



# LISTEN UP!

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636**

**Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.**

**Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III**

**Editor: DON H. GEE**

VOLUME XIII, Number 3

MARCH 2001



**CENTRAL BUCKS  
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636**  
P. O. Box 1372  
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372  
Meets  
7:30 p.m.,  
2d Wednesday of Month  
American Legion Post 210  
315 North Street, Doylestown, PA

**Sr. VICE COMMANDANT:**  
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**Jr. VICE COMMANDANT:**  
DON H. GEE, PC

**ADJUTANT:**  
GARY SMITH

**PAYMASTER:**  
ROBERT C. CODY

**JUDGE ADVOCATE:**  
BOB MOMORELLA

**CHAPLAIN:**  
FRANK YOHE, PC

**QUARTERMASTER:**  
ROBERT DUFF

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:**  
ROBERT A. SUNDLING

**MESS SERGEANT:**  
WIL HAAS

**WEBMASTER:**  
TRACY BROCKMAN

**MARINE OF THE YEAR:**  
BOB MOMORELLA

## DARWIN AWARDS ANNOUNCED

It's that time again! The awards this year are classic. These awards are given each year to bestow upon (the remains of) that individual, who through single-minded self-sacrifice, has done the most to remove undesirable elements from the human gene pool.

Ladies and Gentlemen..(drum roll..and envelope please). We present the 2000 "Natural Selection" awards:

**4th RUNNER-UP:** Goes to a San Anselmo, California man who died when he hit a lift tower at the Mammoth Mountain ski area while riding down the slope on a foam pad. The 22-year old **David Hubal** was pronounced dead at Central Mammoth Hospital. The accident occurred about 3 a.m., the Mono County Sheriff's Department said. Hubal and his friends apparently had hiked up a ski run called Stump Alley and undid some yellow foam protectors from lift towers, said **Lt. Mike Donnelly** of the Mammoth Lakes Police Department. The pads are used to protect skiers who might hit towers. The group apparently used the pads to slide down the ski slope and Hubal crashed into a tower. It has since been investigated and determined the tower he hit was the one with its pad removed.

**3rd RUNNER-UP:** Goes to **Robert Puelo**, 32, who was apparently being disorderly in a St. Louis market. When the clerk threatened to call the police, Puelo grabbed a hot dog, shoved it into his mouth and walked out without paying. Police found him unconscious in front of the store. Paramedics removed the six-inch wiener from his throat where it had choked him to death.

**2nd RUNNER-UP:** "Man loses face at party." A man at a West Virginia party (probably related to the winner last year, a man in Arkansas who used the 22 bullet to replace the fuse in his pickup truck) popped a blasting cap into his mouth and bit down, triggering an explosion that blew off his lips, teeth and tongue. **Jerry Stromyer**, 24, of Kincaid, bit the blasting cap as a prank during the party late Tuesday night, said **Cpl. M.D. Payne**. "Another man had it in an aquarium hooked to a battery and was trying to explode it. It wouldn't go off and this guy said I'll show you how to set it off." He put it into his mouth, bit down and blew all his teeth out and his lips and tongue off, Payne said. Stromyer was listed in guarded condition Wednesday with extensive facial injuries, according to a spokesperson at Charleston Area Medical Division. "I just can't imagine anyone doing something like that," Payne said.

**1st RUNNER-UP:** Doctors at Portland University Hospital said an Oregon man shot through the skull by a hunting arrow is lucky to be alive and will be released soon from the hospital.

(See DARWIN AWARDS on Page 4)

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT  
1930 ON 14 MARCH 2001 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST,  
315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

# COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

For those of you who missed the February Meeting, the Nominating Committee announced the names of this year's candidates for offices. I am pleased to announce that **Don Parzanese Jr.** is running for the office of Junior Vice Commandant. Unfortunately, there seems to be no one in the Detachment who cares enough to run for Commandant. Since the job has to be done, I told the Nominating Committee that I would run again this year if no one comes forward by the election in March. There is still some time, if you want to run. If you want to do some other type of job, such as Chaplain, Mess Sergeant, or maybe head some committee--like the Adopt-A-Highway Committee--speak up at the March Meeting.

Speaking of the highway clean-up, the Detachment voted to continue this project for at least another year. Since everyone seems to think that this is such a good program, there should be quite a turn-out from here on. Keeping all that in mind, I announced at the meeting that the first clean-up of this year will be on the Saturday following the March Meeting. That date is March 17. Don't worry, I will be sure to remind you at the meeting. We will meet at Lu's Place, as usual, then, after a hearty FREE breakfast, we will proceed to the highway and clean it up. For those of you who haven't been out for a clean up yet, it takes longer to eat breakfast than to do the actual work. Lu's Place is located at the corner of Edison-Furlong Rd. and Route 263 in Furlong. If you want to come, but don't know where that corner is, see me at the meeting and I'll draw you a map.



## 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.

If you get this before the 28th of February, don't forget the Candlelight Vigil at the Bucks County Courthouse from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. I'll be there. Come keep me company. This is to mark the 10th anniversary of the cease-fire ending the Gulf War. I hope to see

you there, if not, I'll see you at the meeting.

Semper Paratus

## VA Warns About New Financial Scam

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is warning veterans about a financial scam that offers lump-sum payments in exchange for monthly VA disability checks or pensions.

VA pensions go to wartime veterans incapable of self-support for reasons unrelated to their military service.

VA disability compensation is paid to veterans with lingering health problems related to their time in uniform.

The scheme targets veterans who are in financial difficulty and tempts them to forfeit a large percentage of their future monetary benefits for temporary debt relief today.

Federal law outlaws the direct sale of VA benefits. VA is also prohibited from paying pensions and disability compensation to anyone other than a veteran, a family member or a lawful guardian.

The latest scheme, however, attempts to avoid the long-standing federal prohibition

by representing these transactions as loans. Companies persuade veterans to give up their disability and pension checks for a specific period--up to eight years--in exchange for a lump-sum cash payment typically worth 30-40 percent over the same period. In some cases, the veteran must also take out a life insurance policy naming the company as beneficiary.

In the case of a veteran with a disability rated at 50 percent, it could mean receiving a one-time payment of about \$20,000, then forfeiting a \$609 monthly payment that, in the course of eight years, would bring in nearly \$60,000.

VA lawyers are studying the fine print in these schemes to determine whether or not they are legal. Even if they are found to be legal, forfeiture of future benefits is not a good way to get out of debt. (Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs article 01/05/2001 <http://www.prnewswire.com>)

## 1st Marine Division Turns 60

The 1st Marine Division, the oldest and most decorated division in the Marine Corps, celebrated its 60th anniversary



Feb. 1 at Camp Pendleton, Calif., with a battle-streamers ceremony.

The division, which has distinguished

itself in battles from Guadalcanal and the Chosin Reservoir to Vietnam and Kuwait, was activated aboard the battleship TEXAS in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

During the Feb. 1 ceremony, streamers commemorating the many battles fought by the division were placed on the Marine Corps flag by veterans of some of those battles.

Division commander **Maj. Gen. James T. Conway** said the unit's colors never had been wrested away by an enemy. Marines, he said, spent "lots of miserable days and sleepless nights, smoke and blood, courage and sacrifice to win these streamers." He offered a moment of silence for Marines who gave their lives in those battles.

# Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, was held February 14, 2001, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 21 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **National Public Relations Officer and Past Commandant Don Gee**, **Past Commandants Donald D. Parzanese Sr., Bill Plant**, and **Frank Yohe**; **Department of New Jersey Past Commandant Ed Hoth**; and **Marine of the Year Bob Momorella**.

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

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

**Commandant Budd Pearce** announced the United Veterans Council will be holding a Candlelight Vigil at the County Courthouse on Wednesday, Feb. 28, from 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and enjoined the membership to participate. The ceremony marks the 10th anniversary of the end of the Gulf War. He also reported he had received a copy of the 14 changes to the Department of Pennsylvania's By-Laws and Administrative Procedures approved at the 1999 Department Convention. He also announced the Bucks County Veterans Affairs Office is looking for volunteer drivers and that the Fire Company had received the Detachment's \$100 donation. The Commandant reported the Korean Veterans Association is seeking support for its proposal to move the World War I Monument at the Courthouse to a new location. After a brief discussion, the membership determined the Detachment would not support the proposal.

**Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller** reported the Detachment strength at 55, including 15 Life Members, 36 Regular Members, and 4 Associate Members. There are two Delinquent members.

**Junior Vice Commandant Don Gee**, PC, reported that Raffle Tickets and money would be due at the June Meeting. He also stated he had received a notice from **Dan Fraley**, County Veterans Affairs, that veterans with Type II Diabetes are now eligible for compensation. Contact the County veterans Affairs Office for details.

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

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

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** reported there had been no requests for the Color Guard since the last meeting.

**Quartermaster Bob Duff** reported he had his table setup with items for the members to purchase.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Grocery Receipts Committee--Redner's Coordinator Gary Smith** reminded the members to keep submitting their grocery receipts to the Detachment. Commandant Pearce reported we had received a check from Genuardi's for \$89.00 for grocery receipts collected.

**POW/MIA Committee--POW/MIA Committee Chair Bill Plant**, PC, related an article stating there may have been as many as 2,500 POWs from Korea taken to China.

**Young Marines--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling** reported the Young Marines are planning a trip to Valley Forge on Sat., Feb. 17, and to the Hatboro YMCA for Red Cross swimming lessons on two Wednesday evenings. They are also hope to take a trip to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, and the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, VA.

**Adopt-A-Highway--Adopt-A-Highway Committee Chair Budd Pearce** asked for a determination from the members about continuing the program. The Detachment voted unanimously to continue with the program.

**Public Relations Committee--The Public Relations Officer set Feb. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the March issue of "Listen Up!" Advertising Coordinator Bob Momorella** explained that new advertisements for the newsletter would begin on April 1. He asked the members to try to acquire ads for the newsletter.

**Nomination Committee--Nomination Committee Chair Don Gee**, PC, announced the slate of officers to be voted upon at the March Meeting. The nominees are: Commandant- **Budd Pearce**; Senior Vice Commandant-- **Bill Miller**; Junior Vice Commandant-**Don Parzanese Jr.**; Adjutant-**Gary Smith**; Paymaster-**Bob Cody**; and Judge Advocate-**Bob Momorella**. Anyone desiring to run for office should contact Don Gee at (215) 822-6898 to be added to the slate.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** reported he had received a communication from Southampton that the town was looking for a World War II uniform to be used in an upcoming event. The Detachment determined the matter should be referred to All-Divisions Detachment with a note that we would assist them if needed.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Marine Mike Waldron** announced the Liberty Bell Chapter of the 1st Marine Division Association was planning a trip to the Marine Barracks at 8th & I Sts., Washington, DC, on June 1.

Marine Waldron also suggested the Detachment join with other organizations to conduct the 2001 Birthday Ball. The matter was discussed and tabled until after the Detachment Elections.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Mar. 14.**

## U.S. & North Korea Reach MIA Remains Agreement

U. S. and North Korean negotiators have reached an agreement under which joint teams will recover the remains of Americans missing in action from the Korean War, marking the sixth straight year the U. S. will conduct remains recovery operations in North Korea.

The agreement, following four days of negotiations in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, led by Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, expands the size of the U. S. teams, increases the length of U. S. activities and adds areas of operations around the Chosin Reservoir to the current areas in Unsan and Kujang counties, approximately 60 miles north of the capitol of Pyongyang.

Ten operations will be conducted in three areas between April and November. Each operation will last 32 days--up from 26 days each in 2000. Repatriation of remains will follow immediately thereafter. The increase in number of days essentially equates to 60 additional days, or two complete operations, be-

yond the levels set in the 2000 schedules. The U. S. component of the joint teams was expanded to 28 members from 20.

The agreement also establishes a procedure for sharing records and data related to witness interviews, potential burial locations and other information not previously made available by the North Koreans.

During the five operations in 2000 in the Unsan and Kujang areas, joint teams recovered 65 sets of remains. Forty-two were recovered in the four previous years. Five more have been positively identified, with another 10 nearing the final stages of identification. More than 8,100 servicemen are missing in action from the Korean War.

Operations in 2001 will include areas of investigation near Kaechon, approximately 18 miles south of Unsan and Kujang. Kaechon includes an area nicknamed "The Gauntlet," where the U. S. Army's 2nd Infantry Division conducted

its famous fighting withdrawal along a narrow road through six miles of Chinese ambush positions during November and December 1950. More than 950 missing in action soldiers are believed to be located in these three areas.

The Chosin Reservoir campaign left approximately 750 Marines and soldiers missing in action from both the east and west sides of the reservoir in northeast Korea.

The field teams are comprised primarily of specialists from the U. S. Army Central Identification Laboratory (CILHI), where the forensic identification work is done after the remains are repatriated. In addition to the mission of recovering and identifying remains from the Korean War, CILHI has the same responsibility in accounting for MIAs from the Vietnam War, the Cold War and World War II.

More information on U.S. recovery efforts is available at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmpo>.

## DARWIN AWARDS

*(Continued from Page 1)*

**Tony Roberts**, 25, lost his right eye last weekend during an initiation into a men's rafting club, Mountain Men Anonymous (probably known now as Stupid Mountain Men Anonymous) in Grant's Pass, Oregon. A friend tried to shoot a beer can off his head, but the arrow entered Robert's right eye. Doctors said that had the arrow gone 1 millimeter to the left, a major blood vessel would have been cut and Roberts would have died instantly. Neurosurgeon **Doctor John Delashaw** at the University Hospital in Portland said the arrow went through 8 to 10 inches of brain with the tip protruding at the rear of his skull, yet somehow managed to miss all major blood vessels. Delashaw also said that had Roberts tried to pull the arrow out on

his own, he surely would have killed himself. Roberts admitted afterwards that he and his friends had been drinking that afternoon. Said Roberts, "I feel so dumb about this." No charges have been filed, but the Josephine County district attorney's office said the initiation stunt is under investigation.

Now **THIS YEAR'S WINNER**: (The late) **John Pernicky** and his friend, (the late) **Sal Hawkins**, of the great state of Washington, decided to attend a local Metallica concert at the George Washington amphitheater. Having no tickets (but having had 18 beers between them), they thought it would be easy to "hop" over the nine foot fence and sneak into the show. They pulled their pickup truck over to the fence and the plan was for Mr. Pernicky, who was 100-pounds heavier than Mr. Hawkins, to hop the fence and then assist his friend over. Unfortunately for (the late) Mr. Pernicky, there was a 30-foot drop on the other side of the fence. Having heaved himself over, he found himself crashing through a tree. His fall was abruptly halted (and broken, along with his arm) by a large branch that snagged him by his shorts. Dangling from the tree with

a broken arm, he looked down and saw some bushes below him. Possibly figuring the bushes would break his fall, he removed his pocket knife and proceeded to cut away his shorts to free himself from the tree. Finally free, Mr. Pernicky crashed into holly bushes. The sharp leaves scratched his ENTIRE body and now, without the protection of his shorts, a holly branch penetrated his rectum. To make matters worse, on landing, his pocketknife penetrated his thigh. Mr. Hawkins, on seeing his friend in considerable pain and agony, decided to throw him a rope and pull him to safety by tying the rope to the pickup truck and slowing driving away. However, in his drunken haste/state, he put the truck into reverse and crashed through the fence landing on his friend and killing him. Police arrived to find the crashed pickup with its driver thrown 100 feet from the truck and dead at the scene from massive internal injuries. Upon moving the truck, they found John under it, half-naked, scratches on his body, a holly stick in his rectum, a knife in his thigh, and his shorts dangling from a tree branch 25-feet in the air.

Congratulations gentlemen, you win...

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## **2001 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**GULF WAR  
CANDLELIGHT VIGIL  
FEBRUARY 28  
7:30 P.M.  
BUCKS COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
&  
OFFICER ELECTION  
MARCH 14**

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY  
MARCH 17  
8 A.M.  
LU'S PLACE  
FURLONG**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
&  
OFFICER  
INSTALLATION  
APRIL 11**

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

**MARCH  
Albert W. BRAND  
Don PARZANESE Sr.  
Larry SCHEETZ  
Gerald T. TRAUM  
Michael WALDRON  
Leland WIMER.**

**APRIL  
Gregory BURCH  
Charles FLANAGAN  
Charles QUINTER**

## **NEWS BRIEFS**

### **Veterans Day Under Attack**

On top of the sacrifices veterans made during their active-duty years, legislation proposed by **Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (TX)** is asking them and the nation to sacrifice the traditional Nov. 11 "Veterans Day" every Presidential election year. H.R. 62 would move it to election day every four years as a legal public holiday for voting.

The holiday was originated as "Armistice Day" to celebrate the ending of World War I at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Many veterans are contacting their representatives asking them to oppose the bill (H.R. 62) and to find another way to facilitate voting.

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### **25,000 Korean War Medals Mailed to Date**

At the rate of mailing almost 750 per day, the Air Force Personnel Center's Special War-Medal Action team has mailed 25,000 Korean War Service Medals to recipients from all services. Some 5,000 more approved requests are waiting to be fulfilled. The Center expects to ship 150,000 medals a year for the next three years, said a spokesman.

Korean War veterans can get information on the KWSM by calling the Center at: (800) 558-1404 or visiting the AFPC Web Site at: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards>.

\*\*\*

### **New House Bills for Retirees**

Newly introduced legislation, HR-51, provides that service members who retire would be entitled to all benefits they were promised when they entered the service. The Military Retiree Health Care Task Force Act of 2001 would establish a task force of military and veterans service organization members and health care officials that would review the entire array of health care possibilities for Medicare-eligible military retirees and their dependents and provide Congress with a consolidated health care recommendation. The Military Retiree Health Care Relief Act would eliminate the Medicare Part B enrollment penalty for military retirees who have not yet enrolled.

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### **President's Pay Promise Likely to Hold**

The Fiscal Year 2002 Bush Administration DoD budget submission "will reflect the President's campaign promises to increase the pay for the military" and to improve their housing, said Presidential spokesman **Ari Fleischer** on Jan. 31. But major changes to the budget must await completion of a force structure review, he said. Pentagon spokesman **RAdm. Craig Quigley** said the Defense Secretary agrees with the review, which either may be part of the ongoing Quadrennial Defense Review or may be separate.

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### **Remains of Four Disinterred in Hawaii**

Four sets of remains believed to be those of missing-in-action servicemen from World War II and the Korean War have been disinterred from Hawaii's National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (the "Punch Bowl").

The cemetery is the resting-place of more than 800 remains classified as unknown from the Korean War, and more than 2,000 from WWII.

Specialists will supervise the disinterment and will apply forensic identification techniques, including mitochondrial DNA, to seek to identify the remains.

They believe the four sets offer a high probability of identification.

Family member believed to be associated with these remains have been contacted.

# Town Approves MCGCC, 29 Palms, Annexation

TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA--The Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of San Bernadino has

## Top SGLI Salesman

Pvt. Jones was assigned to the Army Induction Center where he was to advise new recruits about their government benefits, especially their Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI). It was long before Lt. Smith, the Center's Officer-in-Charge, noticed that Jones had an almost 100% record for insurance sales, which had never happened before. Rather than ask about it, Lt. Smith stood in the back of the room and listened to Jones's sales pitch.

Jones explained the basics of the SGLI to the new recruits and then said, "If you have SGLI and go into battle and are killed, the government has to pay \$200,000 to your beneficiaries. If you don't have SGLI and you go into battle and get killed, the government only has to pay a maximum of \$6,000.

"Now," he concluded, "which bunch do you think they're going to send into battle first?"

approved the City of Twentynine Palms' plans for annexation of a portion of the Marine Corps Ground Combat Center.

The next step in the annexation process requires the City of Twentynine Palms to hold a protest hearing.

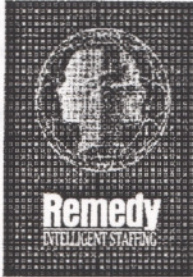
The portion proposed for annexation by the city comprises 3.00 square miles of the area generally known as "Main-side." Annexation would nearly double the city's population, and bring in an extra \$500,000 a year in state money to the community.

"We're pleased that the city isn't experiencing any problems with the annexation process," said Capt. Vincent

Bosquez, the Combat Center's Public Affairs Officer. "This is a win-win situation for everyone involved. The city gets additional revenue and the base population gets better city services."

Annexation of the Mainside portion of the Combat Center by the city does not bear any major negative consequences for the base, according to Capt. Bosquez. It allows MCAGCC to maintain good community relations, fosters a spirit of cooperation, and allows the base to become even closer neighbors with the community. The Department of the Navy's policy is generally to remain neutral in an annexation process.

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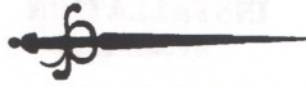
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## Application for Membership Marine Corps League

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

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Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement \_\_\_\_\_ SSN# \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Application -- New ( ) Renewal ( ) Associate ( ) Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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)

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