

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXIII, Number 6

JUNE 2010

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

A Memorial Day Tribute to a Grandfather and A Small Pennsylvania Town's Patriotism

by Capt. Jack Paxton, USMC (Ret)

Seventy-two years have passed and I can still see him dressing for the parade. A stocky man, then about 57, ramrod straight, a rough black wool shirt tucked into khaki breeches, laced leggings, and a sweat-stained campaign hat framing the weathered face.

It was Memorial Day 1938. I was eight and would march in my first parade hand-in-hand with Pvt. John Paxton, father of eight, carpenter, former soldier of the 1898 Philippine campaign of the Spanish American War and, best of all, my granddad. This was Greenville and every year this small Northwestern Pennsylvania town paid tribute to veterans of wars past: Civil, Spanish American, and World War I--"the war to end all wars."

Led by the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps, these proud veterans and this little boy would march to Penn High School for a brief reading of General John Logan's Civil War orders. Then the crowd would listen as a town dignitary would extol the virtues of what these proud men represented.

The parade would then continue, winding out College Avenue, stopping briefly again at the Shenango River Bridge where Navy vets would salute fallen shipmates by tossing a floral wreath on the sluggish stream.

Then it was on to the Shenango Valley Cemetery to honor all of Greenville's fallen. Only after the Boy Scouts finished placement of miniature flags on each

honored grave would the festivities turn deathly solemn. The mournful playing of "Taps" by Legion buglers would remind all of the sacrifice made by these local heroes.

During the next 12 years I would participate with my granddad and other family members in this annual event that took on greater prominence as our nation entered and won World War II and more flags were added to new headstones. As peace returned, the tradition continued. Many times though, I participated without giving much thought to what the day meant to my granddad. Today, long after his death and my own military career, my thoughts often return to this proud little town.

Now I'm considered one of the old soldiers. As I hear (almost daily it seems) news of the deaths of comrades from Korea, Vietnam or more recent days, I

can only hope that Greenville's patriotic citizens are continuing this proud tradition and that other granddads will see that it goes on forever.

[ED. NOTE: Jack Paxton is the Executive Director of the U. S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association and a Veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars.]

Health Benefits Application Updated

WASHINGTON--Veterans will find it easier and faster to apply for their health care benefits now that the Department of Veterans Affairs has updated its online Form 10-10EZ, "Application for Health Benefits."

This revised online application provides enhanced navigation features that make it easier and faster for Veterans to apply for their health care benefits. This new version also allows Veterans to save a copy of the completed form for their personal records.

The most significant enhancement allows Veterans to save their application to their local desktop and return to the application at any time without having to start over.

Veterans may complete or download the form at <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>. Veterans may also contact VA at 1 (877) 222-8387 (VETS) or visit the VA health eligibility website at www.va.gov/healtheligibility.

RAFFLE TICKETS REMINDER

Department of Pennsylvania Raffle Tickets and monies must be turned in at the June Meeting.



**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636**
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2nd Wednesday of Month
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COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

We are entering the home stretch for the Department of Pennsylvania Youth and Veterans Raffle ticket sales. This year **Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile**, along with his sons, Associate Members David and Steven, has stepped up and is doing an outstanding job with the raffle tickets. I'd like to thank them for their dedication and energy on this fundraising function. I'd like to also remind 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. Also remember, we have our biggest fund raiser of the year is coming up this Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30, at the State Liquor Store in Doylestown (Cross Keys). **Chaplain Budd Pearce** is coordinating this effort, so if you can spare any time to help, please contact Budd.

Again this year, along with **Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller** and **Judge Advocate Bill Mickelson**, we attended the Alfred

E. Smith Memorial Ceremony at the Arlington Cemetery in Drexel Hill, PA, on April 17. **Alfred E. Smith** was a WWI Medal of Honor recipient and is the name sake of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs Pound #179. Marines from our Detachment other than me that belong to this Pound are **Bill Mickelson, Bill Miller, Ken Murray** and **Jack Gentile**. After the ceremony, we had lunch with the Smith family.

I'd like everyone know that our own Past Junior 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, May 31. We will meet at the Lenape Middle School on Rt. 202 in Doylestown. Please be there between 8:00-8:30 a.m., so that we can get our float together and get a Flag Raising Detail up to War Memorial Field for the Morning Colors.

I'd also like to congratulate **Adjutant/Paymaster Don Gee** for receiving a Distinguished Citizens Medal (Silver) at our April meeting from **Department Commandant Leanna Dietrich**. Don well deserves this recognition as he does a lot of outstanding work for the Detachment and other outside organizations.

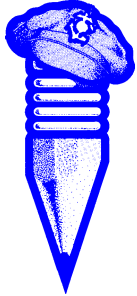
Well, that's it for now. Hope to see you all at the parade.

Semper Fi,

Check Out Our
Detachment Web Site
at:

www.mclcb.org

MAY DETACHMENT MEETING



M I N U T E S

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held May 12, 2010, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 19 members present including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., Budd Pearce, and Bob Sundling**, and **Past National Northeast Division Commandant/Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**.

Visitor: Jeff (no last name) attended and informed the members about a documentary film he made about his brother who, after returning from Iraq, committed suicide. A one-time showing was set for May 23 at the Newtown Theater.

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

The **Paymaster's Report** was presented and was unanimously accepted.

New Members: **Marine Michael Concordia** of Doylestown was accepted as a Regular Member and **Marine John Pura** was confirmed as a Regular Member.

Sick Call: **Larry Scheetz** is having some medical tests done on June 16 to find a cause for his headaches.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported he had copied on the website all of the *LISTEN UP!* newsletters on file from the beginning of the Detachment to the present. There are a few issues missing and are needed to complete the file. If anyone is interested in serving as the Detachment's WebMaster, contact the Commandant. He also reported he had attended the Department Quarterly Staff & Member Meeting and the Northeast Division Meeting. He stated the major issue at both meetings was RETENTION at both the National and Department levels. He reminded the members that participating in partisan politics while wearing any part of a Marine Corps League uniform is strictly prohibited by Marine Corps League ByLaws. He also announced the bill to change the name of the Navy Department to the "Department of the Navy and Marine Corps" has passed the House of Representatives and is on its way to the Senate where resistance is expected. He noted a ByLaws Committee Meeting was held since the last meeting and he plans to hold another before the next Detachment Meeting in an effort to present to the members as soon as possible. Anyone interested in joining the Committee should contact him.

In the absence of the Senior Vice Commandant, **Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile** reported the Detachment strength at 65 members including 29 Life Members, 27 Regular Members, 2 Dual Members, 6 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member. He is working on the Detachment Logo and expects to have it completed by next meeting.

Junior Vice Commandant Gentile discussed the results of Department Raffle Ticket sales to date and a the plan to hold a Breakfast Fund-Raiser at Appleby's around the third week in July. He is also beginning to work on the Birthday Ball. He also reminded the members that all of the Department Raffle tickets and monies need to be turned in at the June Meeting.

The Adjutant/Paymaster stated he needs to know who will be attending the Department Convention so the proper paperwork can be submitted. He reported a 14-passenger mid bus has been ordered by Bucks County Military Affairs. The bus will be used to transport Veterans to and from the VA Medical Centers in Philadelphia and Coatesville. A Veterans Expo will be held on Tuesday, June 1, from 4 p.m.-7 p.m., at the Plumsteadville Fire Company.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported he had a request for the Color Guard for the Doylestown Memorial Day Parade.

Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting. He reminded the members about the Memorial Day Weekend fund-raiser at the State

Store in Doylestown (Cross Keys) from Thursday through Sunday, May 27-30. He provided a "Sign-Up" sheet for volunteers.

The **Public Relations Officer** reported Detachment is registered to participate in both the Memorial Day Parade in Doylestown and the 4th of July Parade in Chalfont. He also announced **Department Commandant Leanna Dietrich** has initiated a program to recognize ALL living WWII Veterans. The Veteran must register through a Detachment to be recognized and receive a certificate from the Department. The Vet does NOT have to be present at the Convention to receive the certificate. He set Apr. 20 as the deadline for submission of material for the next *LISTEN UP!*

Quartermaster Corey Fisher reported sales of \$115.00 at the last meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce thanked the member for participating in last month's clean-up and announced the next one will be in July.

Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling reported the unit is planning to hold a Boot Camp in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

Chaplain Pearce reported that repairs to the Detachment Parade Float are necessary. He plans extensive refurbishing of the float between the Memorial Day Parade and the 4th of July Parade. Anyone interested in helping make repairs, contact him.

Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling reported he had received the flags donated by the Detachment for the troops overseas and will see they get to the right people.

A motion was made and approved the Detachment take a 1/2-page ad in the Department Reunion Journal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A mandatory **Memorial Day Parade** Participants meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 13, at the Legion Post and the final Parade Committee Meeting is set for Thursday, May 20, at the Legion. Members participating in the parade should muster at Lenape Middle School in Doylestown at 8:15 a.m.

Marine Wil Haas is planning motor home trips to Harpers Ferry this month, to Niagara Falls in June, and Eagles Point (outside Harrisburg) in July. He's looking for someone to help with the driving. If anyone is interested, contact him.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12.

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 Jims--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!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**MEMORIAL DAY
PARADE
31 MAY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
9 JUNE**

**FLAG DAY
14 JUNE**

**FATHER'S DAY
20 JUNE**

**1ST DAY OF
SUMMER
21 JUNE**

**4TH OF JULY
PARADE
3 JULY**

**INDEPENDENCE
DAY
4 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
14 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
11 AUGUST**

**LABOR DAY
6 SEPTEMBER**

**PATRIOT DAY
11 SEPTEMBER**

VETERANS EXPO

LEARN ABOUT THE SERVICES AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO
THOSE WHO HAVE BRAVELY SERVED OUR NATION

HOSTED BY:

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MARGUERITE QUINN

Tuesday, June 1 · 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Plumsteadville Fire Company
5064 Stump Road in Plumsteadville

OFFICE LOCATIONS

District: 1032 North Easton Road, Doylestown, PA 18902-1055
Phone 215-489-2126 | Fax 215-489-2129

Harrisburg: 164B East Wing, PO Box 202143, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2143
Phone 717-772-1413 | Fax 717-783-3793

For more information or to register, call (215) 489-2126. R.S.V.P by Monday, May 24.

REPQUINN.NET

V-A USES RECOVERY ACT MONEY TO REPAIR HISTORIC MONUMENTS

WASHINGTON--The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will use up to \$4.4 million in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program to repair and preserve historic monuments and memorials at VA-operated national cemeteries, soldiers' lots and other facilities throughout the United States.

"The Recovery Act will help us preserve these historic memorials for future generations," said **Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki**. "In many cases, these irreplaceable historic structures will receive long overdue repairs while keeping skilled American artisans employed on projects important to our heritage."

Funds for the monument and memorial repairs are coming from more than \$1.4 billion in the Recovery Act allocated to VA.

Forty-nine monuments at 36 sites in 23 states will be repaired or conserved under this program. These represent some of the oldest and most significant memorials at VA cemeteries, and require treatments that include cleaning, roof and step repairs, stone consolidation, joint repointing, and painting or waxing of metals.

Cost estimates for individual projects range from less than \$10,000 to \$510,000. The monuments and memorials included in this treatment initiative were installed between 1842 and 1952, and most are associated with the Civil War.

The most costly preservation project is the National Soldiers' Monument at Dayton National Cemetery in Ohio. The Soldiers' Monument dominates the landscape from atop a mound at the center of

the cemetery. The cornerstone was laid in 1873 and it was completed in 1877. This dramatic structure is composed of a 30-foot marble column on a granite base and topped with a soldier at parade rest.

At the corners of the base are four figures representing the infantry, cavalry, artillery and Navy. **President Rutherford B. Hayes** delivered the dedication address on Sept. 12, 1877, to a crowd of about 22,000. This monument was severely vandalized in 1990, and the current initiative will address problems associated with the repair.

The oldest monument among the 49 sites is Dade's Pyramids at St. Augustine National Cemetery in Florida. The pyramids cover vaults that contain the remains of 1,468 soldiers who died during the Second Seminole War from 1835 to 1842. The three Dade's Pyramids are each six feet tall and were constructed in 1842 of coquina stone. They were dedicated at a ceremony that marked the end of the Florida Indian Wars.

The funds will also be used to repair and conserve three monumental limestone entrance archways built around 1870 at national cemeteries in Nashville and Chattanooga, TN, and Marietta, GA. VA will also use ARRA funds to conserve the soldiers' obelisk monuments at cemeteries affiliated with the National Homes for Disabled Veteran Soldiers. Also scheduled for repairs are 11 monuments funded by states where large numbers of their troops were buried, five Confederate monuments, and a memorial to **President Zachary Taylor** located near his tomb in Louisville, KY.

The Recovery Act, signed into law by **President Obama** on Feb. 17, 2009, is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart the American economy, create and save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than three million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict-from the Revolutionary War to Iraq and Afghanistan-are buried in VA's national cemeteries on more than 19,000 acres of land.

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT MARINES ON THE NET

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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

**DETACHMENT
LICENSE PLATE**



\$10.00

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**