



LISTEN UP!

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

Commandant: ROBERT A. SUNDLING

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XV, Number 3

MARCH 2003



**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

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Jr. VICE COMMANDANT:
DONALD D. PARZANEZE Jr.

ADJUTANT:
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WEBMASTER:
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MARINE OF THE YEAR:
ELIIS M. "BUDD" PEARCE, PC

Court Says Promise to Vets Not Valid

FORT WALTON BEACH, FL--True to his word, Col. George "Bud" Day, attorney, Medal of Honor recipient and former POW, officially filed a petition with the U. S. Supreme Court on Jan. 24 seeking justice for hundreds of thousands of live WWII/ Korea era military retirees.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, Washington, D.C. ruled last November that Military Retirees have no legal standing and the U.S. government was authorized to break the offer of lifetime, free medical care to those servicemen and women who served their country honorably for 20+ years.

Col. Day expects a hearing before the Supreme Court and reversal of the November 2002 Federal Circuit order.

"This battle is not over. We were all aware that whichever way the Court of Appeals ruled, that the case would be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Much to my surprise, it is 'G.I. Joe' that is appealing" says Day, the attorney representing some 23,000 clients. "We will employ every offensive weapon we have at our disposal for presentation of this case to the U. S. Supreme Court".

"Rest will come when every possible argument is exhausted. Our fight is geared to convince the U. S. Supreme Court that military retirees are legally guaranteed to receive the benefits they were promised by the government when they signed up to devote their lives to the service of their country. We should never have been forced to wage this fight, but we are in it and four Federal Appeals Court Judges in their support of our cause gives strong hope."

Col. Day believes his arguments are strong and our government cannot be allowed to trample her warriors in favor of budgetary waste and continued political pork abuse.

One of the most highly decorated military officers since Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Col. Day took on this case more than six years ago.

"This has been the crusade of my life and I won't rest until the last round is fired.

"I hope every military retiree and veteran takes the Appeals Court set-back personally and demand your Congressional Representative and Senators take legislative action in conjunction with our legal fight to right this wrong," Day states.

Officials at the Department of Defense breached their contract with military retirees over the age of 65 - mostly World War II and Korea War career veterans - to receive medical care in military hospitals.

(See APPEAL, Page 6)

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON
12 MARCH 2003 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST,
315 NORTH ST, DOYLESTOWN, PA.

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

We had a good turnout at February's meeting.

It was nice to see **Ray Krout** back from his knee surgery. We missed you, Ray! It was also nice to welcome **Marine Monahan** to our detachment. He transferred from All Divisions and we welcome him aboard.

The Young Marines had a sleepover on the Battleship *New Jersey* this past weekend. We had 40 people, parents included. If you haven't been there, I'd recommend it highly. I spent a lot of time on the fantail alone at night and tried to visualize what it must have been like at sea. You can just feel the power as you look up at the 16" guns.

The kids were maniacs but that was to be expected. There were five other groups on board, all scouts. I'll tell you

all about it at our March meeting. It would take up the whole newsletter if I did it here and "**Gunny**" **Gee** may have other things you need to hear. I think the next trip is the Appalachian Trail.

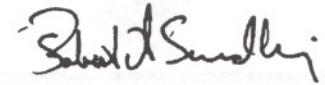
Special thanks to **Bob Momorella** and **Budd Pearce** for bringing goodies for my wife, **Peggy**, to send to the troops.

Please remember to bring something

to the next meeting. Don't go overboard. If everybody just brought on item each, we'd be in good shape. Thanks!

See you "all" at the March meeting.

Semper Fi,



Life is Better (& Funnier) Than Fiction

[Ed. Note: These are all true stories taken from West Coast newspapers]

1. WILL THE REAL DUMMY PLEASE STAND UP?

AT&T fired President John Walter after nine months, saying he lacked intellectual leadership. He received a \$26 million severance package.

Perhaps it's not Walter who's lacking intelligence.

2. WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS:

Police in Oakland, CA, spent two hours attempting to subdue a gunman who had barricaded himself inside his home. After firing 10 tear gas canisters, officers discovered that the man was standing beside them in the police line, shouting, "Please come out and give yourself up."

3. WHAT WAS PLAN B???

An Illinois man, pretending to have a gun, kidnapped a motorist and forced him to drive to two different automated teller machines, wherein the kidnapper proceeded to withdraw money from his own bank accounts.

4. THE GETAWAY!

A man walked into a Topeka, KS, Kwik Stop, and asked for all the money in the cash drawer. Apparently, the take was too small, so he tied up the store clerk and worked the counter himself for three hours until police showed up and grabbed him.

5. DID I SAY THAT???

Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup. When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words: "Give me all your money or I'll shoot," the man shouted,

"That's not what I said!"

6. ARE WE COMMUNICATING?

A man spoke frantically into the phone, "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart!" "Is this her first child?" the doctor asked. "No!" the man shouted, "This is her husband!"

7. NOT THE SHARPEST TOOL IN THE SHED!

In Modesto, CA, Steven Richard King was arrested for trying to hold up a Bank of America branch without a weapon. King used a thumb and a finger to simulate a gun, but unfortunately, he failed to keep his hand in his pocket.

(Hellllllloooooo!)

8. THE GRAND FINALE (I LOVE THIS ONE)

Last summer, down on Lake Isabella, located in the high desert, an hour east of Bakersfield, CA, some folks, new to boating, were having a problem. No matter how hard they tried, they couldn't get their brand new 22 ft. boat going. It was very sluggish in almost every maneuver, no matter how much power was applied. After about an hour of trying to make it go, they putted to a nearby marina, thinking someone there could tell them what was wrong.

A thorough topside check revealed everything in perfect working condition. The engine ran fine, the out drive went up and down, and the prop was the correct size and pitch. So, one of the marina guys jumped in the water to check underneath. He came up choking on water, he was laughing so hard.

Under the boat, still strapped securely in place, was the trailer.

2003 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DETACHMENT MEETING
MARCH 12**

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
MARCH 14**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME BEGINS
APRIL 6**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
APRIL 9**

**EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 20**

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.

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held February 12, 2003, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 325 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 16 members present including all officers except the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., and Frank Yohe; Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth** ; and, **Past Commandant and Marine of the Year Budd Pearce** . Guests included **Marine Fred Monahan** and **Harrison "Woody" Woodruff**, Chairman of the Doylestown Township Community Service Memorial Committee.

Marine Fred Monashan was unanimously accepted as a transfer from All Divisions Detachment.

The Minutes of the January Meeting were unanimously accepted.

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

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Bob Sundling reported on correspondence he had received from the Bucks County Office of Military Affairs explaining the new Department of Veterans Affairs "Priority Group 8." Members of this patient group have no compensable service-connected disability or other status making them eligible for a higher priority and have an annual income which exceeds the VA's means test. He also reported that Hardwick Cloths (which produces the red blazers for the Marine Corps League) has increased its prices (see Page 4).

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment Strength at 60 members including 40 Regular Members, 16 Life Members, and 4 Associate Members. There are six Delinquent Members.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. reminded the members about the Department Raffle. He still has tickets available for anyone wanting more to sell. He requested members bring the money for tickets sold to the March meeting. He also reported that things on the base at Willow Grove are not going well (in the club/catering area) and we should plan on holding the Birthday Ball at some other location.

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

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

Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, reported he had received correspondence from The Chapel of Four Chaplains about the Annual Banquet they held earlier in the month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adopt-A-Highway--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce , PC, set Mar. 15 as the date for the next highway clean-up. Members participating in the clean-up will meet at Tilley's Restaurant at 8 a.m. for breakfast.

Public Relations--The Public Relations Officer set Feb. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the March issue of Listen Up!

Young Marines--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling reported the unit is busy with swimming qualifications and numerous other activities. He stated the unit has new leadership and is making great progress.

Rife and Pistol Team--Past Commandant Budd Pearce announced the Department Pistol Match will; be held the first weekend in June.

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Sundling appointed **Junior Past Commandant Budd Pearce** to chair the Nomination Committee. Composed of Past Commandants, the committee was charged to present a list of candidates for Chapter elected office at the March Meeting. The Detachment will elect officers for the coming year at this meeting.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Commandant Sundling asked the members to remember to bring in non-perishable items to be sent to the troops in the Middle East.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marine Mike Waldron reported on his recent trip to Camp Lejeune, NC.

Past Commandant Don Gee announced there will be a meeting at the American Legion Post of the Doylestown Memorial Day Parade Committee at 7 p.m. on Mar. 18.

Doylestown Township Community Service Memorial Committee Chairman Woodruff made a presentation to the members about the Committee's activities and the plans for the memorial. He explained that the memorial is a tribute to all of those people who have served the community--nurses, teachers, veterans, firemen, etc. He told the members they could purchase individual engraved memorial bricks to honor those family members or friends who served the community. The Detachment has already purchased a memorial paver honoring Doylestown's only Medal of Honor recipient, SgtMaj. Charles R. Francis.

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

DoD NEWS BRIEFS

STATESIDE SPACE-A COMING FOR FAMILIES

Defense transportation officials have announced a one-year test to offer space-available travel privileges within the continental United States to family members accompanied by their sponsors. The test begins April 1, 2003, and will continue through March 31, 2004. Space-A flights will be available to dependents of both active-duty members and military retirees. Participants will have the same eligibility category as their sponsors. To register for Space-A travel, active-duty sponsors must be on leave or a pass and remain in that status while awaiting travel and through the entire travel period. Retirees may sign up 60 days in advance but not before the test begins April 1. Additional information is available at <http://public.scott.af.mil/index.html>.

CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST TRIWEST

Tucson attorneys have filed a class-action lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for Arizona on behalf of some 562,000 service members whose personal information was stolen during a burglary at the Phoenix office of TriWest Healthcare Alliance. The suit alleges that TriWest was negligent by failing to protect sensitive personal information it collected from plaintiffs Lt. Col. Michael Stoltenwerk and his wife Andrea De Gatica. The lawsuit also asserts the company should have provided a written warning before collecting individual Social Security numbers. TriWest maintains records for Tricare beneficiaries from Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and extreme Western Texas.

SHADES OF GREEN RE-OPENS IN FLORIDA

Reservation lines are now open for the new, improved Armed Forces Recreation Center, Shades of Green hotel, on

Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, FL. Shades of Green had been closed since early 2002 for expansion and complete renovation.

Meanwhile, guests eligible to stay there have been booked into Disney's Contemporary Resort at Shades of Green's daily rates. The rates are based on rank from a low of \$66 for E-1s through E-5s to \$99 for senior officers. The range starting Dec. 15 will be \$70 to \$116. All rooms will have ironing boards and televisions. Also available will be refrigerators, wireless TV keyboards and 12 hours of Internet access. For details, reservations, and eligibility, visit www.shadesofgreen.org or www.armymwr.com/shades/index.html, or call toll-free (888) 593-2242.

DOD EXPANDS ABILITY TO PROVIDE BLOOD

The Department of Defense has announced a "safety net" for obtaining blood and blood products if military collection centers cannot meet the needs of the Armed Forces. Currently, the military centers have provided a sufficient supply of blood products to meet overall needs, including all of the more than 17,000 units shipped in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Dr. William Winkenwerder, Assistant Secre-

tary of Defense for Health Affairs, noted, "The need for blood products increases significantly as new operations begin or the current operations tempo increases. In such situations, the Armed Services Blood Program Office historically has contracted to purchase blood from civilian agencies." In Operation Desert Storm, civilian agencies provided about 20 percent of the blood that was shipped. On Jan. 27, the ASBPO contracted with America's Blood Centers for DoD to purchase blood products from ABC if needed.

SOCIAL SECURITY AGE ELIGIBILITY RISES

Effective January of this year, individuals born in 1938 will have to wait until two months after age 65 before becoming eligible for full Social Security retirement. In 2004, those born in 1939 will be not be eligible until four months after reaching age 65. Those born on January 1 will fall under the regulations of the previous year.

The full retirement age will continue to rise annually until it reaches age 67 for those born in 1960 or later. Individuals can still retire as early as age 62, but they will receive reduced payments. The new Social Security age requirements do not effect the Medicare entitlement age, which remains at 65.

Thousands Mourn WWII Ace Joe Foss

Nearly 2,000 people came together in early January at Scottsdale (AZ) Bible Church for a farewell befitting Joe Foss, a flying ace who dedicated his life to public service, his church and family, reported *The Arizona Republic*.

Actor Charlton Heston, another member of Foss' generation, gave a brief but powerful tribute to his friend despite limitations caused by symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

Foss was also a mentor to NBC news anchorman Tom Brokaw, who said in videotaped remarks that Foss had the "aura of a hero but the openness of the guy next door."

Former First Lady Barbara Bush sent her family's regards in a letter saying, "The whole Bush family thought the world of you."

The memorial service was full of military pomp and circumstance, including a flyover by F-16s in a missing-man formation, *The Republic* said.

Foss was also a former governor of South Dakota, first commissioner of the American Football League and a past president of the National Rifle Assn., which Heston leads.

Foss died Jan. 1 at 87 in Scottsdale after suffering an aneurysm in Michigan in October.



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TO: All Marine Corps League Detachments
FROM: Hardwick Clothes, Inc.
SUBJECT: Price Increase
DATE: February 1, 2003

Effective immediately, the following will be the price for the red blazers.

Marine Corps League Price List Effective March 2003

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Men's Blazer	34-50	\$81.50
	52-56	\$89.65
Ladies Blazer	4-20	\$81.50
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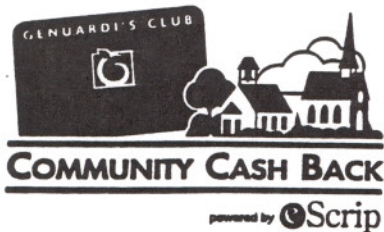
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APPEALS

(From Page 1)

This forced the retired members to buy Medicare B and other supplemental insurance costing thousands of dollars per year, to have the coverage which the U.S. previously provided for decades. The payment of several hundred dollars per month is cost prohibitive for many elderly G.I.s and particularly widows.

"After 20 years of care in military hospitals, my wife and I were kicked out and forced to rely on Medicare," says Robert "Bob" Reinlie, one of the plaintiff's. "This is not what I was promised when I pledged to serve my country for 20 years. I'm astonished that at the age of 82 years I must now fight for the medical care I earned."

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The first highway clean-up of the year will be on Saturday, March 15.

Meet at Tilly's Restaurant at 8 a.m. for breakfast "on the Detachment".

Afterward we will pick up the trash along Rt. 313 between Rt. 202 and Rt. 263.

For those who may be new to this, it doesn't take very long, we should be done before 10 a.m..

This is a great way to do a good deed for the community and have some fun shooting the breeze with your fellow Marines. Come on out and lend a hand!

FAMOUS QUOTES ABOUT MARINES

We have two companies of Marines running rampant all over the northern half of this island, and three Army regiments pinned down in the southwestern corner, doing nothing. What the hell is going on? [Gen. John W. Vessey Jr., USA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; during the assault on Grenada, 1983]

The safest place in Korea was right behind a platoon of Marines. Lord, how they could fight! [MajGen. Frank E. Lowe, USA, Korea, 26 January 1952]

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Knowledge and experience acquired while serving in the Marine Corps and the Central Intelligence Agency helped Detachment member **Ron Wootters** write this fictional novel.



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Type of Application -- New () Renewal () Associate () Phone (____) _____

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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.

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Remit this form with check or money order (made payable to **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MCL**)
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Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.
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"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"