



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: **WILLIAM R. MILLER**

Editor: **DON H. GEE**

VOLUME XVI, Number 5

MAY 2004



**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
DON H. GEE, PC

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
JAMES POWELL

ADJUTANT
GARY SMITH

PAYMASTER
ROBERT J. CODY

JUDGE ADVOCATE
WILLIAM E. JERROM

QUARTERMASTER
ROBERT DUFF

CHAPLAIN
EDWARD W. HOTH, PDC

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
WILLIAM L. MICKELSON

MESS SERGEANT
WIL HAAS

WEBMASTER
JAMES E. PEARCE

MARINE OF THE YEAR
ROBERT J. CODY

New Detachment Officers Installed

In June 1957, 18-year-olds Bill Miller and Ed Ringer had graduated high school in Washington County, PA.

On Apr. 14, 2004, **Bill Miller** and **Ed Ringer** were together again. This time, Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania Southwest Division Commandant Ed Ringer was installing Central Bucks Detachment Commandant Bill Miller in his new position.

Also taking part in the installation was another Washington County friend **Southwest Division Aide-de-Camp Bernie Paiano** along with **Department Commandant John Moyse**, **Department Senior Vice Commandant Tom Tanner** and **Southeast Division Commandant Dick Kondash**.

The team also installed **Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC**; **Junior Vice Commandant Jim Powell**; **Adjutant Gary Smith**; **Paymaster Bob Cody**; **Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom**; **Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Mickelson**; **Quartermaster Bob Duff**; and **Mess Sergeant Wil Haas**.

Commandant Miller enlisted in the Marine Corps in November 1957 and underwent recruit training at Parris Island. Following Boot Camp, he reported to Basic Food Service School at Camp Lejeune, NC, where he earned his 3371 MOS in Food Service.

In addition to Camp Lejeune, he served at NAS, Lakehurst, NJ, and at the Marine Barracks, Philadelphia Naval Base.

While in Philadelphia, he was assigned to a ceremonial detail which participated

in the commissioning of the new aircraft carrier USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63).

"I was proud to have been a part of history," he states. The KITTY HAWK is still in active service today.

Also, while in the Corps, Bill was an active sports participant earning multiple letters in football and basketball.

Returning to civilian life in 1963, he married his wife, Jeanette, and settled in Philadelphia, later moving to Bucks County raising two daughters and a son.

He attended school, learning Industrial Refrigeration, specializing in low temperature application and thermodynamics.

As a Senior Field Engineer, he has traveled the world extensively for the past 25 years. While on a trip to Nairobi, Kenya, he witnessed two explosions which turned out to be the bombing of the U. S. Embassy there. He visited the scene and inspected the damage "up close and personal."

"It was the worst experience of my life," he states, "and haunts me to this day."

He is looking forward to retirement within the next year and enjoying his membership in the Marine Corps League, the American Legion, the USMC Food Service Association, and the Refrigeration Engineers Society, and pursuing his hobbies of going to Philadelphia Eagles football games, his power boat, and "most important" watching his grandchildren grow up and, lastly, traveling with my wife and "just taking time to smell the flowers."

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

I guess by now everyone has gotten the word there is a new Commandant in town. After having the roll of second banana for so long I guess it was time to move up or move out. I feel very comfortable in the roll as your Commandant just from being around **Budd Pearce** all this time. It sort of took hold. I almost know the drill by heart, and having had the opportunity to stand in a few times during the Commandant's absence made it easier for me to adjust. Also, all the congratulations and well wishes from many of the members and guests gives me a warm and fuzzy feeling that we're going to get along just fine.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all who assembled in my behalf to make my installation as smooth as possible. I especially want to thank my friends **Ed Ringer** and **Bernie Paiano** who made the long haul across the state to be here for me. Also, to Marines **Don Gee**, PC, who took over my old job as Senior Vice Commandant, and **Jim Powell**, who is the new Junior Vice Commandant. I took the opportunity to show my guests from Western Pennsyl-

vania a little bit of Eastern Pennsylvania flavor. I took them on a tour of Philly, the Historical District, Betsy Ross House, Liberty Bell, etc. Then I gave them a real treat, Cookie's Tavern (Tun Tavern Annex) for what was supposed to be a fast in and out. Hah! We finally got out of there after about two hours. Too many Jarhead's hang out there. Then it was on to see the new Sports Complex and then a tour of the Navy Yard and Marine Barracks (or what's left of it). Then a final lunch stop at the American Legion Post in Willow Grove for some fine cheesesteaks and hoagies to see them on there way back home.

It was nice to see some familiar faces in the hall. Vietnam combat veteran Marine **Dennis Stanislaw** looking fine and fit in his starched utilities. In my tenure as your Commandant, I would like to see our membership grow at a steady pace. I would like to see more Vietnam Vets join our ranks. The last 'Nam Vet to come on board was Marine **Steven Cupit**. The doors of the Service Organizations weren't exactly thrown open to the 'Nam Vets returning home. However, the Marine Corps League has always been open to the Marine 'Nam Vet. I say to them, WELCOME HOME, BROTHER! You'll always find a friend at the Marine Corps League.

I'm pleased to report that the highway clean-up was a huge success due to the number of Marines who showed up, 11 total. We had it knocked out in a little over an hour. That great breakfast must have given us all a burst of energy. We need a good showing Saturday and Sunday for A-Day parking which I'm sure will happen. This is our main source of income to finance our detachment and with the parking lots that were once ours being sold and others being developed, I'm a little concerned that our cash cow might be drying up, prompting us to seek other means of funding. This is something at which we will have to take a serious look. Also let's get after those raffle tickets and get them sold ASAP! They have to be turned in at the June

meeting so I can take them to the Department Convention in Erie. Remember, we get 40 percent of the action so, SELL, SELL, SELL!

Well Marines, I think I've rambled long enough, so I'll close by reminding everyone that our May 12 meeting will be held at the MAG-49 Hanger at NARTB, Willow Grove, PA. I hope to see all of your smiling faces before me as I conduct my first full meeting as your new Commandant.

Semper Fidelis and Good Night "Chesty," wherever you are.

Bill Miller

From: National Headquarters Marine Corps League

Subject: **UPCOMING 2004 ELECTIONS**

Ref: NatAdminProc, Chap One, Sec 110(b); POLICY

Marines: The National Commandant has asked me to that remind the leadership of the League that the 2004 Election season is in full swing and to remind all members of the Marine Corps League of the contents in the reference and, in particular:

"The Marine Corps League...and it shall be ever non-sectarian, non-political, and non-partisan..."

In the past, members of the League have worn either their covers and/or red blazers with the MCL emblem crest at political gatherings for a specific candidate or party and have given the impression to anyone present that "they were speaking for the Marine Corps League." This includes written material.

This does not preclude an individual, acting on their own behalf, to be involved with the political process - just not as a member of the MCL.

Questions should be addressed to the National Judge Advocate.

V/R,
Brooks Corley

2004

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 9**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
MAG-49
NARTB, WILLOW GROVE
MAY 12**

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 April 14, 2004, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 22 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., Bob Sundling, and Frank Yohe; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth; and Marine of the Year Bob Cody.**

Distinguished guest present included **Department Commandant John Moyse, Department Senior Vice Commandant Tom Tanner, Department Southwest Division Vice Commandant Ed Ringer, Department Southeast Division Vice Commandant Dick Kondash, and Aide-de-Camp Bernie Paiano.**

The Minutes of the March Meeting were unanimously approved.

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

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Budd Pearce reminded the members of the Marine Corps League's regulation prohibiting the wearing of Marine Corps League-specific items (covers, red blazers with MCL crests, etc.) at political gatherings. (See "Upcoming 2004 Elections" box, Page 2). The Commandant inducted **GySgt. Ray Flaugh, USMC (Ret.),** of Chalfont, into the Detachment.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment strength at 60, including 32 Life Members, 26 Regular Members and 5 Associate Members. There are 4 members delinquent in their dues.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. reminded the members that tickets and monies from the sale of Department Raffle tickets must be turned in by the June Meeting.

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

Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Mickelson reported he had received no requests for the Color Guard since the last meeting.

Chaplain Ed Hoth, PDC, reported his services were available but not needed since the last meeting.

Quartermaster Bob Duff reported he was still maintaining his usual items for sale to Detachment members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations--The Public Relations Officer set Apr. 20 at the deadline for submitting material for the May issue of Listen Up!

Rifle & Pistol Team--Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger reported the Detachment will field four shooters for the Department Pistol Match on June 4-4 at Fort Indiantown Gap. Anyone interested in joining the team should contact him at: (215) 348-7275.

Young Marines--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Liberty Young Marines held a "Coin Toss" in New Hope on Apr. 17-18 and the Unit is looking forward to having the Detachment attend its May Meeting.

Adopt-A-Highway--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce, PC, reminded the members that Saturday, April 17 will be the next highway clean-up. Members participating will meet at Tilley's Restaurant in Cross Keys at 8 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Southwest Division Vice Commandant Ed Ringer installed the newly elected and appointed officers and Commandant Pearce passed the Detachment Colors to Commandant Bill Miller.

Junior Past Commandant Pearce presented the Detachment Commandant and Elected Officer medals to Commandant Miller.

Commandant Miller then presented the appropriate medals to the elected and appointed officers.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Department Senior Vice Commandant Tom Tanner explained a program he has initiated which recommends Department Detachments take cakes to Marine Corps veterans in nursing homes in our area on November 10.

Marine Mike Waldron reported he had obtained a CD copy of the National Anthem from the Marine Band and presented it to FM 89.3 for use during sign-on by the station. He stated the Marine Band offers National Anthem CDs to any broadcast station in need on one.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mess Sergeant Wil Haas reported he has two busses reserved for the August 27 trip to 8th and Eye Sts. There are only 15 seats left and they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Anyone interested in going on the trip should contact him at: (215) 257-7828.

Commandant Bill Miller reminded the members the May Meeting will be at MAG-49 at NARTB, Willow Grove, on May 12. Members should plan on being at MAG-49 by 7 p.m.

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

GOODIES FOR THE TROOPS

Peggy Sundling, who continues to send "Goodies to the Troops," has provided a sampling of items which are needed for the shipments. She cautions, "NO CHOCOLATE!!" Items include:

Moist Wipes - with and without aloe (some people allergic); Beef Jerky/Slim Jims - very popular; Hard Candy-no lollipops; Lotions and Moisturizers; Lip Balm; Chewing Gum; Crackers/Snacks/Granola Bars - in individual packages for easy toting; Fruit Snacks/Raisins - again, in individual packages; Writing Tablets/Envelopes/Pens; Crossword Puzzles; Magazines - military, automotive, hunting, etc. (used are fine); Drink Mixes - individual envelopes. **Thanks for your continued support!**

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 OBSERVANCES CLAIM TO BE FIRST

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.

OFFICIAL BIRTHPLACE DECLARED

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.

SOME STATES HAVE CONFEDERATE OBSERVANCES

Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Con-

federate 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.

The origins of special services to honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War more than 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who gave died in the nation's wars: "Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men."

Send Us Old Guys to Fight in the War on Terrorism!

If I could, I'd enlist today and help my country track down those responsible for killing thousands of innocent people in New York City and Washington, DC

But, I'm more than 60 now and the Armed Forces say I'm too old to track down terrorists. You can't be older than 35 to join the military. They've got the whole thing backwards.

Instead of sending 18-year-olds off to fight, they ought to take us old guys. You shouldn't be able to join until you're at least 35.

For starters: Researchers say 18-year-olds think about sex every 10 seconds. Old guys only think about sex a couple of times a day, leaving us more than 28,000 additional seconds per day to concentrate on the enemy. Young guys haven't lived long enough to be cranky, and a cranky soldier is a dangerous soldier.

If we can't kill the enemy we'll complain them into submission. "My back hurts!" "I'm hungry!" "Where's the remote control?" An 18-year-old hasn't

had a legal beer yet and you shouldn't go to war until you're at least old enough to legally drink. An average old guy, on the other hand, has consumed 126,000 gallons of beer by the time he's 35 and a jaunt through the desert heat with a backpack and M-60 would do wonders for the old beer belly.

An 18-year-old doesn't like to get up before 10 a.m. Old guys get up early (to pee).

If old guys are captured we couldn't spill the beans because we'd probably forget where we put them. In fact, name, rank, and serial number would be a real brainteaser. Boot camp would actually be easier for old guys. We're used to getting screamed and yelled at and we actually like soft food. We've also developed a deep appreciation for guns and rifles. We like them almost better than naps. They could lighten up on the obstacle course however. I've been in combat and didn't see a single 20-foot wall with rope hanging over the side, nor did I ever do any pushups after training.

I can hear the Drill Instructor now, "Get down and give me...er...one." And the running part is kind of a waste of energy. I've never seen anyone outrun a bullet.

An 18-year-old has the whole world ahead of him. He's still learning to shave, to actually carry on a conversation, to wear pants without the top of the butt crack showing and the boxer shorts sticking out, to learn that a pierced tongue catches food particles, and that a 200-watt speaker in the back seat of a Honda Accord can rupture an eardrum. All great reasons to keep our sons at home and to learn a little more about life before sending them off to a possible death, let us old guys track down those dirty rotten cowards who attacked our hearts on September 11.

The last thing the enemy would want to see right now is a couple of million old farts with attitudes.

Share this with your senior friends. Ready to sign-up now?

"SEMPER FIDELIS"

Three War Marine Makes Iwo Jima Banquet a Success

CAMP PENDLETON - For months, veterans met at the Iron Mike Room on base and discussed plans.

Not combat plans, as they had during World War II, but plans to mark the anniversary of a battle they fought together - Iwo Jima.

During the fierce battle on the tiny island in the South Pacific, 6,821 Americans lost their lives. Eighty-one Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor during World War II. Twenty-two of those citations honored Marines who fought at Iwo Jima.

In their memory, and in honor of all who served, retired Sgt. Maj. "Iron Mike" Mervosh and a group of about 25 Iwo Jima veterans planned the 58th Iwo Jima Memorial Service and Banquet on base Feb. 20-22.

At the banquet, Mervosh ordered the Marching On of Colors. The guest of honor was MajGen. Marc Moore, former Commanding General of the 1st

Marine Division.

Mervosh has helped coordinate the banquets since he retired in 1977 after 35 years of service.

The theme of this year's program, which drew more than 1,000 service members and their families, was "Iwo Jima - We Remember."

Mervosh and his buddies remember.

"We thought (the battle) would be over in four or five days, but it lasted 36," he said. "If you beat the odds there, you're young for the rest of your life," said fellow veteran Larry du Bois.

"Half of us were the walking wounded," Mervosh said. Yet he never missed a day of that combat.

The 21-year-old stuck to his guns, and over the years, the name "Iron Mike" stuck to him, especially during his boxing matches.

Between battles in the South Pacific during the early to mid-1940s, Mervosh won the middleweight boxing champi-

onship for the 4th Marine Division.

"I'm not a hero," Mervosh said. "The heroes are the ones who didn't come back."

Mervosh's home is full of memorabilia. The walls of his den are covered with medals, plaques, combat awards and photographs, and combat instructions for Feb. 19, 1945. The yellowing pages include a map and Japanese combat phrases he had to learn.

"I had a lot of faith and confidence. I knew I wasn't alone or helpless. I knew if I went down, someone would take my spot," Mervosh said.

"I'd buoy up their courage, and they'd buoy up mine. It was a mutual thing."

He served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, earned three Purple Hearts and met two presidents.

There's the photo of him shaking hands with President Ford, and one where he is presenting a Hawaiian lei to former first lady Rosalynn Carter.

The Old Breed

I took my son to Las Vegas for a few days to celebrate his 21st birthday. On the return flight, an elderly gentleman a few rows in front of us suffered a "cardiac event."

A number of self proclaimed nurses on the flight began patting his hand and calling out his name without effect. After a few minutes of watching this man fail to respond and turn a sickly shade of gray, I got up and volunteered my son to help me.

Together we got him down on the deck of the aircraft and put an oxygen mask on the man even though he was not breathing, had no perceptible pulse and was quite cold. Before I could begin CPR, his wife, quite scared, asked if I was a doctor?

"No ma'am," I answered, "a Corpsman with the Marines."

"Oh," she said, "my husband was a Marine. Is he going to die?"



"No ma'am," I answered with the stock phrase, "No one dies on this Corpsman without my express permission. What was your husband's rank?"

She answered "He was a Private at Guadalcanal in World War II."

I immediately leaned over the man and over the engine noise yelled in the man's ear, "Private, take a deep breath!"

After yelling this two more times, the man's chest heaved slightly and then he took a good deep breath. After a few more good hits on the oxygen mask, he opened his eyes. Before we landed his color had returned, he had a good pulse and had warmed up.

Although still groggy, as he was taken off the plane on a stretcher by the paramedics, he grabbed my hand and whispered, "Semper Fi."

P.G. Bradt, HM2(FMF)
Corpsman of Marines

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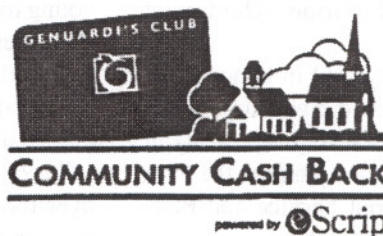
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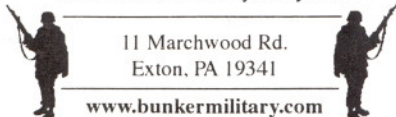


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Application for Membership Marine Corps League

(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 \$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)

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