



# LISTEN UP!

## CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: **ELLIS M. PEARCE III**

Editor: **DON H. GEE**

VOLUME XV, Number 6

JUNE 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**

**Sr. VICE COMMANDANT  
WILLIAM R. MILLER**

**Jr. VICE COMMANDANT  
DONALD D. PARZANEZE Jr.**

**ADJUTANT  
GARY SMITH**

**PAYMASTER  
ROBERT J. CODY**

**JUDGE ADVOCATE  
WILLIAM E. JERROM**

**QUARTERMASTER  
ROBERT DUFF**

**CHAPLAIN  
EDWARD W. HOTH, PDC**

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS  
WILLIAM L. MICKELSON**

**MESS SERGEANT  
WIL HAAS**

**WEBMASTER  
JAMES E. PEARCE**

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

## New Sergeant Major of Marine Corps Picked by Commandant

The 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, **Gen. Michael W. Hagee**, announced last month that Marine Corps **Sergeant Major John L. Estrada** has been selected to be the 15th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. Estrada is currently serving as Sergeant Major for the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing based at Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, CA, and is forward deployed with 3rd MAW forward in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During an all-hands staff noncommissioned officer meeting at a Kuwait air base April 22, **MajGen. James F. Amos**, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, announced that the Commandant of the Marine Corps has selected the 15th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps - Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, 3rd MAW Sergeant Major.

"I've never met anybody that's moved into that job," MajGen. Amos said to the crowd. "And to think, you're one of us. What we're going to get here is a Marines' Marine, a sergeant major that understands what being a sergeant major is all about."

To a standing ovation from the SNCOs in the room, Estrada took the microphone with a smile.

"I did not sleep at all last night," he said. "This is a very momentous event. There are many Marines and Sailors I have to thank. I know I wouldn't be in this position if it were not for them. This is as much a part of you as it is of me."

He told the SNCOs when he made a permanent change of station move to Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, CA, Dec. 7, 2001, he had intended to retire following his tour and settle in California with his family. Less than two years later, he deployed to Kuwait to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Earlier this year, while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom, Estrada received a phone call from the 14th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, **SgtMaj. Alford L. McMichael**, informing him he was one of the final four candidates for the 15th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

"I was in disbelief and at the time I thought maybe he called the wrong person," said Estrada. "I never thought of myself as ever having a chance of being one of them. I was in shock because I thought I was getting called to get my butt chewed over their visit. A few days prior to that phone call, the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps were visiting us; visiting their Marines here in Kuwait. I was a little concerned getting a call from the sergeant major right after their visit, because I was thinking 'what could we have done, what didn't they like?' to get that phone call."

(See **SERGEANT MAJOR**, Page 4)

# COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

I wish to thank those who brought some goodies for the Marines last month. Keep up the good work there are still a bunch of Marines over there who look forward to these packages. Remember, you don't have to go overboard and spend your rent money, just a couple of dollars will do. Crackers, pretzels, hard candy, just about anything that won't spoil quickly is good. Thanks again, Marines.

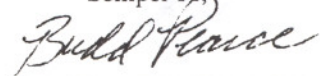
For those of you that couldn't make it to the May meeting, I want to bring you up to date. We made more than \$600 at the parking lots on A-Day. Thanks you very much to all who volunteered to help. We would have made a good bit more if Saturday hadn't been a wash out. The only thing moving at A-Day around 11 am was the cows. As you can see, this is a very important fund raiser for our Detachment. Next year don't hesitate to come out for this one, it's about the easiest fund raiser you'll ever help with.

Come to the June meeting and find out how our pistol team did at the Dept. of PA Pistol Match. Our resident pistol expert, Charlie Wurst, will be joining us this year. He went with us once before, but it's been so long no one remembers how he shoots. This is a really fun weekend and if you have any interest in shooting, or just hanging out with a bunch of old Marines, give some thought to coming out with us next year. There is also a rifle match coming up in September. For those of you who have just recently

joined the Detachment we can fix you up with something to shoot if you want to go to the match, or just want to come out to the range for some practice. No matter how good you are you'll still get harassed, so don't worry just come have fun. Contact **Bill Rosenberger** or me for more details.

That's about it for now other than to remind everyone that the next highway clean-up will be on Saturday 14 June. Breakfast at Tilly's at 0800. See you at the meeting June 11th.

Semper Fi,



## A Brother's Fond Farewell

To all Central Bucks Detachment Marines:

I would just like to let you all know what an honor it has been to have been a member of the Central Bucks Detachment for these recent years.

I have made friends who will stay friends for a lifetime.

Several detachment members have made comments to me that something should be done as a good-luck award or similar service award. While I am quite honored by those wishes, there is really only one award that I would like.

When I joined the detachment, we had about 30 members and about \$400.00 in the bank account. You all know we have come a long way from that point. What I would like to see is that you all work together towards 100 members and \$10,000 in the bank account. From my

observations lately, with the increased member involvement and team effort, I really do believe that those goals can be accomplished. To see that happen would be the best award possible.

So, I am quite proud that I have been a part of those goals to this point. Now it is up to all of you to continue in the line of duty, and I expect all of you to stand up and be counted.

I will always be a part of the Central Bucks Detachment, and you all will always be a part of me. You and your families have made a difference.

Semper Fidelis!



Robert A. Momorella  
Central Bucks Detachment  
Marine Corps League

### 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 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](http://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](http://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 \[www.nmcrls.org/iraq-war.html\]\(http://www.nmcrls.org/iraq-war.html\); 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-</a></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 May 14, 2003, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 20 members in attendance including all officers except the Junior Vice Commandant. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee and Bob Sundling; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth; and Past Commandant and Marine of the Year Budd Pearce.**

**New Member: Richard G. Scott** of Doylestown was unanimously accepted as a Regular Member of the Detachment.

The Minutes of the April 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 the Detachment made \$651 during the one-day A-Day Parking fund-raiser. He also reported the Department of Pennsylvania will hold its Birthday Ball in Grantville, PA. The Detachment will take a business card ad in the Department Program Book (Moved, seconded and unanimously approved).

**Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller** reported the Detachment strength at 59 including 37 Regular Members, 18 Life Members, and 4 Associate Members. There are 6 members delinquent in their dues.

In the absence of the Junior Vice Commandant, Commandant Pearce reminded the members to turn in all raffle tickets and monies for the Department Raffle at the June Meeting.

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

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

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Mickelson** reported he had received no requests for the Color Guard since the last meeting.

**Quartermaster Bob Duff** had nothing new to report.

**Chaplain Ed Hoth**, PDC, had nothing to report.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Rifle & Pistol Team--Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger** reminded the members the Department Pistol Match was scheduled for May 30-June 1.

**Young Marines Unit--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling**, PC, reported Detachment Member **GySgt. Charles T. Mahala**, who serves as the Unit's Commanding Officer, will be retiring from active duty on Saturday. He enjoined Detachment members to attend the ceremony. The Unit will be going White-Water Rafting next month and will be participating in the Memorial Day Parade with us.

**Adopt-A-Highway--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce** scheduled Saturday, June 14, 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.

**The Public Relations Officer** set May 20 as the deadline for submitting materials for the June issue of *Listen Up!* **Advertising Coordinator Bob Momorella** reported we had received one new ad for the newsletter.

**Grocery Receipts--Redners Coordinator Gary Smith** reported he turned in more than \$8,500 in receipts to Redners and the Detachment should receive more than \$85.00 in the near future. Members were reminded to register at Genuardi's (see form on Page 6) so the Detachment will receive a percentage of purchases from Genuardis.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Marine Mike Waldron** requested the Detachment Color Guard participate in the Celtic Festival again this year.

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

## SERGEANT MAJOR

(From Page 1)

Every few years, a board looks at the top approximately 150 Sergeants Major on the linear list and selects five candidates. They present this list to the Commandant of the Marine Corps for review. If he likes none of the candidates' qualifications, he can go back to the board and order them to try again.

The decision for the next Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps is solely the Commandant's and once the four were selected they were interviewed at different times.

Estrada said he prepared for his interview by coming up with a list of eight questions he thought Gen. Hagee would ask.

"When I went into the interview I felt I had as good a chance as the other three," he said. "I went in and gave it my best shot. I finally decided to just go and be myself, be who I have always been."

Of those eight questions Estrada had prepared, the Commandant only asked one - "Why do you think you should be the next Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps?"

"What are three things you would change in the Marine Corps?" and "If I did not select you as the next Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, whom would you recommend?" were other questions asked by the Commandant.

"I thought that was the best question of all because it really shows the character of the individual," he said.

Estrada received a phone call April 21 from Gen. Hagee informing him of the final decision. In a small twist, the phone call didn't come directly to his office. Instead, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron's Staff Judge Advocate Marines received it.

"There were people scrambling to get me because the Commandant of the Marine Corps was on the phone," he said. "So I made the walk over to the SJA, which is not that far away, but to me it felt like I was walking on a plank and was getting ready to go overboard. I was wondering, trying to figure if this was going to be good news or bad. The question going through my mind was 'is he was going to tell me that I am the

guy or is he going to tell me sorry, I'm not the guy?'"

When he reached the phone he was told to stand by for the Commandant. Then the Corps' top Marine picked up the phone.

"The Commandant came on the phone and said 'Sergeant Major Estrada, how are you doing today? I'm calling you to offer a position to be the next Sergeant Major of our Corps. Do you still want the job?'"

Even though he'd had some time to brace himself for either decision, Estrada said he was taken aback by the question.

"I was stunned because that's very big news - very big news," he said. "I said 'Sir, yes of course I still want the job.' Then I told him I was honored that he had confidence in me and afforded me the opportunity to be the 15th Sergeant Major of our Corps.

"I've always known that if I got to the position where I could make a difference, I'd like to try to make a difference," said Estrada. "So I thought about it, and thought if I could get to this position I could really help make a difference in impacting the Marine Corps as a whole and in a very positive way. That's all I've ever tried to do."

Estrada has been known as a Marine's Marine, and is often found talking with junior enlisted and junior officers to make sure everything is running smoothly for them. He said he believes one of his strong points is his ability to communicate up and down the chain of command.

"That has always been my style," he said. "I feel very, very good knowing that I can go out and connect with the lowest-ranking Marines and talk to them. All my commanders have always allowed me the latitude to do just that. That's the only way that I can get the true pulse of what's going on in the unit. You can't do that from behind a desk. I look forward to going out and talking to the Marines and I love doing that.

"I don't feel I'm the Sergeant Major of just the enlisted Marines. I'm not, I'm the sergeant major for the command. I spend a lot of time with junior officers and commanders to see if they need anything or if there's something we can be

doing better to support them."

He said he would continue to get out and meet with as many Marines as possible to listen to them.

"I will continue to take every opportunity that I have to get out and connect with the Marines," he said. "I plan on being a very visible Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, like those who have preceded me. You can't lead from behind the desk and this way I can tell the Commandant 'these are the concerns of your Marines.'"

Estrada said he believes the Marine Corps is running smoothly, and has no immediate plans to recommend any changes - yet. He said a good leader learns his new job before recommending any changes. Often he is asked if today's Marines are as tough as Leathernecks of old and Estrada said based on what he saw during Operation Iraqi Freedom he could answer that question with a resounding "yes!"

"We have a very professional atmosphere," he said. "During the time here, the performance of all of our Marines - not just the air wing, (has made me) extremely proud - especially our Marines in the division that met very fierce resistance. They (overcame) it all very courageously. I was so proud that those Marines fought just as well as any Marine who had fought battles in the past.

"For a lot of those young Marines, I'm sure I was their Recruit Training Regimental Sergeant Major back on Parris Island. We would get questions about whether they would have the mettle enough to fight and win and I think they have proven just that."

Estrada said he knows he's the next chapter in the history of the Marine Corps and he won't let his Marines down. However, he will require one thing from all Marines during his time as Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps.

"I expect all of our Marines to represent our Corps in the eyes of the American people and the world in a very professional way. The American people think a lot and expect a lot from the Marine Corps, and I charge our Marines to continue to give them just that.

"I will always work hard to better our Corps," he said. "I will always have the Marines' best interests at heart."

# 13 FOLDS OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

The flag folding ceremony described by the Uniformed Services is a dramatic and uplifting way to honor the flag on special days, like Memorial Day or Veterans Day, and is sometimes used at retirement ceremonies.

Here is a typical sequence of the reading:

(Begin reading as Honor Guard or Flag Detail is coming forward).

The flag folding ceremony represents the same religious policies on which our country was originally founded. The portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton of blue containing the stars representing the states our veterans served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted when draped as a pall on a casket of a veterans who has served our country in uniform.

In the Armed Forces of the United States, at the ceremony of retreat the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold and kept under watch through the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out and, at the ceremony of reveille, run aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body.

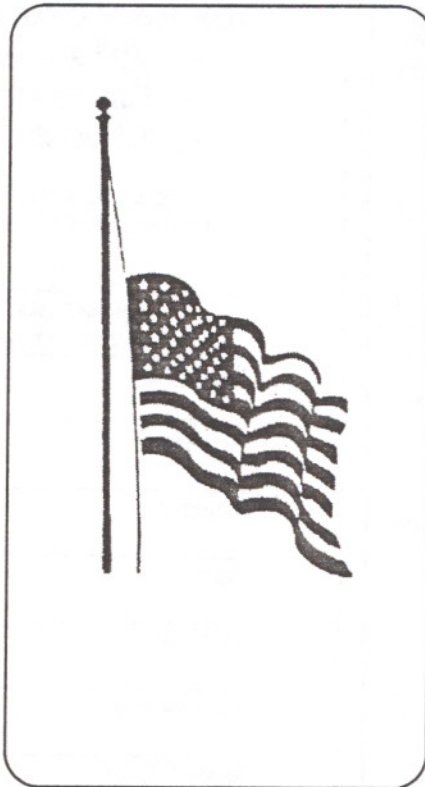
(Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to unravel and fold the flag into a quarter fold--resume reading when Honor Guard is standing ready.)

**The first fold** of our flag is a symbol of life.

**The second fold** is a symbol of our

belief in the eternal life.

**The third fold** is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.



**The fourth fold** represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

**The fifth fold** is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but is still our country, right or wrong."

**The sixth fold** is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to

the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**The seventh fold** is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

**The eighth fold** is a tribute to the one who entered in to the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on mother's day.

**The ninth fold** is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

**The tenth fold** is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

**The eleventh fold**, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**The twelfth fold**, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

## An American in Paris

An American is having breakfast in Paris one morning (coffee, croissants, bread, butter and jam) when a Frenchman, chewing gum, sits down next to him.

The American ignores the Frenchman who, nevertheless, starts a conversation.

French man: "You American folk eat the whole bread??"

American (in a bad mood): "Of course."

French: (after blowing a huge bubble) "We don't. In France, we only eat what's inside. The crusts we collect in a container, recycle it, transform them into croissants and sell them to the States."

The Frenchman has a smirk on his face. The American listens in silence.

The Frenchman persists: "Do you eat jelly with the bread??"

American: "Of course."

Frenchman: (cracking his gum between his teeth and chuckling). "We don't. In France we eat fresh fruit for breakfast, then we put all the peels, seeds, and leftovers in containers, recycle them, transform them into jam and sell the jam to the States."

The American then asks: "Do you have sex in France?"

Frenchman: "Why of course we do," he says with a big smirk.

American: "And what do you do with the condoms once you've used them?"

Frenchman: "We throw them away, of course."

American: "We don't. In America, we put them in a container, recycle them, melt them down into chewing gum and sell them to the French."

**2003**

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE  
MAY 26**

**DETACHMENT MEETING  
JUNE 11**

**FLAG DAY  
JUNE 14**

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY  
JUNE 14**

## New GENUARDI Markets Receipt Form

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Marine Corps League

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**U.S. MARINE CORPS COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION**




**Third Marine Division Association**



The Chosin Few



Central Bucks Detachment,  
Marine Corps League



## Marine Corps Issuing Combination Bayonet/Fighting Knife

SAN DIEGO -- In an era of remote-control, ultra-high-technology weaponry, the Marine Corps is looking to an updated version of a fighting tool that dates from the 17th century: the bayonet.

Within a few months, the Corps plans to equip each Marine with a bayonet that is sharper and stronger than its World War II predecessor and also can double more effectively as a fighting knife.

"We've created this myth that we can stay in the clouds and win wars," said bayonet expert **Homer Brett**, who serves as a consultant to the Marine Corps.

"But the only way to control territory is with infantry, and for the individual fighter on the ground, a bayonet is indispensable."

The weapon upgrade is part of a push begun two years ago by then-Commandant **Gen. James L. Jones** to expand and toughen hand-to-hand combat training for Marines, including more training in the martial arts and knife fighting.

The new bayonet -- with a steel blade 8 inches long, 15/16 inches wide and which weighs 1 1/4 pounds with its scabbard -- is slightly longer, thicker and heavier than the current model.

A sharper point and serrations near the handle help penetrate body armor that many modern adversaries wear.

In one demonstration, a prototype was able to pierce a punching bag covered with aircraft aluminum and a bulletproof flak jacket.

Also, the handle is more oval than round to prevent repetitive-stress injuries during training.

"We spent a lot of time making sure the handle was ergonomically correct," said Nick Trbovich Jr., president and chief executive of Ontario Knife Co., which won the Marine bayonet contract after a yearlong competition.

"There are no blister points on the handle. The Marines are the best and they deserve the best."

The Franklinville, N.Y., firm already provides knives for Air Force pilots and Navy SEALs, bayonets for the Army and combat machetes.

With an order of up to 120,000, the projected cost per bayonet is \$36.35. The weapon got its first test by troops in Afghanistan.

"We hope they never have to use it, but if they do, we want Marines to have the best equipment possible," said Maj. Renee Holmes, project officer for the bayonet testing program run by the Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Va.

Trainees at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego get their first instruction in using the bayonet as a lethal weapon on their 10th day.

"The reality of being in the Marine Corps sets in when they fix the bayonet for the first time," said **Staff Sgt. James Hall**, who teaches bayonet fighting. "It all becomes real to them."



## 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)

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