

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXII, Number 6

JUNE 2009

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

MARINES WIN BATTLE WITH *NEW YORK TIMES*

NEW YORK CITY--Leathernecks have long found it irksome--heck, they've downright hated the fact--that the *New York Times* has refused to capitalize the "m" in Marine.

It's a point of pride, Marines always argue, to which the Times has routinely replaced "Yeah, but we don't capitalize the 's' in soldier."

Well, the Old Gray Lady has finally come to her senses. In a Feb. 18 blog post titled "When every letter counts," Deputy News Editor Philip B. Corbett, point man for the newspaper's style manual, announced that The New York Times has at last decided to join the ranks

of Marine Corps Times and countless other publications that adhere to The Associated Press' longstanding guidance on this matter:

A Marine is a Marine -- Capital "M," case closed.

"We heard repeatedly from readers and sources who found our usage puzzling or ill-informed -- even ... disrespectful," Corbett wrote. "We've assured current and former members of the Marine Corps that the old rule reflected not a lack of respect but rather desire for consistency."

Indeed, just as Marines pride themselves on being squared away, *The New York Times* is a stickler when it comes to

syntax. Within its pages, even scoundrels are afforded the courtesy of being referred to as "Mr." Hitler, McVeigh, or bin Laden. So there's no doubt this decision was made with a lot of hand-wringing.

In the end, Corbett said, it all came back to consistency.

"If the term for an individual member is the same as the proper name of the organization, why not capitalize 'Marine' just as we capitalize 'Democrat,' 'Catholic' or 'Rotarian'?" he reasoned.

"Consistency is a virtue. But stubbornness isn't, and we're willing to consider revisions when a good case can be made."

HONORING CHESTY: *Stae Planned for General*

LtGen. John A. Lejeune, get ready. You've got company coming outside the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

A group of retired Marines plans to erect an 11-foot high, 14,000-pound monument to the late LtGen. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park, not far from the Lejeune monument already on the museum's grounds near Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA.

The design, approved by the Corps in September, features a six-foot bronze statue of the famed general wearing binoculars and a helmet while holding his trademark smoking pipe. An anonymous radioman crouches by his side.

The monument depicts Puller during the World War II era, said former Lance Cpl. Terry Jones, the sculptor selected to craft it. Palm trees common in the Pa-

cific, where Puller led Marines in epic



battles, were including in an early sketch but scrapped so the monument won't be associated with just one war, said Retired 1stSgt. Jim Barnett, who is spearheading the campaign to raise money for the monument. So far, his group has raised about \$20,000 of the \$260,000 it needs.

"It kind of fits with what he was wearing in the World War II campaigns and the Korea campaign, where he did such a good job pulling out of the [Chosin] Reservoir," Barnett said.

The monument's five-foot high granite base will memorialize Puller with several plaques, including one engraved with a saying introduced to Marines in boot camp: "Goodnight, Chesty, wherever you are."

For more information visit www.seagoingmarines.com/ChestyPuller/CPuller.htm.



COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

We had our annual A-Day Parking fund raiser on April 25 and 26 again this year. The weather cooperated but, due to our reduced access to parking areas, this year again was not nearly as successful as we would have liked.

We are also entering the home stretch for the Department of Pennsylvania Youth and Veterans Raffle ticket sales. Again this year **Marine Ken Murray** is doing a fantastic job with the raffle tickets. I'd like to thank Marine Murray for his enthusiasm and energy on this fundraising function. I'd like to also re-

mind anyone who still has tickets to please make every effort to sell them to help the Detachment raise funds. Remember that we get at least 40% of all proceeds from the sale of the tickets and all tickets need to be turned in at the June meeting so that we can get them to the state convention. Finally, we have our biggest fund raiser of the year is coming up this Memorial Day weekend, May 21 - 24, at the State Liquor Store in Doylestown. **Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC**, is coordinating this effort, so if you can spare any time to help, please contact Budd.

On a personal note, again this year along with **Southeast Division Vice Commandant Bill Miller**, I attended the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Ceremony at the Arlington Cemetery in Drexel Hill, PA, on April 18. Alfred E. Smith was a Medal of Honor recipient and is the name sake of the Devil Dog Pound that **Judge Advocate Bill Mickelson, Bill Miller** and I belong to. After the ceremony, we had lunch with the Smith family. I also attended All Divisions Detachment's 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner in Philadelphia, PA. And, finally, I attended the Department of Pennsylvania Southeast District Meeting, serving as Adjutant at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Newtown Square, PA. It was sponsored by the Smedley D. Butler Detachment.

I'd like everyone know that our own **Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller** is running for a second term as your Southeast District Vice Commandant.

And don't forget the Memorial Day Parade on Monday the 25th. We will meet at the Lenape Middle School on Rt. 202 in Doylestown. Please be there between 8:00-8:30AM, so that we can get our float together and get a Flag Raising Detail up to the high school field where the Global War on Terrorism Plaque Dedication Ceremony will take place.

Well, that's it for this month; hope to see you all at the parade.

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
JAMES McCOMB**

**Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
BEN JONES**

**ADJUTANT-PAYMASTER
DON H. GEE, PC**

**JUDGE ADVOCATE
WILLIAM MICKELSON**

**QUARTERMASTER
COREY A. FISHER**

**CHAPLAIN
ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE, PC**

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MAY DETACHMENT MEETING



MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held May 13, 2009, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 510 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 17 members present including all officers except the Mess Sergeant. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Budd Pearce, and Bob Sundling; Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth; and Marine of the Year Jim McComb.**

The **Minutes** of the April Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The **Paymaster's Report** was presented by the Adjutant/Paymaster and was unanimously accepted.

Sick Call: Marine **Bob Cody** has died and **Mess Sergeant Vince Hagen** is still recuperating.

New Members: **Richard D. Weaver** (Newtown, PA) and **Anthony J. Gentile** (Newtown, PA) were unanimously accepted into membership.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported he had attended the United Veterans of Doylestown Parade Meeting and the Deveil Dog Pound's Annual Albert E. Smith Memorial Ceremony at his grave site in Drexel Hill. He attended the 50th Anniversary celebration at All Divisions Detachment in Philadelphia and the Southeast Division Meeting. He announced there were bylaws changes submitted to be voted upon at the National Convention and the Department ByLaws had been streamlined and he had additional copies available at this meeting. The Commandant discussed the Department's "Each One, Reach One" program in which active duty Marines recruited by detachments by June 25 would have their national and department dues waived. He also announced the Pennsylvania Department of Military & Veterans Affairs is holding a benefits expo on June 16 in Harrisburg and Congressman Patrick Murphy is holding a veterans benefit fair at Bucks County Community College on May 16. The Detachment received a Certificate of Appreciation for our support of the Philadelphia Veterans Comfort House.

Senior Vice Commandant Jim McComb reported the Detachment strength at 57 members including 28 Life Members, 25 Regular Members, 4 Associate Members and 1 Honorary Life Member. There are two members delinquent and two members on active duty.

Junior Vice Commandant Ben Jones reported that the raffle ticket sales were nearing an end and that Marine Ken Murray, again this year, was the top ticket seller in the Detachment. All ticket stubs and money must be turned in at the next meeting.

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

The Adjutant/Paymaster reported the Detachment had again been invited to participate in the 4th of July Parade in Chalfont and Nockamixon Day festivities in Revere in September.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Color Guard had not been requested since the last meeting.

Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, reported the viewing and League service for **Marine Bob Cody** would be held on May 15 at Plunkett Funeral Home in Hatboro.

The Public Relations Officer set May 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the June issue of "Listen Up!"

Quartermaster Corey Fisher reported he had brought limited items to the meeting including t-shirts which were on sale for \$10.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce reported the next highway clean-up will be on Saturday, May 16.

Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling reported the Young Marines unit will be held its "Coin Toss" fundraiser last month in New Hope.

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Budd Pearce reported the Pistol Match will take place May 29-31. The Detachment will have a four-man team competing.

A-Day Parking Coordinator Budd Pearce reported the Detachment had raised enough funds from the A-Day Fund-Raiser to cover about half of the cost of the flags for the Memorial Day Weekend Fund-Raiser at the State Store in Cross Keys. He circulated a Sign-Up Sheet for members to volunteer their time for this effort. He also discussed interim changes made to the parade float for the Memorial Day Parade.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

INSTALLATION--The Commandant installed **Junior Vice Commandant Jones** since he was not present at the last meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIT COMMITTEE--The Commandant appointed **Senior Vice Commandant McComb, Junior Vice Commandant Jones,** and Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling as the Audit Committee which will meet at 7 p.m. on June 10 prior to the Detachment Meeting.

Chaplain Pearce motioned the Detachment make a \$100 donation to the Department Scholarship Fund in memory of Bod Cody. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Vice Commandant McComb announced the American Legion is holding a Breakfast Fund-Raiser at Applebee's (Barn Plaza Shopping Center, Rt. 611, in Warrington) on Sunday, June 7, between 7:30 and 11 a.m. Tickets are \$5 per person and are available from him.

Commandant Powell announced the Somerset Patriots Baseball team would be holding their annual Veterans Day in August. Veterans are admitted free.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m.

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT
MARINES ON THE NET**

- CAPRIO, Paul midupe@aol.com
- CODY, Bob codyrj@att.net
- CUPITT, Steve scupitt@aol.com
- DeBELLA, Vincent vincdebe@aol.com
- DOHERTY, Joe joedog7@verizon.net
- DUFF, Bob duffrbt@verizon.net
- GEE, Don USMCCCA@aol.com
- GREGAN, Ryan ryangregan@comcast.net
- HAGAN, Vincent vincent.hagan@pnc.com
- HOTH, Ed Edhothusmc@aol.com
- JONES, Ben benjaminjones1@gmail.com
- KELLER, Bruce bruce@taylosbucks.com
- KOHLER, Bill mustangcaptbill@aol.com
- McCOMB, Jim jim_mccomb@verizon.net
- MICKELSON, Bill billmikelson@verizon.net
- MILLER, Bill billjae@verizon.net
- MURRAY, Ken kenmur1949@yahoo.com
- MOMORELLA, Bob mombo@starlinx.com
- PARZANESE, Tony tonyparz@hotmail.com
- PARZANESE, Don, Sr donparzsr@comcast.net
- PARZANESE, Don, Jr donald.parzanese@us.army.mil
- PEARCE, Budd Buddpearce@comcast.net
- POWELL, Jim jim.powell@aig.com
usmc80@comcast.net
- SCOTT, Rich richgscott@gmail.com
- SMITH, Gary sgarysemperfi@aol.com
- SUNDLING, Bob psundling@verizon.net
sundling@tiniusolsen.com
- WALDRON, Mike waldron@quigleyco.com
- WIMER, Lee leewimer@aol.com

**SCHEDULE
OF EVENTS**

**MEMORIAL DAY
PARADE
25 MAY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
10 JUNE**

**FLAG DAY
14 JUNE**

**FATHER'S DAY
21 JUNE**

**FIRST DAY OF
SUMMER
21 JUNE**

**DEPARTMENT
CONVENTION
24-27 JUNE**

**INDEPENDENCE
DAY PARADE
4 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
8 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
12 AUGUST**

**FALL STAFF
MEETING
23-24 OCTOBER**

**WINTER STAFF
MEETING
8-10 JANUARY**

U. S. Can't Vouch for Cancer Assurances to Marines

by Rita Beamish
The Associated Press

In an about face, the government Tuesday disavowed a 12-year-old federal report that found little or no cancer risk for adults who lived on a Marine base where drinking water was contaminated for three decades.

Up to one million people could have been exposed to toxins that seeped from a neighboring dry cleaner and industrial activity at Camp Lejeune, NC, federal officials say. Now, a report that minimized the cancer threat for adults has been discredited.

"We can no longer stand behind the accuracy of the information in that document," William Cibulas, Director of Health Assessment for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, said at a meeting in Atlanta. "We know too much now."

Sick veterans, who became known as "poisoned patriots," and their advocates never believed the report's conclusions. Their families have filed claims for \$33.8 billion in damages. A study continues on whether fetuses might have been harmed.

The agency, charged with protecting public health around toxic sites, said it was rescinding the 1997 assessment on health effects of water that residents of the base drank and bathed in, because of omissions and scientific inaccuracy. That study found the water contamination began in the 1950s and continued until wells were shut down in 1987.

Jerry Ensminger, a retired Marine who has spent years digging through military and health documents at Camp Lejeune and believes his daughter Janey's leukemia death at age 9 was due to the water, welcomed the government's reversal on the report.

"We are in Day 99 of change, and by God we're starting to see it," he said, meaning the change promised by President Barack Obama. The report in question dates to Bill Clinton's administration. The flawed document is being pulled from the Internet while the agency incorporates new science to rewrite what Cibulas called "troublesome" sections.

Among its problems, the document omitted mention of the cancer-causing chemical benzene, which military sampling found in a base well in 1984. Researchers should have mentioned its high levels and tried to verify whether it reached the drinking water, said Cibulas. He said Ensminger recently brought the omission of benzene to his attention.

Additionally, the contaminating solvents that officials focused on have been characterized by new science as even more likely to cause cancer, he noted. Cibulas also cited findings, reported in a 2007 Associated Press investigation of the water contamination, that the study underestimated the extent of the contamination on the base due to inadequate information from the Marines. His unusual announcement came at a meeting of the health agency, part of the Health and Human Services Department, and its community advisory panel that works on follow-up to Camp Lejeune's past water problems.

Members of the panel have long criticized the health document's failings. Lawmakers who heard the Marines' stories last year dubbed them "poisoned patriots." A table in the document stated unequivocally that adults faced no increased cancer risk from the water. Elsewhere, the report said cancer was not likely but more study was needed.

Cibulas voiced concern that the report was misinterpreted by Veterans Affairs and others as saying: "No way, no how, would any person who drank contaminated water at Camp Lejeune be expected to suffer any adverse health effects, be they cancerous or noncancerous. "The science is just not that good for us to make that determination," he said.

The 1997 assessment said children's cancer risk was unknown, but it cited studies showing potential cancer dangers from solvent-tainted water for fetuses. That led to an ongoing study by the agency into whether babies whose mothers drank the water were born with elevated leukemia or birth defects.

The agency estimated as many as 1 million people at the Atlantic-seaboard base could have been exposed to the toxins; the Marines have estimated 500,000.

Levels of one solvent, known as TCE, were the highest ever measured in a U.S. public water supply, according to an agency scientist.

"We keep coming up with more and more stuff," said Allen Menard, a retired Marine on the community panel who suffers a rare non-Hodgkin's lymphoma that his doctors linked to chemical exposure.

"They knew about the benzene," he said. "Why didn't they tell us?"

The reversal comes at a sensitive time for the toxic substances agency, following a blistering report last month by congressional investigators who accused it of obscuring or overlooking potential health hazards at toxic sites. The agency's director, Howard Frumkin, promised Congress he was working to improve on any shortcomings.

Health officials wrote to Veterans Affairs last month warning that a VA report had read too much into the Camp Lejeune health assessment and it should not be used as the basis to deny disability benefits.

According to the Navy's legal office, which handles claims, 1,500 people have filed claims for \$33.8 billion in damages. The military is waiting for conclusions from the current study of fetal effects before deciding the claims.

On the Web:

Federal information on the base and its water: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/SITES/LEJEUNE

Marines: <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater/index.html>

Group representing Marine families: www.TFTPTF.com

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The Chosin Few



Central Bucks Detachment,
Marine Corps League

PURPOSE OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

To preserve the traditions, promote the interest, and perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and, by fitting acts, to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

To band those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that Service together in fellowship, that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy.

To hold sacred the memory and the history of men and women who have given their lives to the nation.

To foster love for the principles that they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic.

To maintain true allegiance to American institutions.

To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines, uniformed and civilian, as well as to their surviving spouses and orphans.

League members know a special bond of comradeship unique to those who have worn the Marine Emblem. The members look after one another. They observe national holidays such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day and days of special interest to Marines such as the Marine Corps birthday, the anniversary of the flag raising at Iwo Jima and the day the Fourth Marine Brigade entered Belleau Wood.

The League performs some of its most important service on the local level through programs of benefit to the communities.

Many detachments recognizing a need, embark on special programs to help advance their towns and cities.

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