



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XIII, Number 5

MAY 2001

WE NEED YOUR HELP, APR. 29-30!

*by Bob Momorella
A-Day Coordinator*

It's time for our "A-Day" fund-raising weekend. We will be manning the parking areas on Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29.

We hope our Detachment turnout will be as good this year as it has been for the past few years. This is a very busy time of the year for everyone, especially homeowners with yard work.

However, this is our most effective fund-raiser. We raise more money in these two days than we do the rest of the year.

Understand that without Marines, we cannot staff the lots. If we don't have two Marines at each lot, we'll have to close the lot this year. It is a very long day out there when you're alone and we can't ask anyone to do that. With a good turnout of Marines, it's easy work and the day goes fast.

The Detachment buys drinks and lunch. So, please come out and help this year --we need YOU to make this work. Please let me know what time you can volunteer to help. Call me at (215) 997-6149 or e-mail me at: mombo@starlinx.com. Don't delay; contact me now.



**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**

**Meets
7:30 p.m.,
2d Wednesday of Month
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315 North Street, Doylestown, PA**

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**Jr. VICE COMMANDANT:
DONALD D. PARZANEZE Jr.**

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

**MESS SERGEANT
WIL HAAS**

**WEBMASTER
TRACY BROCKMAN**

**MARINE OF THE YEAR
BOB MOMORELLA**

Recon Corpsman Gets MCL Award

This year's winner of the Marine Corps League's "Doc" Piercy Award is Chief Petty Officer Tavita F. Saelua, a 14-year veteran with Marine Corps reconnaissance units.

Saelua, a 37-year-old father of two, is stationed at Camp Scwab, Okinawa, Japan. He earned the award for his ability to juggle the multitude of responsibilities of a recon corpsman.

Each year, a Navy corpsman or dental technician assigned to a Fleet Marine Force unit earns the award by making an "outstanding contribution to increased medical combat readiness."

Saelua's efficiency and effectiveness in prepping 3rd Reconnaissance Battal-

ion for deployment throughout the year were recognized as outstanding by his Marine commanders.

Saelua sees his exemplary performance as just "doing his job," but he said it takes more than just being a corpsman to survive and even prosper in a recon unit.

"Being able to be a corpsman, first of all, is important," Saelua said. "But also they must be able to pick up and go at any time.

"They must always be prepared. And they must be able to do what is expected of Marines."

The award is named for George William "Doc" Piercy who was killed in the 1983 Beirut bombing.

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT
1930 ON 9 MAY 2000 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315
NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

ARMED FORCES NEWS BRIEFS

Government Attacks Lifetime Medical Care Ruling

A three-judge federal appeals court decision on February 8 was a step forward for free lifetime medical care and back payments for certain military retirees, but the Bush administration is trying to give it a step backward. Last week, government lawyers requested a rehearing of the case before the full 11-judge federal circuit court of appeals. At issue is as much as \$15 billion that the government would have to pay retirees who entered the service before June 7, 1956, and served 20 years or more. Although the three-judge decision would have limited individual claims to \$10,000, a subsequent class action proceeding would involve up to 1.5 million retirees. Even if the court denies a rehearing, retired Air Force Colonel George "Bud" Day, a medal of honor recipient who is the attorney for the retirees, said he expects the U.S. Attorney to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

TFL Depends Upon Medicare Doctors

Tricare for Life begins October 1 for Medicare-eligible military retirees, their spouses and survivors. Starting that date, a beneficiary can walk into some 90 percent of the doctor's offices in the U.S. for treatment, confident that Medicare will be first payer and Tricare the second. However, the patient must know which of the nine out ten physicians in the area accept Medicare assignment. Visit Medicare's Participating Physi-

cian Directory at <http://www.medicare.gov/Physician/Home.asp>, to find providers by state or zip code and by specialty.

Tricare Senior Pharmacy Update

The Tricare Senior Pharmacy program kicked off April 1 with prescriptions quickly topping the 150,000 mark, and with few reported serious glitches. TSP, with choices of local retail or mail order purchases, offers most generic drugs for \$3 and brand names for \$9, with a 30-day supply from the local pharmacy or a 90-day package from the local National Mail Order Pharmacy. Beneficiaries are military retirees, spouses, and survivors who are Medicare-eligible and participate in Medicare Part B (also those who

were Medicare-eligible before April 1 who did not sign up for Part B).

If experiencing problems with TSP at a pharmacy, call 1-877-DOD-MEDS (363-6337) for on-the-spot assistance. For a copy of the DoD Tricare Senior Pharmacy pamphlet, click on <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/downloads/Senior.pdf>.

For a list of retail network pharmacies in your area, visit http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/retail_network.htm. To get NMPO forms, navigate to <http://www.merckmedco.com> or call 1-800-903-4680. For more information about TSP, scroll through www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/newsenior.htm.

Oldest Marine Corps Veteran Dies at 112

The man recognized as the nation's oldest veteran, whose life took him from the hills of Tennessee to the front lines of France and back again, has died at the age of 112. **John Painter** fought World War I with horses, then shod them as a blacksmith when he got back home. He died Mar. 1 of a heart attack at his home in the north-central Tennessee community of Hermitage Springs.

He enlisted in the Army in 1917 and his war service including leading horse-driven ammunition wagons to the front lines of World War I.

"He should be best remembered for having a long, rich life," said Wendell H. Gilbert, commissioner of Tennessee's Department of Veterans Affairs. "He served his country with great distinction. He was a very patriotic American."

A representative of the Bush administration attended his Mar. 4 funeral, along with Gilbert and members of both of Tennessee's congressional delegation and General Assembly. Gov. Don Sundquist also attended.

The Department of Veterans Affairs said Painter was believed to be the nation's oldest surviving veteran.

Painter's longevity earned him various honors, including France's Order of the Legion of Honor--that country's highest honor.

Painter was born Sept. 20, 1888, and grew up working as a blacksmith and farmer in the Keeling Branch community of Jackson County, TN. He and his brother enlisted in the Army together and were sent to France.

The brothers were discharged in 1919. Painter returned to blacksmithing.

Painter rarely spoke of his experiences at war, but he treasured the awards he was given through the years.

2000 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

A-DAY FUND RAISER
APRIL 28-29
DELAWARE VALLEY COLLEGE

DETACHMENT MEETING
MAY 9

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
MAY 28
C. B. WEST HIGH SCHOOL

DETACHMENT MEETING
JUNE 13

4TH OF JULY PARADE
JULY 4
CHAL-BRIT SHOPPING CTR.



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 was held April 11 at the Albert E. Atkinson American legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 23 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **National Public Relations Officer and Past Commandant Don Gee, Department of Pennsylvania Senior Vice Commandant John Moyse, Department Junior Vice Commandant Tom Tanner, Department Southeastern Vice Commandant Ray Devlin, Past Commandants Don Parzanese Sr., Bill Plant and Frank Yohe, Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth, and Marine of the Year Bob Momorella.**

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

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

Commandant Budd Pearce announced the local VFW Post is sponsoring a bus trip to Harrisburg on May 8 to meet with **State Representative Chuck McIlhenney.** The bus departs the Legion Post at 7 a.m.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported our strength at 55 including 15 Life Members, 36 Regular Members and 4 Associate Members. We have two delinquent members.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, announced the Central Bucks Detachment Web Site has won the "Distinguished Military Site Award." The award will be displayed on our Web Page for the remainder of the year. Congratulations to **Web Master Tracy Brockman** for earning this award. He also reminded the members that all raffle tickets and money for the Department Raffle must be turned in by the June Meeting.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported there was no correspondence in addition to that already reported.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling reported he had received no requests for the Detachment Color Guard but it would be taking part in the Memorial Day Parade.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POW/MIA Committee--POW/MIA Committee Chair Bill Plant, PC, asked if any of the members had received a copy of "The Gulag Report." He would like to get a copy if someone has one.

Adopt-A-Highway--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce set Saturday, April 14 as the date for the highway clean-up. **Past Commandant Bill Plant** will coordinate future clean-ups.

Public Relations Committee --The Public Relations Officer set Apr. 20 as the deadline for submitting articles for the May issue of "Listen Up!" **Advertising Coordinator Bob Momorella** reported \$110 in ad sales had been received and thanked **Past Commandant Plant** for his outstanding effort in selling ads.

Rifle & Pistol Team--Commandant Pearce announced the Department Pistol Match is set for the first weekend in June.

Young Marines--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling reported the Young Marines will be holding a "Coin Toss" and are planning a hike along the Appalachian trail. The Young Marines would also like to participate with us in the Memorial Day Parade in Doylestown.

A-Day Parking--A-Day Parking Coordinator Bob Momorella announced he was looking for members to man parking areas for Delaware Valley College's A-Day on Apr. 28-29. Give him a call at (215) 997-6149 to add your name to the list.

NEW BUSINESS

The VFW has requested that all five veterans organizations in the Doylestown area donate funds to cover the cost of having the Shriners in the Memorial Day Parade. After discussion, the request was defeated.

Past Commandant Don Parzanese asked that the Detachment look into acquiring our own space from the Legion. **Commandant Pearce** said he would look into it.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Marine Wil Haas is organizing a bus trip to 8th & I Sts., in Washington, DC, for an evening parade. Cost will be approximately \$25 per person. Contact him at (215) 257-7828 for more details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marine Mike Waldron announced the Liberty Bell Chapter of the 1st Marine Division Association will be holding a Birthday Ball this year.

Past Commandant Plant stated he takes a Marine Corps flag to each of the chainsaw carving events in which he participates. He said it is a good recruiting tool.

OFFICER INSTALLATION

The Department officers in attendance installed the Department Officers for the 2001-2002 term.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned until May 9 at 7:30 p.m.

MARINE BUGLERS STILL MAKE THE CALL

Since ancient times, all types of musical instruments have been associated with military traditions. Drums were used to "beat commands" to troops of the Roman Empire. Colonial American militia used British-influenced fifes to communicate on the battlefield. The United States Marine Corps adopted the bugle as its instrument of choice for communication and ceremonial purposes more than a century ago. Marine Corps posts throughout the world still used recorded bugle calls to send messages to Marines, but nowhere is the tradition of the bugle call more preserved than at "The oldest Post of the Corps." Marine Barracks, 8th and I is the only Marine post still using a live bugler, or "duty music," to perform the traditional calls on a daily basis, according to MSgt. Stephen MacSisak, USMC (Ret.), a former member of "The Commandant's Own," the United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, and the current historian for the unit.

The staff at 8th & I, especially the Drum & Bugle Corps, have always tried to preserve music and its tradition at the Barracks, according to MacSisak. "Some things here just seem to resist change," he said. The Marine Corps adopted the bugle as its duty music's instrument in 1881 and established its first music school at the Barracks. At that time, the Corps began the practice of assigning

newly enlisted Marine buglers to the guard of the day at all Marine posts, including barracks and ships. "Back in those days, the top of the classes went to sea and served as orderlies for ships' captains," said MacSisak. "They sounded all the calls aboard the ship and rang the bells."

Buglers at sea and in garrison had their work cut out for them when the Navy standardized the calls for the newly acquired bugle in 1892. "There are 40 calls for the regular posts and about 125 seagoing calls," said MacSisak. "There's a call for everything, really," he said. The modern calls have changed very little though many of the original calls are no longer used on modern posts, according to MacSisak. For instance, the warnings of "Fire Call" and "To Arms" are alarm calls no longer fall under the responsibility of buglers because of modern alarms and communications. These signals, like the "Stable Call," have simply become outdated. However, many bugle calls are still as much a part of life in the Marine Corps as ever. "There is a lot of tradition involved with playing bugle calls," said LCpl. Scott A. Pierce, a Drum & Bugle Corps soprano bugle player who stands duty as a bugler. "Depending on the day of the week, we play about 11 calls," he said. "The main ones are First Call, Colors, Chow Call, Liberty Call, and Recall

daily, and Church Call on Sundays."

While civilian visitors to the Barracks sometimes acknowledge calls like Morning and Evening Colors, the calls are mostly recognized by the Marines, according to Pierce. "Having a live, duty music on centerwalk is definitely an impressive sight for visitors," said Sgt. Mark S. Miller, ceremonial bugler for Marine Barracks, 8th & I. "It upholds the way bugle calls started and the way they were meant to be sounded," he said.

Purple Hearts May Rate VA Upgrades

The Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act has placed veterans awarded a Purple Heart in enrollment priority Group 3 for VA medical care.

The new law also exempts them from co-payments associated with VA care. VA has directed its field stations to move qualified veterans previously in Priority Groups 4 through 7 to Group 3 and to omit co-payment requirements.

The agency also has ordered that such veterans be reimbursed for any co-payments paid on or after November 30, 1999.

Eligible veterans may submit documentation, such as DD-214s, service records, orders of award, or the certificate, for inclusion in their VA health records.



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JUNE

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THE ORIGINS OF MEMORIAL DAY

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of former Union soldiers and sailors--the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)--established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate graves of the war dead with flowers. MajGen. John A. Logan declared it should be May 30. The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, DC. The cemetery already held the remains of 20,000 Union dead and several hundred Confederate dead.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant and other Washington officials presided. After speeches, children from the Soldiers and Sailors Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, MS, April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today cities in the North and the

South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, GA, claim the title, as well as Richmond, VA. The village of Boalsburg, PA, claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, IL, cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866.

Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon B. Johnson declared Waterloo, NY, the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There a ceremony on May 5, 1866, was reported to have honored local soldiers and sailors who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-mast. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day. The Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971 Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of

Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day the last Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

Gen. Logan's order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 "with the choicest flowers of springtime" urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ...Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave--a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.



CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.



WORKSHEET FOR VETERAN'S SURVIVORS

BE PREPARED: Complete this form and keep it in a personal file. When needed, this information will prove most valuable in establishing veterans benefits and rights at some future time.

Veteran's Full Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ Place: _____

Social Security No: _____ VA Claim No: C- _____

GI Insurance File No: _____ Service Serial No: _____

Active Duty Service Dates: _____

Place(s) of Entry: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Place(s) of Separation: _____

Discharge (or DD Form 214) recorded at: City _____

County: _____ State: _____ Vol: _____ Page: _____

Spouse's Full Name Prior to Marriage: _____

Date of Marriage: _____ Place: _____

Previous Marriages of Veteran (Names, dates, places):

1. _____

2. _____

Previous Marriages of Spouse (Names, dates, places):

1. _____

2. _____

Children (Names, dates, places of birth):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Member of Following Veterans Organizations: _____

If you desire a veteran's burial service using the U. S. Flag, it is necessary that the veteran's Social Security Number and Military Service Number, and VA Claim Number be supplied to obtain a flag.

FILL THIS FORM OUT, SO IT WILL BE AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED.

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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 (____) _____

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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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CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
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