



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XIII, Number 6

JUNE 2001



**CENTRAL BUCKS
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2d Wednesday of Month
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Memorial Day Message ***May 28, 2001***

Since 1868, Americans have celebrated Memorial Day to honor those who fought and died to preserve our freedom. We set aside one day each year to pause and reflect on the debt of gratitude we owe to the brave patriots who stood in the breach when the defense of liberty demanded the ultimate sacrifice.

Perhaps President John F. Kennedy captured the spirit of this holiday best when he said, "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers."

By honoring the men and women who have sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom, we ensure that their heroic spirit will live on in this new century.

Indeed, this spirit is alive and well in today's Armed Forces. In the mountains of Bosnia, along the DMZ in Korea, in the rocky Sinai desert, in the skies over Iraq, and the blue waters of the Pacific, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen stand watch -- day and night -- guarding freedom's frontier. Today, as in the past, they bear the burdens that make America's blessings possible for all its citizens.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff and I join every American in honoring those who gave their lives -- and all of their tomorrows -- so that we might live in peace. We also salute the dedicated men and women of today's Armed Forces who actively preserve this noble legacy.

Henry H. Shelton
General, U. S. Army

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT
1930 ON 13 JUNE 2001 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315
NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Well, the Detachment Officers have been installed and it's time to put our minds to work on the things we have to do this year. First we have the parade season, then **Mess Sergeant Wil Haas** is putting together a bus trip to Washington DC to see the evening parade at 8th & I. This is a trip that if you have never been, or have thought about going to see this event, you'll want to get signed up! I have to warn you though, if you go and see these fine Marines and the amazing things they do while marching, you might just want to re-up!! According to Wil those who go will see quite a few of the monuments and the Arlington Cemetery. If you have not been to the Iwo Memorial or the Tomb of the Unknown, you defiantly will want to get your name on Wil's list. See him at the June meeting and I'm sure he will be glad to fill you in on the plans.

Speaking of parades, the Detachment will be in the Doylestown Memorial Day parade and the New Britain/Chalfont 4th of July parade again this year. I have sent the notice to New Britain and I have been in on the planning meetings for the Doylestown parade. **Past Commandant Don Gee** will be handling the sound system at the cemetery, as he has done for the last few years. **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** informs me that his Color Guard will be ready and they will look as sharp as always. My wife says that there will be the usual sodas,



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.

ice tea, water and pretzels for those in the Memorial Day parade and there will be the usual lunch served after the 4th of July parade. For any new member that does not have an official uniform, don't worry; you can get away with a black pair of slacks and a short sleeve white shirt. Unless you plan on being in the color guard the black and white will work on the float. I say new members, although I know not all the long-term members have a uniform either, that's ok too. When you are up on the float no one can tell if you only have on a civilian short sleeve shirt or the uniform shirt. No matter what you have to wear, I would like to see the largest turn out for these two parades as possible. If you have any questions about either parade, give me a call 215-343-5609; otherwise I guess I'll see you there.

Our pistol team is going to Ft. Indian-town Gap on the weekend after Memorial Day to represent our Detachment in the annual Department Service Pistol Match. We might not be going out there with the hopes of winning it all, but we

Last Marine Out of Vietnam Dies

One of the last Marines to evacuate the U.S. Embassy at the close of the Vietnam war died late last month.

Vasco Martin was receiving treatment for cancer. He was a Marine for 24 years. When Vietnam fell to Communist forces in 1975, Martin was in the middle of it. He was evacuating the U.S. Embassy and was one of the last Americans to leave the country.

Martin said he was inspired by watching planes when he was a boy. "When you grow up on a farm and you see all the jets flying over Carrollton (GA) here, you always wonder where they're going. And you want to have a chance to go to some of those places yourself," Martin said in an interview last years.

After his time in the Marines, Martin became a firefighter. Flags through the town of Carrollton were flown at half-staff after he died.

are looking forward to a great time, as always. If you would like to come along to one of these matches, even if you don't want to shoot, give **Team Captain Bill Rosenberger** a call at 215-348-1112, or talk to one of us at the Detachment meeting. We can always use new team members or cheerleaders. It makes it more fun if you know the Detachment is behind you! These matches are a way of keeping the Detachment active in the Department. We have gained a lot of respect from the department and have gotten to know a lot of Marines we would never know unless we were participating in these events. Think about coming along one of these years, you'll have as much fun as we do.

That's all I've got for this time. I will see you at the meeting on 13 June and we will have a report on the pistol match and a discussion on the Birthday Ball. I'm sure we will also be talking about that important question you have on your mind. See you there!!!

Semper Fi,

Budd Plance

2000 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
MAY 28**

C. B. WEST HIGH SCHOOL

**DETACHMENT MEETING
JUNE 13**

**4TH OF JULY PARADE
JULY 4**

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**DETACHMENT MEETING
JULY 11**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
AUGUST 8**

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania was held May 9 at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 19 members in attendance including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **National Public Relations Officer and Past Commandant Don Gee, Past Commandants Don Parzanese Sr. and Frank Yohe, Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth, and Marine of the Year Bob Momorella.**

The Minutes of the April Meeting were unanimously accepted.

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

Sick Call: Marine Jim Marckstein was reported to be in Doylestown Hospital (Room 35) suffering from a flare-up of cellulitis.

Commandant Budd Pearce announced we the Department of Pennsylvania Convention will be held June 22-23. He also announced we had received notification from Hardwicke Clothes (which sells the Marine Corps League red blazer) that their prices had increased. He also reminded the Detachment that we would be participating in the annual Memorial Day Parade in Doylestown and the Independence Day Parade in New Britain.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment strength at 54 including 18 Life Members, 32 Regular members, and 4 Associate Members. he reported there were six members delinquent in their dues.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. reported the only fund-raiser at the moment was the Department Raffle and turned it over to Don Gee who announced all raffle tickets and monies MUST be turned in at the next meeting in order to get them to the Department Convention in time for the drawing on June 23.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no correspondence other than that which had already been announced.

Judge Advocate Bob Momorella reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling reported the Detachment Color Guard would be participating in both the Memorial Day and Independence Day parades. He also reported he had received a request from the Young Marines to join us again this year in the Memorial Day Parade.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A-Day Parking--A-Day Parking Coordinator Bob Momorella reported we did not do as well this year as we have done in previous years. The "foot-and-mouth disease" scare had evidently kept a lot of people away from A-Day this year.

Public Relations Committee: The Public Relations Officer set May 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the next issue of *Listen Up!* **Advertising Coordinator Bob Momorella** reported we had received four new ads for the newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Pearce said he would make arrangements with Herb Krout to get the float assembled in time for the Memorial Day Parade. He tentatively set May 19 as the day to help put the float together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commandant Pearce invited the Detachment to a picnic at his house (1811 Palomino Dr., Warrington) on Sunday, May 27, between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Marine Wil Haas announced he is arranging a bus trip to Washington, DC, to take in the Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and an Evening Parade at the Marine Barracks. He can only accommodate 45 people and the cost is \$25 per person including a meal. Contact him at: (215) 257-7828 if you'd like to take part.

Marine Mike Waldron brought the Detachment up-to-date on plans to sponsor the Marine Band Concert at C. B. East next year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until June 13.



Fact Sheet

Honorable Service Lapel Pin

The Honorable Service Lapel Button was a small token of appreciation given to every American servicemember that was discharged during and after World War II. It was nicknamed the "Ruptured Duck" by the more than 12 million soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines that were mustered out of the military between September 1939 and December 1946.

The small gold-plated brass emblem, 7/16 inches high and 5/8 inch wide, had its beginnings on June 9, 1925, when the War Department issued General Order No. 13 authorizing the wear of the "Badge of Service" for honorably discharged veterans.

The button was designed on commission by Anthony de Francisci for the War Department in consultation with the Fine Arts Commission. The design consisted of "an eagle perched within a ring which display seven white and six red vertical stripes and a blue chief along the wing bearing the words "National Defense", the War Department order specified.

De Francisci's design was altered in 1943 when the War Production Board restricted use of metal for such purposes. The War Department issued regulations that required the badge be made from blue plastic. In addition, the words, "National Defense" were dropped from the chief on the upper part of the ring.

It was soon noted, however, that this "design would not be discernible against a blue suit." In July of 1943 the War Department changed its regulation to require the badge be constructed of gold plated plastic. Later, when the metal restrictions were lifted, the button was produced in gold

plated brass. The War Department allowed those who received the plastic badge to trade them in for the brass one.

The origins of the term, "Ruptured Duck" are unknown despite the claims of many of coining one of the more famous phrases to come out of World War II. Capt. Ted Lawson, a pilot in the famous Doolittle raid over Tokyo, named his B-25 bomber "Ruptured Duck." Lawson wrote the book, "30 Seconds over Tokyo" that was later made into a movie.

Veterans of the war proudly wore this symbol of service on their civilian lapels until it was replaced by organizational, veterans, or service club lapel pins considered more appropriate for wear in world no longer at war. Gradually the Honorable Service Lapel Button disappeared, having been lost, put away, or forgotten. World War II veterans who would like replace their lost pins may receive one free of charge. To be eligible, a veteran must have served honorably between September 8, 1939 and December 31, 1946.



Army veterans should write to: **U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center**, ATTN: DARP-PAS-EAW, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63132. PH: (314) 538-3573.

Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard veteran should write to: National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132. PH: (314) 538-3071.

Air Force (including former Air Corps personnel) should write to: Air Force Reference Branch, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO 63132. PH: (314) 538-4218. The verification process takes up to eight months or more, officials at the National Records Center have said.

Authentic Ruptured Duck reproductions are for sale through the **American Legion**, Attn: Emblem Sales, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206, or the **American Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam**, Attn: Quartermaster, 4647 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, MD.

50th Anniversary of World War II
Commemoration Committee
HQDA, SACC; Pentagon, Room 3E524
Washington, D.C. 20310-0101 (703) 604-0822

2000 Veterans Act Has Reimbursement for Education Tests

The Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000 provides new benefits for veterans which went into effect 1 MAR 01.

VA will now pay veterans reimbursement for the costs of licensing and certification tests taken on or after March 1.

One of the most important improvements of the new law allows veterans the use of basic education assistance for payment of vocational or professional licensing or certification tests. Veterans can be reimbursed for examination costs up to \$2,000 per test.

They must be eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill or the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program. The benefit is also available to veterans' survivors who qualify for dependents' educational assistance.

According to VA, a veteran does not have to pass a state bar examination or a plumber's qualification test, for example, to qualify for the benefit and may retake the test if necessary.

The benefit also can be used to renew an existing license or certificate, and tests can be taken in foreign countries if approved. There is no limit on the number of tests a veteran can take. VA pays only the cost of the tests and not any other fees connected with obtaining a license or certification.

The benefit payments are sent directly to the individual veteran. Approval of tests for reimbursement depends on the department's partnerships with state

EVENING PARADE TRIP UPDATE

Wil Haas reminds all of those members planning to participate in the trip to Washington, DC, for the Evening Parade on Aug. 17, that the bus will be leaving at 8 a.m. from the Doylestown ACME. Cost is \$25 per person and includes transportation and a meal. Contact him now if you want to go. Only 45 people can go.

Detachment Officers Taking Oath



DETACHMENT OFFICERS taking the Oath during Installation ceremonies at the April Meeting. Shown are (left to right): Bill Miller, Bob Momorella, Budd Pearce, Bob Cody, Gary Smith, and Don Parazanese Jr. (Photo by Don Pazanese Sr., PC)

agencies that certify education programs for GI Bill benefits.

In general, if the testing organization is non-governmental, the test must be accepted within the industry and meet other requirements, such as having been used for at least two years.

Because it is a new program, few tests were immediately authorized, but Veterans Affairs is encouraging organizations that administer occupational licensure and certification tests to ask state

approving agencies to review their examinations.

Additional info on the new benefits and how to apply for reimbursement online can be found at www.gibill.va.gov or by calling the VA at 888-442-4551. Organizations offering tests for occupational licenses and certifications can learn how to gain VA approval by calling 888-442-4551.

[Source: May 8, 2001, Dave Eberhart Stars and Stripes News Editor]

What to do When Your Wallet is Stolen

Wallet/Purse - Stolen/Lost/Missing: As everyone always advises, cancel your credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know who to call.

Keep those where you can find them easily (having to hunt for them is additional stress you WON'T need at that point!). File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was lost/stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one). But here's what is perhaps most important: Call the three national credit

reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and social security number.

The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. The numbers are:

Equifax 1-800 525-6285

Experian (formerly TRW) 1-800-301-7195

Trans Union 1-800-680-7289

Social Security Administration also has a fraud line at 1-800-269-0271

[Source: Joseph Barber - USS Portsmouth]

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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.

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