

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXII, Number 3

MARCH 2009

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

CMC REAFFIRMS MARINE SALUTING REGULATIONS

A recent change to the law has authorized active duty and retired service members to salute the national Colors, whether covered or uncovered, indoors or out.

By custom and tradition, Marines **do not** render the hand salute when out of uniform or when uncovered. Let there be no confusion; that has not changed.

During the playing of the national An-

them, or the raising, lowering, or passing of the national flag, Marines will continue to follow naval traditions and the Policy/procedures contained in reference (a) [ALMAR, Page 5]. Specifically, Marines not in uniform will face the flag, stand at attention, And place the right hand over the heart.

If covered, Marines not in uniform will remove their headgear with the right hand

and place their right hand over their heart.

When the flag is not present, Marines will act in the same manner while facing In the direction of the music.

In cases such as indoor ceremonies, when Marines are in uniform and uncovered, they will face The flag, or the direction of the music when the flag is not present, and stand at attention.

VA Offers Healthcare to Previously Ineligible Vets

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced in January plans to reopen enrollment in its health care system by July 2009 to about 265,000 veterans whose incomes exceed current limits.

The change effects veterans whose incomes exceed the current VA means test and geographic means test income thresholds by 10 percent or less.

Congress provided funds in VA's fiscal year 2009 budget to support the new enrollment.

In 1996, Congress established a priority-based enrollment system for VA and a uniform package of medical benefits for all enrollees.

The legislation opened enrollment in VA's health care system to all eligible veterans and required that each year the Secretary of Veterans Affairs assess veterans' demand for services and determine if the necessary resources are available to provide timely, quality care to all enrollees.

Enrollment for the lowest priority of the eight groups—veterans who are not be-

ing compensated for a military-related disability and who have incomes above a set threshold—was suspended on January 18, 2003, although veterans in that priority group who were already enrolled for care were permitted to remain enrolled.

VA originally suspended enrollment for Priority 8 veterans because it was unable to provide all enrolled veterans with timely access to its health care due to a tremendous growth in the number of veterans then seeking enrollment.

VA now plans to reopen enrollment for a portion of these veterans without compromising the Department's ability to provide high quality health care services to all enrolled veterans who are eligible for care.

VA's computer systems are being modified to accommodate the changes, and the Department is preparing communication and education materials to ensure that Congress, veterans service organizations, and the public are aware of the coming changes.

2008 Toys-for-Tots Huge Success Despite Sluggish Economy

by Sharon Foster
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON--Sixteen million new toys were distributed to 7.6 million children over the Christmas holiday through the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

The program's aim is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to children in communities where campaigns are conducted.

The 2008 campaign took place in 657 communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

"This was a very successful campaign," retired Marine Corps Maj. William J. Grein, vice president of marketing and development for the Toys for Tots

Please see TOYS, Page 4



COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Our February meeting was well attended even though we were missing several Marines due to illness or work commitments. As some of you may know **Mess Sergeant Vince Hagan** had hip replacement surgery and is recuperating. **Past NE Division Vice Commandant Ed Hoth** had surgery to remove a blockage in his intestines and was due to be home from the hospital this week. Our

Judge Advocate, Jim McComb, was feeling under the weather and **Junior Vice Commandant Ben Jones** had a work commitment to be in Rochester, NY.

Past Commandant Budd Pearce, temporarily filling in for **Junior Past Commandant Bill Miller**, addressed the membership about the upcoming Detachment elections. He encouraged everyone who had an interest in participating in leadership to step up. As of today, all of the current officers have committed to remain in office for another year if there are no interested Marines to step up to accept nominations to elective office. As PC Pearce stated, Marines do not stand on the sidelines and watch, they step up and do! So, please think about serving your detachment in some capacity. Please contact PC Pearce or Junior PC Miller if you would consider stepping up.

During the past month, in my duties as Department SE District Assistant Vice Commandant, I participated in the Installation of Officers for the John Zaengle Detachment. Along with Junior PC Miller, I also attended the National Mid-Winter Conference in Falls Church, VA. I will discuss that in more detail at our next Detachment meeting.

I am trying to put together some historical information about some of the programs our Detachment has been involved in over the years. If you have any information about programs, the people

involved and the time frame they occurred, please get this information to me at your earliest convenience.

Well, that's it for this month and I hope to see you at our March meeting, when we will be electing the Officers to represent the Detachment for the next year.

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
WILLIAM L. MICKELSON**

**Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
BEN JONES**

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

**JUDGE ADVOCATE
JAMES McCOMB**

**QUARTERMASTER
COREY A. FISHER**

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

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
BOB SUNDLING, PC**

**MESS SERGEANT
VINCENT J. HAGAN**

**WEB SERGEANT
JOSEPH F. DOHERTY**

**OFFICER
ELECTIONS
WILL BE
HELD AT
THE
MARCH
MEETING
AT THE
AMERICAN
LEGION
POST**

FEBRUARY DETACHMENT MEETING



MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held February 11, 2009, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 510 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 17 members present including all officers except the Junior Vice Commandant and the Judge Advocate. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Budd Pearce and Bob Sundling**.

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

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

Sick Call: **Judge Advocate Jim McComb** is under the weather. **Mess Sergeant Vince Hagen** is undergoing therapy for hip surgery and **Marine Ed Hoth**, PDC, was in the hospital.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell will be attending the National Mid-Winter Staff Meeting this coming weekend (Feb. 14-15) in Falls Church, VA. He also reported the Young Marines will celebrate their 60th Anniversary on Apr. 24-25 in Waterbury, CT. They are looking for MCL members to attend. Additionally, the Scotland School for Children will be holding an "Open House" on Mar. 21 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Anyone interested in attending should contact the Commandant for the particulars. Also, the "American Legion Riders" of Pembroke, PA, are seeking 5'x9' flag donations to replace the flags along the "Avenue of Flags" at Ft. Indiantown Gap on May 9 and they are looking for volunteers to help with posting the replacement flags. Contact the Commandant if you are interested in donating or volunteering. The Department is looking for photos for its annual calendar fund-raiser. Check out the Department website for additional information.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Mickelson reported the Detachment strength at 56 members including 28 Life Members, 23 Regular Members, 4 Associate Members and 1 Honorary Life Member. There are two members delinquent and three members on active duty.

The Adjutant/Paymaster reported the Washington Crossing Foundation has invited Detachment members and their families to observe Washington's Birthday at "Shadyside" in Bristol on Feb. 22.

He also reported the Marine Corps League has instituted a program (MAPS 1) in which Detachments will receive a \$5.00 bonus for each former member brought back into the fold. The former member must have been out of the League for at least a year before the Detachment can qualify for this incentive.

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

Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC, reported **Ed Hoth** was in Rm. 218 at Doylestown Hospital recovering from an operation to remove a tumor. The Detachment sent flowers to him.

The Public Relations Officer set Feb. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the March issue of "Listen Up!" **Quartermaster Corey Fisher** reported he has part of his "locker box" at this meeting and is accepting "special order" items.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce reported the next highway clean-up will be scheduled when the weather is more conducive.

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Budd Pearce asked that anyone interested in joining the Pistol Team contact him as soon as possible so our Detachment Team can send in the necessary registration forms for the upcoming match. He reported the Department Rifle Match will be held at a range some distance from Ft. Indiantown Gap since the Army has torn down its rifle range.

Acting Nominating Committee Chairman Budd Pearce announced all of the incumbent officers have agreed to run again for their respective offices. He stated he was still looking for "new blood" to run for office. If anyone is interested in running for Detachment office or has someone they would like to nominate for office, Budd can be contacted at 215-343-5609. Elections will be held at the March Meeting and installation will take place at the April Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Powell presented Life Member cards and lapel pins to **Marines Chuck Flanagan** and **Gary Smith**.

The Adjutant/Paymaster made a motion the Detachment donate \$100.00 to the Philadelphia Veterans Comfort House. The House is a non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] which provides a "home away from home" for veteran patients while they undergo treatment at the V-A Medical Center. The motion was carried unanimously. Individuals wishing to contribute to the Comfort House can send donations to: Philadelphia Veterans Comfort House, 4108 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commandant Powell announced a "fund raising breakfast" will be held at the American Legion Post on Sun., Feb. 22, from 7:30 a.m. until noon. Cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under six years of age. The profits will go toward repairing the Legion Post building. He also noted that HBO will air "Taking Chance" on Feb 21. The film is about a Marine Lieutenant Colonel who escorts the body home of a Marine killed in combat. Additionally, he noted the "Somerset Patriots" minor league baseball team (Somerset, NJ) will be holding its annual "Veterans of America Day" in August.

Veterans are admitted free and are recognized during the game.

Marine Mike Waldron reported he had acquired copies of "The Constitution" and "The American Government" for the members to pick up at this meeting.

The Adjutant/Paymaster reminded the members the first 2009 meeting of the United Veterans of Doylestown will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 18 at the American Legion Post.

Marine Wil Haas thanked the members who brought coats and clothing for the homeless to this meeting for their support.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until March 11 at 7:30 p.m. when the Detachment will again meet at the American Legion Post on North St.

TOYS-FOR-TOTS *(Continued from Page 1)*

Foundation, said.. "We were very pleased with the outcome. We feel we touched a lot of needy families over the holidays."

The American people and the campaign's corporate sponsors are to be applauded for their compassion and generosity during tough economic times, he said.

"Toy donations were slightly down, but we did see an increase in cash contributions," Grein said. "This was a very interesting year. Our feelings were, maybe folks couldn't afford to buy a \$20 toy, but still were willing to make a \$10 or \$15 donation."

Despite the economy, the campaign was successful because of outstanding efforts on the part of local Toys for Tots campaign coordinators, the Marine Forces Reserve and the staff of the Toys for Tots Foundation, campaign officials said.

"We are dealing with children that don't often understand the result of a bad economy," Grein said. "They just can't rationalize it. All they know, all they see is Christmas is a time when Santa comes and when good things happen. They want to be a part of that. As a parent, I would be crushed if I was not able to give a gift to my child at Christmas. This program brings hope and smiles to parents and children."

**CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT
MARINES ON THE NET**

- CAPRIO, Paul midupe@aol.com
- CODY, Bob codyrj@att.net
- CUPITT, Steve scupitt@aol.com
scupitt@motorola.com
- GEE, Don USMCCCA@aol.com
- HOTH, Ed Edhothusmc@aol.com
- JONES, Ben benjaminjones1@gmail.com
- KELLER, Bruce bruce@taylosbucks.com
- McCOMB, Jim jim_mccomb@verizon.net
- MILLER, Bill billjae@verizon.net
- MOMORELLA, Bob mombo@starlinxcom
- PARZANESE, Tony tonyparz@hotmail.com
- PARZANESE, Don, Sr. parzanease@quigleyco.com
- PARZANESE, Don, Jr. donald.parzanease@us.army.mil
- PEARCE, Budd Buddpearce@comcast.net
- POWELL, Jim jim.powell@aig.com
usmc80@comcast.net
- SCOTT, Rich richgscott@aol.com
- SUNDLING, Bob psundling@verizon.net
sundling@tiniusolsen.com
- WALDRON, Mike waldron@quigleyco.com

**SCHEDULE
OF EVENTS**

**ASH WEDNESDAY
25 FEBRUARY**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME BEGINS
8 MARCH**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
11 MARCH**

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

**1ST DAY OF SPRING
20 MARCH**

**APRIL FOOL'S DAY
1 APRIL**

**PALM SUNDAY
5 APRIL**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
8 APRIL**

**GOOD FRIDAY
10 APRIL**

**EASTER
12 APRIL**

**INCOME YAX
DUE
15 APRIL**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
15 APRIL**

CMC SALUTING ALMAR

UNCLASSIFIED//

ALMAR 052/08

MSGID/GENADMIN/CMC WASHINGTON DC CMC//

SUBJ/CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS//

REF/A/DESC:DOC/CMC WASHINGTON DC/05MAY2003//

AMPN/REF A IS MCO P5060.20, MARINE CORPS DRILL AND CEREMONIES MANUAL.//

GENTEXT/REMARKS:

1. THIS ALMAR REINFORCES THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS AND AMPLIFIES THE PROVISIONS OF THE REFERENCE FOR RENDERING SALUTES AND HONORS TO THE NATIONAL FLAG; THE PROPER CONDUCT OF THE MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY; AND THE PLAYING OF THE MARINES' HYMN.

2. CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS PROVIDE A LINK TO THE PAST; THEY BOND MARINES WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE WITH MARINES WHO WILL CARRY THE TORCH THROUGH THE FUTURE. ANY LOSS OF TRADITION OR IMPROPER OBSERVATION OF CUSTOM BLURS OUR IDENTITY AND WEAKENS US AS AN INSTITUTION. THROUGH THE FAITHFUL ADHERENCE BY COMMANDERS AND EACH INDIVIDUAL MARINE, WE PRESERVE OUR IDENTITY AND REPUTATION AS A UNIQUE AND ELITE FIGHTING ORGANIZATION.

3. SALUTING. A RECENT CHANGE TO THE LAW HAS AUTHORIZED ACTIVE DUTY AND RETIRED SERVICEMEMBERS TO SALUTE THE NATIONAL COLORS, WHETHER COVERED OR UNCOVERED, INDOORS OR OUT. BY CUSTOM AND TRADITION, MARINES DO NOT RENDER THE HAND SALUTE WHEN OUT OF UNIFORM OR WHEN UNCOVERED. LET THERE BE NO CONFUSION; THAT HAS NOT CHANGED. DURING THE PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, OR THE RAISING, LOWERING, OR PASSING OF THE NATIONAL FLAG, MARINES WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW NAVAL TRADITIONS AND THE POLICY / PROCEDURES CONTAINED IN REFERENCE (A).

SPECIFICALLY, MARINES NOT IN UNIFORM WILL FACE THE FLAG, STAND AT ATTENTION, AND PLACE THE RIGHT HAND OVER THE HEART. IF COVERED, MARINES NOT IN UNIFORM WILL REMOVE THEIR HEADGEAR WITH THE RIGHT HAND AND PLACE THEIR RIGHT HAND OVER THEIR HEART. WHEN THE FLAG IS NOT PRESENT, MARINES WILL ACT IN THE SAME MANNER WHILE FACING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE MUSIC. IN CASES SUCH AS INDOOR CEREMONIES, WHEN MARINES ARE IN UNIFORM AND UNCOVERED, THEY WILL FACE THE FLAG, OR THE DIRECTION OF THE MUSIC WHEN THE FLAG IS NOT PRESENT, AND STAND AT ATTENTION.

4. THE MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY. THE MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY IS ONE OF OUR TIME-HONORED TRADITIONS IN GARRISON, IN THE FIELD, AND IN COMBAT. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE CEREMONY IS THE TRADITIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE OLDEST AND YOUNGEST MARINES PRESENT. TO CLARIFY THE LANGUAGE IN REFERENCE (A), THE COMMANDER CUTS THE CAKE AND HANDS THE FIRST PIECE TO THE GUEST OF HONOR. THEN THE COMMANDER HANDS THE SECOND PIECE OF CAKE TO THE OLDEST MARINE PRESENT AS A SIGN OF HONOR AND RESPECT TO EXPERIENCE AND SENIORITY. AFTER TAKING A BITE, THE OLDEST MARINE PASSES THE SECOND PIECE OF CAKE, AND A CLEAN FORK, DIRECTLY TO THE YOUNGEST MARINE PRESENT; THIS ACTION SYMBOLIZES THE PASSING OF WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, AND EXPERIENCE, AS WELL AS TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THOSE WHO WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY ON OUR MARINE CORPS TRADITIONS.

5. PLAYING OF THE MARINES' HYMN. THE MARINES' HYMN IS THE OFFICIAL HYMN OF THE MARINE CORPS. IT IS THE SONG OF PRAISE TO OUR INSTITUTION AND THE LYRICS ARE A DIRECT TRIBUTE TO OUR WARFIGHTING CULTURE. BY CUSTOM AND TRADITION, THE MARINES' HYMN IS THE LAST SONG PLAYED AT CEREMONIES AND GATHERINGS OF MARINES. ALTHOUGH THE REFERENCE ALLOWS FOR THE PLAYING OF SPECIAL MUSIC REQUESTS BEFORE THE MARINES' HYMN, SUCH AS "ANCHOR'S AWEIGH," THIS IS BY EXCEPTION AND AT THE DISCRETION OF THE LOCAL COMMANDER.

6. ONE OF OUR HALLMARKS AS MARINES IS THAT WE ARE AS GOOD ON PARADE AS WE ARE IN THE ATTACK. OUR SHARP APPEARANCE - IN AND OUT OF UNIFORM - AND OUR SUCCESS IN BATTLE ARE TWO IMPORTANT PARTS OF OUR IDENTITY. WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR TRADITIONS, AND THEIR UNIFORM APPLICATION, WHEREVER MARINES ARE ASSIGNED.

7. SEMPER FIDELIS,

JAMES T. CONWAY, GENERAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS,

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS.//

MARY WALKER: Only Woman Medal of Honor Recipient

From the Battle of Bull Run to Chickamauga, this doctor proved worthy on Civil War (1861-65) battlefields

For actions during the Civil War, 1,520 Medals of Honor were awarded. One of those honorees was **Mary Walker**, the only woman ever to receive the nation's highest military honor.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Walker was a young surgeon trying to receive an appointment as an Assistant Surgeon General in the Union Army. Walker spanned the East Coast, working where her valuable skills were needed, aiding in both the field and in hospitals.

Walker started a relief organization, the Womens Relief Association, for women coming to Washington, DC, looking for wounded sons and husbands lost in the maze of wartime hospitals. She also used her personal funds to establish a home for unwed mothers.



Eventually, the shortage of competent medical personnel became severe, so Walker was named a civilian contract assistant surgeon. She treated the wounded at the Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861, and after the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863, where she served with the 52nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Although she held ranks from First Lieutenant to Major, Walker was actually ineligible for those positions. She was not enlisted, and was thus ineligible for benefits granted other officers.

Walker made it standard practice to venture outside Union lines to aid local citizens, a move that some doctors wouldn't make for fear of capture and imprisonment.

Walker had been with her unit more than a month when the event occurred that would change her life. She was taken prisoner by Confederate troops and held for the next four months. Although she was treated civility because of her sex, she was otherwise treated no differently from the male POWs and suffered greatly.

Her once surgically precise hands were no longer so. Her optic muscles had atrophied to the extent that she could not even read a newspaper after she was freed.

She and 25 other Union medical officers were released in an August 1864 exchange for 17 Confederate doctors. She was transferred to the Female Military Prison in Louisville, KY, and spent the remainder of the war serving the inmates there.

Once the dust of the war had settled, Walker was awarded the Medal of Honor on Jan. 11, 1866, at the behest of her superior officers and close friends. The medal's citation noted that Walker "endured hardships as a prisoner of war," and that she devoted herself to the sick and wounded.

Unable to practice medicine due to her crippled hands, Walker became a crusader for women's rights. She worked on everything from labor issues to dress reform, which she took quite seriously. Walker often wore men's clothes, for both personal comfort and to speed up clothing reform. Some referred to her as the "little lady in pants."

During the war, Congress had even passed a special bill permitting Walker to wear men's clothing, as it was vital to her duty as a physician. Hoop skirts and petticoats, she said, were too large and bulky for battlefields or horseback.

Controversy erupted in 1917 when Congress took away Walker's medal, in addition to 910 others, after rewriting the standards to include only "actual combat with an enemy." Walker refused to return the Medal of Honor to the Army as requested. Some say she wore it until her death in 1919.

The Army reinstated Walker's medal posthumously in 1977, citing her "distinguished gallantry, self-service, patriotism, dedication and unflinching loyalty to her country."

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



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**

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"