



LISTEN UP!

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

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XIII, Number 11

November 2001



**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636
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7:30 p.m.,
2d Wednesday of Month
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**MARINE OF THE YEAR
BOB MOMORELLA**



10 November 2001

A Message From the Commandant of the Marine Corps

As we commemorate the 226th anniversary of the founding of our Corps, Marines everywhere can take pride in their contributions to our great nation. We are a Corps born of an act of Congress, consecrated in sacrifice, steeped in tradition and tested in battle. Our earned legacy is filled with the names of many great Marines: Lejeune, Vandegrift, Puller, Butler, Bestwick, Daly--who fill the annals of our lineage with their inspired acts of vision and gallantry.

Heroic actions on the battlefield are a hallmark of our legacy. Equally compelling are the countless heroic deeds of many other Marines who exemplify the virtue of placing the needs of others above their own. Whether it be a Marine saving an Okinawan child from drowning, or pulling people from a burning wreck, or a family extending itself to provide a safe, nurturing home for disadvantaged children, our lives are indeed full of heroism. Today we celebrate these deeds, not as exploits, but as contributions to the greater good--circumstances where Marines take care of not just their own, but reach out to care for others.

A lone Marine standing vigil on a dark night in Kosovo, a Marine reservist serving as a firefighter or police officer who responds to an emergency in his community, a civilian Marine working alongside his counterparts in uniform who shares the perils and realities of a terrorist attack, and a committed spouse who finds the time to serve as an advocate for family programs in addition to making a home and supporting the family--all are among the heroes of all generations. We are indebted to them for their example of strength and their presence of character. They embrace our core values and live them to the fullest. They inspire us to do the same. We admire and appreciate their example as we celebrate the birth of our Corps and our rich heritage. As our motto enjoins us, let us always be faithful, to our God, our country, our Corps and our families. Let us also resolve to be always faithful to those Marines who have bestowed upon us our proud legacy of sacrifice, courage, and victory against any foe.

To all Marines, past and present, who uphold the finest traditions of our eagle, globe, and anchor, Happy Birthday and...

Semper Fidelis,

J. L. JONES
General, U.S. Marine Corps

**THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT
1930 ON 14 NOVEMBER 2001 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST, 315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN**

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

For those of you that missed the meeting in October, it was voted to cancel the Birthday Ball for this year. There were a few reasons for this: the increased security at the base after Sept. 11th, the lack of interest among the membership (only about 8 or 10 members said that they planned to attend) and the fact that we had not heard from the people in charge of the Orion Club as to whether we were still permitted to hold the ball there. Instead of the Ball, we will be doing something a bit different at our November meeting. The Young Marines are coming and will join with us for a cake-cutting ceremony. We will have our "Marine of the Year" award presented at this meeting and the "Fran Meyers Award" will be presented by **Rifle Team Captain Bill Rosenberger**. **Will Haas** will have a tray of small sandwiches, sodas, coffee and tea as well as the Birthday Cake. Since the Detachment had already gotten some of the door prizes that we planned to give away at the Ball, these will be given out at the meeting. Everyone entering will be given a ticket for the drawing. All members, family members and friends are invited to attend. Detachment members should wear the uniform with red blazer, if you have one. If you don't have that uniform, wear what you will feel comfortable in along with your red cover. I hope to see a good turn-out for this meeting since it will be our Birthday celebration for this year.

I know that we are not even into



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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.

November yet and you aren't thinking about Christmas until the time comes, but please remember to think about the Commandant's table when you do start getting ready for the holidays. The Commandant's table, for those of you who don't know, is our way of helping some needy kids have a Christmas they might not have without our help. Bring in some new toys (unwrapped), put them on the table and we will make sure that a child in need gets them. These toys don't have to be expensive, just given by a caring Marine will do. All the toys will either go to the Marine Corps' "Toys for Tots" program or they will go directly to an area shelter for abused women and children. Each year we get a pretty good amount of toys, but this year let's see if we can really outdo ourselves. There are a lot of very needy kids out there! Thanks, Marines!

The Detachment held its last highway clean up for this year. Our next will

Korean Vet Starts Internet Locator

While lying in a hospital bed looking at pictures taken 50 years earlier during the Korean War, **Richard Gallmeyer**, a Virginia Beach, VA, resident felt a need to get in touch with "his family" of Korean War veterans.

Thus began the Korean War Veterans Reunion, Inc. - a group of veterans who search for their "combat buddies" primarily using the Internet.

"I was looking at the pictures and said to myself, 'If I ever get out of here I am going to look them up,'" Gallmeyer, a veteran of Hqs. Btry., 58th Field Artillery Bn., 3rd Infantry Div., said cheerfully. "At first I started looking just for those from my unit, but then I thought, 'Hey, we are all Korean War veterans and a family.' So I started up Korean War Veterans Reunion, Inc.

"The organization uses five different methods to locate Korean War veterans," continued Gallmeyer. "We do this by mailing reunion information and requesting information on veterans; airing a 30-second public service announcement about finding combat buddies;

probably be in March or April. If you missed the last one you missed a beautiful morning walk. We had a good turn out and got the job done in no time at all. Our members have not been coming out for the clean-ups the way we use to, but because some of the members brought family with them, we had enough to do the job. When spring comes and we start the clean-ups again try to make as many as you can. We really do have a good time having breakfast together then walking along telling stories and jokes. We laugh more than we bend over so you see the work isn't too hard and the breakfast is free, so what's your excuse?

That's it for now. Please come to the November meeting and share our Birthday with the Young Marines, their families and our families.

Semper Paratus

Budd Prince

requesting copies of old military paperwork to search for names; using the list of those wounded in Korea and contacting them; and mailing letters to veteran organizations asking for help in finding veterans."

Gallmeyer's work recently paid off in a way that he didn't expect. **Bruno Sano**, a Korean War veteran himself, read a story about the organization's third annual reunion when he noticed a recent photograph of Gallmeyer. Sano contacted Gallmeyer, who amazingly, lived in the same town and had been looking for Sano for some time as well.

The Korean War Veterans Reunion, Inc. has found information on roughly 11,461 service members and is in the process of having its 7th annual reunion. For more information visit the organization's Web site at <http://www.koreanwarveteransonline.org/> or call toll free (800) 523-4715.

For more information about the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War visit: <http://www.korea50.mil> or call toll free (866) KOREA50.

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania was held October 17, 2001, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 21 members present including all officers except the Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr. and Frank Yohe; Department of Pennsylvania Southeast Division Vice Commandant Ray Devlin; Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth; and Marine of the Year Bob Momorella.**

The Minutes of the September Meeting were unanimously accepted.

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

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Budd Pearce read a letter from **Joe Speck** announcing a "Commandants Get-Together" at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia on Sunday, Oct. 21, at 10 a.m.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment strength at 58 members including 20 Life Members, 33 Regular Members, and 5 Associate Members. There are 8 Delinquent Members.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. reported he will meet in the very near future with **Penny Larrisey** of the United Veterans Council of Doylestown to plan a memorial service for veterans of all conflicts.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported the Detachment had received no correspondence other than that which had already been reported.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling reported there have been no requests for the Color Guard since the last meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUNG MARINES--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling reported the Young Marines will hold a fund-raising "Coin Toss" on Oct. 21-22 on Rt. 202 at the outskirts of New Hope. He also reported on the unit's rock-climbing training in preparation for a rock-climb at Delaware Water Gap.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY--Commandant Pearce, in the absence of **Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Bill Plant**, announced there would be a highway clean-up on Sat., Oct. 13. Participants are to meet at Tilley's Restaurant at 8 a.m. for a free breakfast before the clean-up.

PUBLIC RELATIONS--The Public Relations Officer set Oct. 20 as the deadline for submitting articles for the November issue of *LISTEN UP!*

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made, seconded, and passed that this year's Birthday Ball be cancelled due to increased security and other related problems.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to hold a Cake-Cutting ceremony at the November Meeting. The Young Marines unit was invited to attend the ceremony.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

Mess Sergeant Wil Haas proposed a trip next May to the Marine Barracks at 8th & Eye Sts. in Washington. He will start formal planning for the trip if enough Marines are interested in participating.

Southeast Division Vice Commandant Ray Devlin issued the annual Department of Pennsylvania Raffle tickets to Jr. Vice Commandant Parzanese. The Junior Vice issued raffle tickets to the members at the conclusion of the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was announced that the American Legion Post will hold its annual Turkey Dinner on Nov. 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$8 per person. Commandant Pearce enjoined the members to volunteer to help the Post serve the dinners.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14.

DOD NEWS BRIEFS

Call-up Tallies

Current call-ups for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve are 9,087; Naval Reserve, 2,250; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 12,722; Marine Corps Reserve, 258; and the Coast Guard Reserve 2,708. This brings the total Reserve and National Guard called to active duty to 27,025 from 194 units, 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and individual augmentees. At any given time, services may mobilize some units and individuals while demobilizing others, so these figures will increase or decrease as time goes by. A list of the major duty units is at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Oct2001/d20011008ngr.pdf>:

Authorization Bill Going to Conference Panel

Last month the Senate approved its version of the Fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act. The bill is now in a conference committee where differences between the Senate version and the House version will be ironed out. Key issues:

Pay Raise. Both versions include a pay raise of 5 to 10 percent, depending on grade and years of service, for active duty members and Reserve/Guard forces.

SBP Coverage for Active-Duty Deaths. Members on active duty are covered by the Survivors Benefit Plan when they reach 20 years of service, and others with severe injuries who are retired for disability may receive SBP coverage. The Senate version includes a proposal to treat all other active duty deaths the same as disability retirees, and to extend coverage to casualties of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Transitional Health Care. The Senate version would provide up to six months' transitional health care coverage to members being separated and their families.

Concurrent Receipt. The Senate version would authorize retirees with 20 or more years of service to receive both military retired pay and VA disability compensation if awarded, commencing Oct. 1

next year. The House bill would make concurrent receipt subject to funding in the President's Fiscal 2003 budget, an unlikely event according to officials.

SBP Improvements. A proposal to increase Survivor Benefit Plan benefits for survivors age 62 and older did not survive.

Deployment Pay May Go on Hold

Operational deployments in connection with the offensive against terrorist activities in Afghanistan may delay extended-deployment pay. The pay was set at \$100 per day for members deployed for more than 400 days in a rolling two-year period that began October 1, 2000. This would have qualified some members for payments beginning in November. However, the law allows the service secretaries to suspend the program for national security reasons and officials are eying that option. A suspension would be especially helpful to Navy policy-makers who have opposed the plan and prefer adjustments, including increases of sea pay.

VA Claims Backlog Tagged 'Characteristic'

A VA Claims Task Force that completed a top-to-bottom review of the VA claims processing system has declared that workload crises and enormous case backlogs have become "an inherent characteristic" at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Thus, veterans filing for disability compensation must wait months, some even years, for resolution. VA officials who presented the report pledged to improve the system.

VA Secretary Anthony Principi said, "President Bush and I are absolutely committed to getting to the core of the VA claims process problems. Examples of the problem:

A backlog of more than 533,000 first-time claims keeps veterans waiting an average of six months for a decision. If the veteran appeals the decision, the process can stretch for years.

As of August, more than 38,000 "substantive appeals" were pending at VA

regional offices. Most had been there for more than a year, and more than 18,000 go back to the early 1990s.

When the VA or a court rules on appeals and returns the cases to regional offices, they also wait. More than 31,000 are in regional offices now and more than 10,000 have been there since before 2000. Even the VA itself must wait lengthy periods to obtain veterans' records. Of the 56,000 backlogged requests at the Veterans Benefits Administration's records center, 4,600 are more than a year old.

Marines May Seek End-Strength Increase

The Marine Corps may ask for approximately 3,600 more Marines in their end strength in order to stand up an anti-terrorism brigade that began fitting out October 10 at Camp Lejeune, NC. The 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade will have 4,800 Marines and sailors assigned and will merge existing anti-terrorism capabilities. These are the Marine Security Force battalion, the Marine Security Guard Battalion and the Chemical and Biological Incident Response Force. The brigade will add an anti-terrorism battalion, and will be fully operational on December 1, said **Brig. Gen. Douglas V. O'Dell**, who will command it. No formal request for the extra Marines has been made, said Marine officials.

Amendment Would Aid Military Voting

The Senate has approved an amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill that would enhance the voting ability of absentee military voters. The Military Voter Support Amendment would help ensure that technical faults beyond the control of the voter would not endanger the legitimacy of the ballot. In addition, it would increase voting access for recently separated service members. The amendment also grants the Secretary of Defense flexibility in conducting a demonstration for an electronic voting program and makes states more accountable for improving the voting ability of its absentee voters.

TUN TAVERN



Built in 1693 by Samuel Carpenter, the Tun Tavern became Philadelphia's outstanding hostelry in colonial times. George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were among the notables who frequented Tun Tavern. It became the unofficial meeting place for the members of the Continental Congresses, where they planned, discussed and negotiated the policies of our new-born nation.

Other organizations, too, trace their origin to the Tun: the St. George's Society in Philadelphia, in 1729; the Grand Lodge (Masonic Order-of which, Washington, Jefferson and Franklin were members), 1732; and St. Andrew's Society, in 1747. The tavern was also used in 1756 to organize a regiment under the command of Colonel Benjamin Franklin, as a defense against Indian uprisings in the area.

The Tun was of brick construction, two-and-a-half stories high, and situated near the banks of the Delaware River. Above the main taproom were rooms available for rent to transient guests and several large club rooms. Records show that the dining room was divided into boxes fitted with tables and "elegantly" lighted.

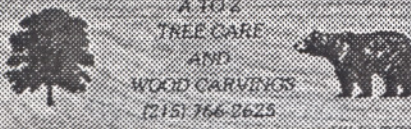
Because of its waterfront location and the abundance of manpower who gathered there, the 1st Continental Congress ordered that two battalions of seafaring men be raised there and that they be called Marines.

"Resolved that two battalions of Marines be raised, consisting of one Colonel, two Lieutenant Colonels, two Majors and other officers as usual in other regiments; and that they consist of an equal number of privates with other battalions; that particular care be taken, that no persons be appointed, or inlisted (sic) into said battalions, but such as good seamen; or so acquainted with marine affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea when required; that they be inlisted (sic) and commissioned to serve for and during the present war between Great Britain and the colonies, unless dismissed by order of Congress; that they be distinguished by the names of the first and second Battalions of American Marines." (Continental Congress, Nov. 10, 1775)

That very evening, men in coarse homespun clothing, blue woolen peacoats, or soft doeskin vests and britches, with tri-cornered hats atop their heads and flintlock rifles at their sides, raised their mugs of rum.

"Long live the United States, and success to her Marines!" toasted the officer. His name was Captain Samuel Nicholas and, with Capt. Robert Mullens, he had been sent to Tun Tavern—owned by Mullens' father—to recruit men for the Continental Marines.

Thus, Tun Tavern gained its place in Marine Corps history as "The Birthplace of the Marine Corps" and the "First Marine Corps Recruiting Station."


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