

# LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXIII, Number 5

MAY 2010

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

## 2010-2011 DETACHMENT OFFICERS INSTALLED BY PENNA. AND N. J. COMMANDANTS

The "Big Guns" of two Departments turned out to install our Detachment Officers at the Apr. 14 Detachment Meeting.

Department of Pennsylvania Commandant Leanna Dietrich and Department of New Jersey Commandant Bob Fakina, serving as Installing Officer and Sergeant-at-Arms, respectively, joined our Detachment's own Southeast Division Vice Commandant Bill Miller in installing Central Bucks Detachment officers for the coming year.

Commandant Jim Powell, Senior Vice Commandant Ben Jones, Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile, Adjutant-Paymaster Don Gee, Judge Advocate Bill Mickelson, Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, Chaplain Budd Pearce, Mess Sergeant Wil Haas, and Quartermaster Corey Fisher were moved into position by Installation Sergeant-at-Arms Fakina to receive the Oath of Office from Commandant Dietrich.

Following the Installation of Officers,

Commandant Dietrich presented Distinguished Citizen (Silver) Medals to **Commandant Jim Powell** for his exemplary service to the Detachment and the Department and to **Adjutant/Paymaster Don Gee** for his "meritorious service" to the Detachment.

### INSTALLATION



Commandant Jim Powell (2nd right) receives the symbolic gavel of office from Department of Pennsylvania Commandant Leanna Dietrich while Department of New Jersey Commandant Bob Fakina (right) and Southeast Division Vice Commandant Bill Miller look on. (Photo by D. F.)

## RETIRED MARINE IS 'TOP GUN' AT SANDWICH SHOP

PLANTATION, FL--Last month police were called to investigate an attempted armed robbery: The 71-year-old retired Marine who opened fire on two robbers at a Plantation, FL, Subway shop late Wednesday, Apr. 7 killing one and critically wounding the other, is described as **John Lovell**, a former helicopter pilot for two Presidents.

He doesn't drink, he doesn't smoke, and he works out every day. Mr. Lovell was a man of action that night.

According to Plantation police, two masked gunmen came into the Subway at 1949 N. Pine Rd. just after 11 p.m. There was a lone diner, Mr. Lovell, who was finishing his meal. After robbing the cashier, the two men attempted to shove Mr. Lovell into a bathroom and rob him as well. They got his money, but then Mr. Lovell pulled his handgun and opened fire. He shot one of the thieves in the head and chest and the other in the head.

When police arrived, they found one of the men in the shop, K-9 Units found the other in the bushes of a nearby business. They also found cash strewn around the front of the sandwich shop according to **Detective Robert Rettig** of the Plantation Police Department.

Both men were taken to the Broward General Medical Center, where one, **Donicio Arrindell**, 22, of North Lauderdale, died.

## Washington Crossing National Cemetery

Openings are now available for volunteers to serve on the Ceremonial Rifle Squad. Honorably discharged veterans willing to train with the rifle and serve at least one day a month are eligible to apply. To volunteer contact:

**Honor Guard Committee**

Ray: 215-816-8643 [rauanheim@usa.net](mailto:rauanheim@usa.net)

Gunny: 215-253-1935 [jsandle@aol.com](mailto:jsandle@aol.com)

Antonio Albano, President, Guardians of the National Cemetery, Official Support Committee for Washington Crossing National Cemetery, P. O. Box 233, Newtown, PA 18940-0233; Ph: 215-266-7802



**CENTRAL BUCKS  
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636**  
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Doylestown, PA 18901-1372  
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2nd Wednesday of Month  
American Legion Post 210  
315 North Street, Doylestown, PA

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## COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

If you didn't attend our April Installation meeting, you missed a great time. We had an extraordinary turnout with 27 members and guests in attendance. We were honored to have our **Department Commandant Leanna Dietrich** and the Department of **New Jersey Commandant Bob Fakina** in attendance. The meeting lasted a little longer than usual due to the installation of officers and giving the oath to our newest **Associate Member Steven Gentile**, our Junior Vice's son. We also received an application from **Marine John Pura** and accepted him as a member conditionally upon seeing his proof of Marine Corps service.

As always, I thank those Marines who again stepped up to represent their Detachment. Our slate of officers remains the same as last year and every member of the Central Bucks Detachment should also personally thank these Marines as we would not be able to function without them.

This past year was again a busy one for the Detachment. We participated in many different functions throughout the year such as Color Guards, fund-raising scholarship ticket sales, highway cleanups, and parades. We recruited some new members this year, but like the rest of the Marine Corps League we have some members in delinquent status. In order for the Detachment to thrive, we must retain the members we have while at the same time recruiting new members. As I have said on more than one occasion, I'd like to see us increase our membership to 70 members. I think that is something we can achieve if we make even a modest effort. I would like to again challenge everyone to recruit at least one new

member in the coming year and to participate in as many of the Detachment functions as possible.

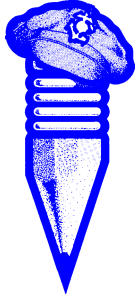
As for myself, this past year I attended the Department of Pennsylvania Convention and the Quarterly meetings, my MODD Pound Growls at the Chester County Detachment home, the National Northeast Division Conference, the National Mid Winter Staff Conference and the National Convention in Rochester, Minnesota. I served in several positions for the Department of Pennsylvania, several positions for the Pennsylvania Pack MODD and as Northeast Division Vice Chief Devil Dog for MODD Kennel. I continue to learn more about the Marine Corps League and get to meet many Leaguers at the State and National levels.

The Youth Scholarship Raffle tickets are still available. If you need more please contact **Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile**. Remember that the Detachment gets a percentage for every ticket sold. Once again we will be doing our Memorial Day weekend fund-raiser at the State Store in Doylestown followed by our participation in the parade. If you can volunteer please contact **Chaplain Budd Pearce**. With our Detachment's 25th Anniversary less than two years away, we have put together an Anniversary Committee. If you would like to participate or have any ideas on how we can commemorate this occasion please contact me at any time.

Again, thank you and congratulations to our new slate of Officers.

Semper Fi,

# APRIL DETACHMENT MEETING



# M I N U T E S

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held April 14, 2010, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 27 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., Budd Pearce, and Bob Sundling, Past Commandant & Department Southeast Division Vice Commandant Bill Miller, Past National Northeast Division Commandant/Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth, Marine of the Year Ken Murray, Department of Pennsylvania Commandant Leanna Dietrich, and Department of New Jersey Commandant Bob Fakina Jr.**

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

The **Paymaster's Report** was presented and was unanimously accepted.

**New Members:** **Marine John Pura** of Perkasio was accepted as a Regular Member (contingent upon presenting his DD-214) and **Steven A. Gentile** was accepted as an Associate member. He has enlisted in the Corps in the Delayed Enlistment Program and will be leaving for Parris Island in January. He is **Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile's** son and **Associate Member David Gentile's** brother.

**Sick Call:** **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling's** father-in-law is hospitalized.

## OFFICER REPORTS

**Commandant Jim Powell** reported the WebSite upgrade is complete and access information has been sent to members. He also reported he had attended the Department Quarterly Staff & Member Meeting and the Northeast Division Meeting. He stated he has the latest Marine Corps League Directory on C-D if anyone is interested in locating a member, let him know. Work on the Detachment ByLaws is underway and should be completed in the next couple of months. He also reminded the members the Detachment will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in about 18 months.

**Senior Vice Commandant Ben Jones** reported the Detachment strength at 63 members including 28 Life Members, 27 Regular Members, 2 Dual Members, 5 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member. He is working on the Detachment Logo and expects to have it completed by next meeting.

**Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile** discussed the results of Department Raffle Ticket sales to date and a possible Breakfast Fund-Raiser at Appleby's in early June.

**The Adjutant/Paymaster** reported the Detachment is registered to participate in both the Memorial Day Parade in Doylestown and the 4th of July Parade in Chalfont.

**Judge Advocate Bill Mickelson** reported the Detachment had no known legal problems.

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC,** reported he had received no requests for the Detachment Color Guard since the last meeting. He announced the National Cemetery is looking for volunteers to serve as a part of its Honor Guard.

**Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC,** reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting. He reminded the members about the Memorial Day Weekend fund-raiser at the State Store in Doylestown (Cross Keys) from Thursday through Sunday, May 27-30. He will have a "Sign-Up" sheet for volunteers at the May Meeting.

The **Public Relations Officer** reported former **National Public Relations Assistant Bill Arp** had passed away and a funeral service was scheduled for Friday, Apr. 16. He set Apr. 20 as the deadline for submission of material for the next *LISTEN UP!*

**Quartermaster Corey Fisher** reported sales of \$115.00 since the last meeting.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce** reminded the members the highway clean-up will be held Saturday, Apr. 17.

**Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling** reported the unit is planning an excursion to Constitution Hall and crossing the Delaware to the aquarium this month.

### NEW BUSINESS

The Installation Team of Commandants Dietrich and Fakina and Department SE Division Vice Commandant Miller installed the 2010-2011 Detachment officers. Installed were **Commandant & Web Sergeant Jim Powell; Senior Vice Commandant Ben Jones; Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile; Judge Advocate Bill Mickelson; Adjutant/Paymaster & Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC; Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC; Chaplain Budd Pearce, PC; Quartermaster Corey Fisher; and Mess Sergeant Wil Haas.**

A motion was made and unanimously accepted to donate \$250.00 to the United Veterans of Doylestown in support of the annual Memorial Day Parade.

A motion was made and unanimously accepted to provide a number of American flags to the troops in Afghanistan to be flown over their positions and then presented to worthy persons.

### GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

**Marine Bruce Sergeant** recommended the members read the book “The Last Stand of Fox Company” about the 1st Marine Division in Korea during 1950.

**Commandant Fakina** addressed the members noting the similarities between his New Jersey Detachment and our Detachment and thanked Commandant Powell for inviting him to participate in the officer installation ceremony.

**Commandant Dietrich** addressed the members about happenings at the Department level. She reported the Department will be celebrating its 65th anniversary in June. In conjunction with the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Department will be honoring all WWII veterans (regardless of service branch). Forms are available from the Department WebSite to register the Veterans by May 24. She then presented Distinguished Citizen Medals (Silver) to Commandant Powell for his service “above and beyond to the League and the Detachment” and Adjutant/Paymaster Gee for his “meritorious service” to the League and the Detachment.

**Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling** reminded the members donations of “Goodies for the Troops” are still needed. Please bring what you can to the meeting.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 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 or without aloe (some people are 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--in individual packages; Writing Tablets/Envelopes/Pens; Crossword Puzzles; Magazines--military, automotive, hunting, etc. (used, are fine); Drink Mixes--individual envelopes.

**Thanks, Marines, for your continued support!**

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**EARTH DAY  
22 APRIL**

**MOTHERS DAY  
9 MAY**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
12 MAY**

**MEMORIAL DAY  
PARADE  
31 MAY**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
9 JUNE**

**FLAG DAY  
14 JUNE**

**FATHER'S DAY  
20 JUNE**

**1ST DAY OF  
SUMMER  
21 JUNE**

**4TH OF JULY  
PARADE  
3 JULY**

**INDEPENDENCE  
DAY  
4 JULY**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
14 JULY**

# New Agent Orange Rule To Allow Retro Claims by 86,000

About 86,000 Vietnam War veterans, their surviving spouses or estates will be eligible for retroactive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs--an average of 11.4 years for veterans and 9.6 years for survivors -- under a draft VA rule to expand by three the number of diseases presumed caused by herbicide exposure in the war.

The 86,000 are beneficiaries who can reopen previously denied claims for these conditions: ischemic heart disease, Parkinson's disease and chronic B-cell blood cancers including hairy cell leukemia. But another 29,000 claims are expected to be approved this year for Vietnam veterans suffering from these diseases but applying for benefits for the first time.

The projected cost of this dramatic expansion of claims linked to Agent Orange and other defoliants deployed four decades ago is \$13.6 billion this fiscal year and \$42.2 billion over 10 years. VA plans to hire 1772 new claims processors, starting this October, to be able to handle these claims "without significantly degrading the processing of the non-presumptive workload."

In the proposed rule published March 25 in the *Federal Register*, VA officials explained that **Secretary Eric Shinseki** has cut the usual 60-day public comment period by half "to promote rapid action" on these claims.

When a final rule is published, soon after April 26, VA claim offices across

the country can begin making payments. Veterans with these diseases will need to show they set foot in Vietnam during the war. Those who served aboard ship just off the coast remain ineligible.

**John Maki**, Assistant National Service Director for Disabled American Veterans, said DAV was glad to see the comment period cut to 30 days. Otherwise, the draft regulation contains no surprises. "It basically is going to take those three conditions and just add them to disabilities already listed as presumptive diseases for Agent Orange," Maki said.

One surprise still might be the thoroughness of the draft rule's analysis of the beneficiary populations and the costs facing the department from this wave of claims for both retroactive payments and new benefits.

Adding ischemic heart disease to the list of presumptive Agent Orange illnesses is by far the most significant part of the new rule, accounting for 82 percent of additional expected payments to beneficiaries.

The rule defines ischemic health dis-

ease as a condition causing inadequate supply of blood and oxygen to the myocardium, the middle and thickest layer of the heart wall. "IHD" can include, but is not limited to, acute, subacute and old myocardial infarction; atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease including coronary artery disease (or spasm) and coronary bypass surgery, and stable, unstable and Prinzmetal's angina.

Because IHD is a heart disease it "does not include hypertension or peripheral manifestations of arteriosclerosis such as peripheral vascular disease or stroke," the draft regulation explains.

Of 86,000 beneficiaries eligible for retroactive claims, VA estimates that nearly 70,000 of them are living Vietnam veterans, their average age now 63. Of those, 62,200 previously were denied compensation for IHD, 5400 were denied for B-cell leukemia and 2300 for Parkinson's disease.

About 53,000 who previously filed claims for these diseases already are receiving VA compensation for other service-related diseases. Of those, roughly 8350 are rated 100-percent disabled and therefore might not be eligible for retroactive pay.

To file claims online visit: <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>. Veterans without a computer can call a toll-free helpline at 1-800-749-8387.

Check Out Our  
Detachment Web Site  
at:

[www.mclcb.org](http://www.mclcb.org)

**MARINE**

*From Page 1*

The other, 21-year-old **Frederick Gadson** of Fort Lauderdale is in critical but stable condition.

A longtime friend of Lovell was not surprised to hear what happened.

The friend said, "He'd give you the shirt off his back, but he'd be mad as hell if someone tried to take the shirt off his back."

Mr. Lovell was a pilot in the Marine Corps, flying former **Presidents John F. Kennedy** and **Lyndon B. Johnson**. He later worked as a pilot for Pan Am and Delta Airlines.

He is not expected to be charged au-

thorities said.

"He was in fear for his life," Detective Rettig said, "These criminals ought to realize that most men in their 70's have military backgrounds and aren't intimidated by idiots."

Something tells me this old Marine wasn't 'in fear for his life', even though his life was definitely at risk.

The only thing he could be charged with is participating in an unfair fight. One 71-year young Marine against two punks.

Florida law allows eligible citizens to carry a concealed weapon.

*Don't you just love a story with a happy ending?*

## IT'LL COST YOU AN ARM AND A LEG

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint)

## CHINESE ARMY OFFICER URGES CHALLENGING U. S. DOMINANCE

China should build the world's strongest military and move swiftly to displace the United States as the global "champion," a Chinese PLA officer says in a new book reflecting swelling nationalist ambitions.

The call for China to abandon modesty about its global goals and "sprint to become world number one" comes from a People's Liberation Army (PLA) **Senior Colonel, Liu Mingfu**, who warns that his nation's ascent will alarm Washington, risking war despite Beijing's hopes for a "peaceful rise."

"China's big goal in the 21st century is to become world number one, the top power," Liu writes in his newly published Chinese-language book, "The China Dream."

"If China in the 21st century cannot become world number one, cannot become the top power, then inevitably it will become a straggler that is cast aside,"

writes Liu.

His 303-page book stands out for its boldness in a recent chorus of strident Chinese voices demanding a hard shove back against Washington over trade, Tibet, and arms sales to Taiwan, the self-ruled island Beijing claims as its own.

"As long as China seeks to rise to become world number one ... then even if China is even more capitalist than the U.S., the U.S. will still be determined to contain it," he writes.

Rivalry between the two powers is a "competition to be the leading country, a conflict over who rises and falls to dominate the world," says Liu. "The China Dream" does not represent government policy, which has been far less strident about the nation's goals.

But Liu's book testifies to the home-grown pressures on China's Communist Party leadership to show the country's fast economic growth is translating into

greater sway against the West, still mired in an economic slowdown.

Liu is a professor at the elite National Defence University, which trains rising officers, and the appearance of his book underscores that calls for Beijing to take a hard stance against Washington reach beyond nationalist views on the Internet to include voices in the military elite.

"This book represents my personal views, but I think it also reflects a tide of thought," Liu told *Reuters* in an interview. "We need a military rise as well as an economic rise."

The next marker of how China's leaders are handling these expectations may come later this month, when the government is likely to announce its defense budget for 2010, after a 14.9 percent rise last year on the one in 2008.

Another PLA officer has said this year's defense budget should send a defiant signal to Washington after the Obama administration went ahead in January with long-known plans to sell \$6.4 billion worth of arms to Taiwan.

"I think one part of 'public opinion' that the leadership pays attention to is elite opinion, and that includes the PLA," said **Alan Romberg**, an expert on China and Taiwan at the Henry L. Stimson Center, an institute in Washington DC.

"I think the authorities are seeking to keep control of the reaction, even as they need to take (it) into account," Romberg said in an emailed response to questions.

In recent months, strains have deepened between Beijing and Washington over trade, Internet controls, U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and **President Barack Obama's** meeting with Tibet's exiled leader, the **Dalai Lama**, who China reviles.

China has responded with angry words and a threat to sanction U.S. companies involved in the Taiwan arms sales. But it has not acted on that threat and has allowed a U.S. aircraft carrier to visit Hong Kong.

China's leaders do not want to jeopardize ties with the United States, a key trade partner and still by far the world's biggest economy and military power. **Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao** said he wanted trade friction with the United States to ease.

### CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT MARINES ON THE NET

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# 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**

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

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**



***"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"***

**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**