Page 5

GOODIES FOR THE TROOPS

Peggy Sundling, who has been sending packages to our deployed troops for more than 20 years, is no longer accepting donations of "Goodies for the Troops." She cites diminished donations as the reason. She thanks all those who have contributed to the more than **two tons** of items sent to the deployed troops.

Thanks, Marines, for your support!



**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636**
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7:30 p.m.
2nd Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
315 North Street, Doylestown, PA

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COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Our Memorial Day fundraising weekend was very successful this year topping more than \$3600, which is our highest amount to date. I'd thank everyone who came out and **Junior Past Commandant Budd Pearce** for organizing the event again. Without Budd and the volunteers from the Detachment this event would not be possible.

The 146th Doylestown Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by the United Veterans of Doylestown, was again a success as was the Veterans Honor Ceremony at the cemetery. The event went very smoothly and was very well done. Special thanks go out to **Parade Marshal Marine Jim McComb** and **Parade Coordinator Doreen Stratton**. For another year these two people have made sure the parade has gone on. Without them it would not be as successful as it always is. We also thank **Quartermaster Corey Fisher** for his continued assistance at the cemetery.

The Youth and Veterans ticket sales we're not what I had expected. However, that just gives us something to build on for next year. Also, it will give us a new topic in the newly formed Fundraising Committee which will be led by **Junior Vice Commandant Vince DeBella**. We already have three members--**Marines Mike Mattie** and **Jason Hoffman** and myself. We are also forming a committee for Awards & Recognition. This will be chaired by **Senior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile** and has two members --Ma-

rine Jason Hoffman and myself. Anyone interested in joining these committees should contact either Vince or Jack to be included.

We had a successful Detachment Audit of our Paymaster records before the June meeting. I thank Marines **Bill McBride** and **Roy Weigand** for their help with the audit.

We had another successful Highway Cleanup on Saturday, June 16. We are still going strong in our 20th year in the program. **Junior Past Commandant Budd Pearce; Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC; and Marines Mike Mattie, Jason Hoffman, Bill McBride, and Sam DiValentino**, were out to help and, according to Budd, it went very well. Thanks to all who helped with that project.

Upcoming we have the Independence Day Parade on July 4 in Chalfont. Everyone should meet at the Town Center on 202 South in New Britain at 8:30 a.m. for it. If you need further information contact myself or **Junior Past Commandant Budd Pearce**.

I'll be attending the Department of Pennsylvania Convention with **Adjutant/Paymaster Jim Powell, PC; District 2 Vice Commandant Bill Miller, PC; and Senior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile**.

That's all for now.

Semper Fi,

Joseph M. Kier
Commandant

URGENT NEED!

The Detachment urgently needs a place to park and store our Detachment Float.

If you can provide a site or know some place where it can be kept, please contact **Past Commandant Budd Pearce** (215-262-2015).

JUNE DETACHMENT MEETING



MINUTES

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held June 13, 2012, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 14 members present including officers except the Judge Advocate, the Chaplain and the Sergeant-at-Arms. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Budd Pearce** and **Don Gee**, **Department Junior Vice Commandant/Past Detachment Commandant/Marine of the Year Jim Powell**, and **Past Department of New Jersey & Past National Northeast Division Vice Commandant Ed Hoth**.

The **Minutes** of the May Meeting as published in *Listen Up!* were unanimously approved with changes.

Adjutant/Paymaster Jim Powell, PC, presented the Paymaster's report. It was unanimously accepted. He also reported that our IRS Form 990N for 2009 as requested by the Internal Revenue Service was submitted.

SICK and DISTRESSED: **Marine Ed Hoth's** wife was not feeling well. **Marine Bill Mickelson** was not doing well with heart problems and his condition was not good.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Joe Kier reported that he received a letter from the Marine Corps Heritage Museum on our commemorative brick and how to located it at the museum.

* Reported he received a letter from the Honor Flight Network of Philadelphia that they will be taking WWII and Korean Veterans to Washington from the Spring Mill Country Club on June 22. They are looking for a bugler, honor guard, veterans, active duty military and flag-waving people to send them off and see them return at 1800 that same evening.

*He also reported that our Detachment received a "Certificate of Honor" from the Wounded Warriors.

*We received our membership packet from the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce.

*He announced he was forming two new official committees--the Fund Raising Committee and an Awards & Recognition Committee.

*Reported that **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling**, PC was excused because he was attending the Liberty Young Marine Meeting to recognize two Young Marines graduating from the program and being accepted into the United States Marine Corps and heading off to boot camp.

Senior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile reported the Detachment strength at 71 including 26 Life Members, 37 Regular Members, 2 Dual Members, 5 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member.

Junior Vice Commandant Vince DeBella reported he was working on prospective sites for our Marine Corps Ball. He is expecting to hear back from four different locations for choices and prices.

*He asked that anyone who still has Youth and Veterans tickets to get them in A.S.A.P.

Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC set June 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the July *Listen Up!*

*He reported there would be a Change of Command Ceremony for MAG 49 at their hanger on McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. Anyone wishing to attend needs to let him know in order to make arrangements.

*On Aug. 4, the Marine Corps League will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of receiving its Charter from the U. S. Congress in Philadelphia. The League will be holding a Ceremony at 0800 in front of Independence Hall on that day.

Assistant Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, reported that he had received a Thank You card from Mrs. Duff for the flowers and donation for Marine Duff's funeral. He also received a Thank You card from the Church for the donation we gave.

Quartermaster Corey Fisher reported sales of \$34.00 since the last meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Coordinator Budd Pearce reported he received a 20-Year Certificate from the PA Department of Transportation along with patches to put on our signs on Rt. 313.

*He also announced that that we will be doing our quarterly Highway Cleanup this Saturday at 0800.

We will be meeting at "Back to the 50s" diner at that time.

*He also announced that we will be meeting at the ChalBrit Shopping Center parking lot on July 4 at 0830 for the Independence Day Parade in Chalfont and New Britian. Detachment are asked members to be there at that time to help set up and ride the float for the parade.

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Joe Kier reported on the Department Pistol Team performance on June 2 at Ft. Indiantown Gap.

*He also announced that anyone wishing to shoot at the Department Rifle match in September should contact him A.S.A.P.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the Detachment Bylaw changes submitted in April. They now must go to the Department Judge Advocate for final apporval.

NEW BUSINESS

*A motion was made and unanimously approved to donate \$50 to the Philadelphia Veterans Comfort House with it coming from the Rose Program.

*The Audit Committee performed the yearly audit and reported that the Detachment books are in order. The committee consisted of **Marines Bill McBride** and **Roy Weigand**.

*A motion was made and unanimously approved to take quarter page ad in the National Convention Ad Book.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

*After the 4th of July parade, our float will be in need of a new home. Anyone knowing of a place to park the float please contact **Commandant Joe Kier**, **Past Commandant Budd Pearce**, or **Public Relations Officer Don Gee**. The Float will also be in need of some repairs so a decision must be in the very near future to determine what we should do with it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The date for the Detachment Golf Tournament was announced to be Sept. 24, 2012. More information will be forthcoming. We will be looking for members to solicit donations and participants.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 11.

It Takes a Brave Man to Step Between Two Women Fighting

On March 31, my husband and I went to Walmart in Bensalem, PA. I dropped my husband, **Anthony J. [Jack] Gentile**, off at the door. It was about a five-minute walk from the back of the parking lot to ther store.

I was surprised to find my husband still standing outside, and around him was a large crowd of people. I asked him what was going on. He pointed out two women who were using their cell phones to call the police. He told

me that he had just broken up a fight between the two who were fighting over a parking spot.

He said they began to slap each other, and then they fell to the ground and it became very violent.

Being a Marine, although he is 68 years old, he was the only one who stepped in to help. He found the strength to pull the much larger lady off the other. Once he pulled her off, she continued to kick the other on the

ground. Not until he pulled her off did another man, the cart attendant, offer to help. The other onlookers just yelled, "Stop," which of course did nothing. No one wanted to getn involved.

It wasa Marine who chose to react and step up to help.

Suzanne Gentile

Newtown, PA

*(Reprinted from **Leatherneck** magazine, June 2012)*

GOLD MEDAL *from Page 1*

Mint, the Montford Point Marines Congressional Gold Medal will be preserved at the National Museum of the Marine Corps located in Triangle, VA, near Marine Corps Base Quantico.

The Marines can purchase duplicate bronze medals from the U. S. Mint.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award granted by Congress. It requires 67 co-sponsors to be

considered on the Senate floor.

Sen. Kay R. Hagan (NC) introduced the Congressional Gold Medal bill in September with **Sens. Richard Burr** (NC), **Richard Blumenthal** (CT), **Patrick Roberts** (KS), and **Charles E. Schumer** (NY) as lead sponsors.

Hagan said in the release she was "elated that the Montford Point Marines will at long last receive their Congressional Gold Medals and the recognition they deserve."

Check Out Our
Detachment
Web Site
at:

www.mclcb.org

FROM THE FIRING LINE: Pistol Team at Match

by Joe Kier

Pistol Team Captain

The Central Bucks Detachment Pistol Team participated in the 32nd Annual Department of Pennsylvania Pistol Match at Ft. Indiantown Gap on June 2-3.

Your Detachment was represented by two teams--the first consisting of **Budd Pearce, Jim Powell, Vince DeBella, Joe Kier, and Dave Rubin**; the second con-

sisting of **Jack Gentile, Joe Gentile, Jason Hoffman, and Bill Miller**.

The unofficial scores are listed below and we await the final standing to be posted. Everyone had a great time and the new Range 14B that we shot at was outstanding.

Many shooters commented on how much they liked the new range and that they shot the best

scores they had ever posted in the Department match. We encourage everyone to come out next year even if only to volunteer to help with some of the range duties.

Shooters and scores were:

Budd Pearce (445), Jason Hoffman (433), Joe Kier (419), Jim Powell (405), Jack Gentile (371), Dave Rubin (342), Joe Gentile (338), Vince DeBella (326), and Bill Miller (105).

VVMF

from Page 1

supporters, many Vietnam Veterans, their families and their close friends, can assist Scruggs and VVMF. The first is with the photos and the second is with contributions toward the financing of the project.

First, the photos. The first step is to visit the website **www.vvmf.org/thewall** and search for your casualty by name. Once you find the right person, click on "profile" to see if there is a photo posted. If not, then you can add one as well as post a remembrance.

The easiest way to send a photo is as an email attachment scanned at 300 dpi or higher. If you cannot locate a quality studio portrait, preferably one in uniform, try to scan one from a high school or college yearbook, a group photo, or even a snapshot. If you cannot produce a photo to send as an email attachment, a copy of a photo (VVMF does not want original photos and cannot be responsible for returning photos) can be sent to:

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

ATTN: Call for Photos
2600 Virginia Avenue NW #104
Washington, DC 20037-1915
The directions at

www.vvmf.orgmf.org/photos link to a form you will need to complete and send with the photo. If you have any questions, you can contact VVMF's National Project Manager by phone at 202-393-0090, ext 120.

Next, the donation. VVMF has scheduled the initial construction of the Education Center to begin with a ground breaking ceremony this year on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. This makes it imperative that VVMF and the Committee for the Education Center Project insure that sufficient funds have been collected to pay the initial costs before this year's Veterans Day. Time is of the essence.

To complete this challenge, Scruggs and his team have set a goal raising a gift of \$1,000 for each individual name on The Wall. Among the grassroots organizations that have stepped up to provide the \$1,000 for their individual members whose names are on The Wall is the West Point Class of 1953, a class that lost 13 of their members in the conflict. They began their effort when one member of the class took it upon himself to collect and submit 13 pictures of classmates. Then, they decided to raise the \$13,000 from the surviving members of the class. It took just under two weeks to raise that amount

and when they ended their campaign, they had almost exceeded their goal by another \$13,000.

The last American combat unit left South Vietnam in 1973 and today the majority of the surviving veterans are in their sixties and seventies and are passing on each day at an accelerating rate. For most of them, this campaign to build the Education Center may be the last chance they will have to be a part of leaving a legacy for our nation's future citizens to understand the Vietnam War and the sacrifice of those whose names are on The Wall and the patriotism of those who fought and returned home.

Contributions may be made on the Internet by going to **www.vvmf.org/online donation**, or by mail at the following address:

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

2600 Virginia Avenue, NW #104
Washington, DC 20037-1915

Groups, such as military units, schools, or other organizations that would like to honor their Vietnam fallen, may want to follow the example of West Point Class of 1953.

If so, please contact **Danielle Schira** at the above address or by phone at: 202-393-0090, ext 105.

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT MARINES ON THE NET

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DEPARTMENT
CONVENTION
27-30 JUNE**

**TRI-MUNICIPAL
INDEPENDENCE
DAY PARADE
4 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
11 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
8 AUGUST**

**LABOR DAY
3 SEPTEMBER**

**PATRIOT DAY
11 SEPTEMBER**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
12 SEPTEMBER**

**AUTUMN BEGINS
22 SEPTEMBER**

**YUM KIPPUR
BEGINS
25 SEPTEMBER**

**COLUMBUS DAY
8 OCTOBER**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
10 OCTOBER**

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

ANNIVERSARY PATCH



\$5.00

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**