



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

VOLUME XVIII, Number 11

NOVEMBER 2006

Commandant: **WILLIAM R. MILLER**

Editor: **DON H. GEE**



**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636**
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2nd Wednesday of Month
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MARINE OF THE YEAR
ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE III, PC



10 November 2006

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

On November 10th, 1775, our Corps was born as the Continental Congress raised the "first and second battalions of American Marines." Each year as we celebrate our birthday, we pause to reflect on the Marines of yesteryear who fought in our touchstone battles and forged the modern Marine Corps with their courage, integrity, and undying commitment to their fellow Marines. Each of our storied battles is a link in the long chain that binds all Marines together—from the Continental Marines at Bunker Hill to the *Teufelhunden* crossing the wheat fields of Belleau Wood. This chain binds us to the Marines on the crest of Mt. Suribachi; it passes through the ice and snow of the Chosin Reservoir and the steaming jungles of Vietnam, and it anchors firmly today in the desert sands of Iraq.

This year's celebration again finds many from our ranks serving with distinction in harm's way. As we have for the past 231 years, our Corps is answering the Nation's call. I can report first hand that our Marines fighting on the front lines of the Long War on Terror are performing brilliantly, acquitting themselves with honor, dedication, and dignity in difficult and dangerous environments.

All Marines are making a difference. Regardless of where you are serving, you are adding new chapters to the legacy that was earned with sweat and blood on old battlefields. Just as previous generations of Marines shaped today's Marine Corps, your deeds are molding the Corps of tomorrow. Our Corps has never been stronger and all Americans are extremely proud of your magnificent performance and unwavering commitment to serve our Corps and country. With high caliber Marines like you, our future has never been brighter.

Another irreplaceable element of our success as Marines is the terrific support we receive from our families. Through the long hours, the exercises, and the combat deployments, their support is unconditional and firm. They give us love and devotion, providing us with the strength to drive on when duty calls. Today we should all acknowledge our loved ones for their patient, steadfast service.

To all who have earned the title Marine, to the superb Sailors who service with us in every clime and place, and to our precious families—I wish each one of you a heartfelt Happy 231st Birthday.

Semper Fidelis and Keep Attacking!

M. W. HAGEE
General, U. S. Marine Corps

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Our October meeting was a huge success and very well attended in spite of mother nature providing us with a blast of bad weather with high winds and pouring rain. My wife said that we probably won't have a meeting, no one will show up. I told her that we'll have a meeting, they're Marines, they will be there. Need I say more?

We covered our plans for the November meeting with the Young Marines and the cake-cutting ceremony. Please be advised that no food or adult beverages will be served. Only cake and soft drinks. I'm also asking that we dress up. (red blazers)

Also covered were plans for the 20th Anniversary in January. **Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC**, is forging ahead getting things organized. He's checking two other options before we decide on a place to have it. Budd is asking everyone to submit a picture of themselves when they were on active duty way back when. Even your "boot camp" picture is welcome. We're going to have a contest with prizes at figuring out who's who. That should be fun.

Oh yes, the Detachment Marine of the Year will be decided on at the November meeting with the announcement being made at the Anniversary Dinner in January.

The meeting was topped off at the end by enjoying some juicy plump grilled hot dogs compliments of **Mess Sergeant Wil Haas**.

We had a guest in attendance, **Marine Herb Young** who stopped by to check us out. Hopefully he liked what he saw

and will return and become a new member.

Another one of our members has folded his tent and relocated to North Carolina. **Bill and Cathy Rosenberger** moved to be near their daughter and son-in-law stationed at New River. Wishing them all the best.

I recently attended the Department Fall Quarterly Staff and Member Meeting held at Department Headquarters, Indiantown Gap. I gave a report of our Detachment activities at the Commandants Council meeting. All Detachments on board gave reports and a lot of interest is shown as well as good ideas. The regular meeting went well into the late afternoon. I'll just touch on a few of the things that were brought up. Nothing heavy at this time.

The department is considering offering only life members the MCL License Plate. It appears that people are joining the League, ordering the plate and then letting their membership expire. Also members who just don't care to be members anymore but have the plate are supposed to turn it back in. Yeah right! Like that's gonna happen. It's become a problem and selling only to life members is the only real solution.

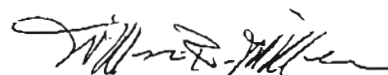
Good news for those of you that like to wear your MCL ribbons. The MCL Membership ribbon would only be authorized to be worn after five years of membership. That has changed. The MCL ribbon is now authorized to be worn from the first day of membership.

After five years you can stick a star in it. So if you already qualify for the ribbon, now you can add a star. Had I known that sooner, I would have picked up some ribbons and stars while the locker box was still open for business. Also the new MOY medallion medals can only be worn with formal attire. You know what guys, if you have the medal but no formal wear but do have the red blazer, then wear it! It's not to be worn with the white shirt and blues/black trousers. Okay, troops, are you ready for this? You better be sitting down. No one in the Marine Corps League will ever again refer to a detachment member as a "RED HAT". Simply stated we are now referred to as just "MEMBERS". Let me tell ya, I've been called a lot worse and being called a "red hat" never once offended me. The times they are a changing.

Also discussed was the starting up of a new detachment in Chester County and the demise of three others in the department. One detachment only had one member left and the department is not quite sure what to do with him at this point.

That's all I have for now. See you in November and, if I don't see you, Happy Birthday Manne!

Semper Fi



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.

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 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 for your continued support!**

Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held October 11, 2006, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 17 members present including all officers except the Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee and Bob Sundling**, **Past Commandant and Marine of the Year Budd Pearce**, and **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**.

Marine Herb Young was a visitor.

The Minutes of the September Meeting were unanimously approved.

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

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Bill Miller reported that a new detachment was being formed in Chester County. He reminded the members that the Department's Quarterly Staff and Members Meeting will be held Oct. 13-14 at the Department Headquarters at Indiantown Gap. He also discussed the Marine-type "Yard Guards" available from a Pennsylvania vendor who is a former Marine.

Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell reported the Detachment strength at 53 including 22 Life Members, 22 Regular Members and 1 Honorary Member. There are 8 members delinquent in their dues.

Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC, announced tickets for the Annual Department Raffle have been received and reported on further plans for the Detachment Anniversary Dinner. He offered several sites for the dinner and, after a short discussion, stated he will do some more research of possible sites and report the results at the November Meeting.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no communications from the National or Department Headquarters other than that reported by the Commandant.

Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom reported the Detachment had no legal problems but that we need to update our Detachment By-Laws to bring them into conformance with both National and Department By-Laws.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Young Marines Unit had requested representatives from the Detachment attend the Unit's Oct. 18 Meeting and present "The 13 Folds of the Flag." Junior Vice Commandant Pearce and the Public Relations Officer volunteered to make the presentation.

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

The **Public Relations Officer** set Oct. 20 as the deadline for the November issue of *Listen Up!* He also reported on the Detachment's participation in Nockamixon Day in Revere, PA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUNG MARINES--Young Marines Coordinator Bob Sundling, PC, reported on the Young Marines Unit's visit to Gettysburg Battlefield on Sept. 30-Oct. 1.

RIFLE & PISTOL TEAM--Team Captain Budd Pearce reported about the Department Rifle Match held Sept. 29-Oct. 1.

MARINE OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE--Members were reminded that nominations for Detachment "Marine of the Year" must be submitted by the November Meeting. Nominations must be in writing, fully explaining the reasons for the nomination. Nominations can be mailed to the Detachment or hand-delivered to 2006 Marine of the Year Pearce, at the November Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Miller presented a "Marine of the Year" ribbons to **Wil Haas**.

Marine Rich Scott requested the Color Guard participate in the "Operation Eternal Gratitude" Dedication at Central Bucks East High School at 8 a.m. on Nov. 10.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marine Mike Waldron announced he had contacted several area high schools in the hopes one of them would be interested in hosting the Marine Band in our area during October-November 2007. He reported he had been unsuccessful in finding a site which met the Band's requirements. **Marine Rich Scott** volunteered to contact Central Bucks South to see if the school would be interested.

Mess Sergeant Wil Haas announced he is planning a bus trip in May to the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico, VA. Anyone interested in the trip should contact Wil for more details.

Marine Rich Scott announced he is seeking Detachment members to form a Speakers Bureau to talk to area schools and organizations about the Marine Corps. Anyone interested in participating should contact Marine Scott.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on October 11.



November 10, 2006

BIRTHDAY MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Marines, Sailors and Friends of the Marine Corps

As we gather together to celebrate the 231st Birthday of the United States Marine Corps, we pause to once again take stock of who we are and what we do as members of the Marine Corps Family.

As members of the Marine Corps League, we have a duty and obligation to continue to be the standard bearer in the veteran's community, fighting for those benefits and entitlements that were earned by commitment and sacrifice. We must also keep up the fight to ensure that our Corps continues to be the "Force of Choice" in this country's National Security arena. This next year will provide our League with some major challenges in our communities, our nation, and around the world. Let us band together and be in the forefront as leaders and not followers. Search out and take care of those Marines in your communities who are returning home. Get into the VA Hospitals, nursing homes and visit that Marine down the block. Show them that we take care of our own.

On November 10th, let us celebrate our 231st Birthday with renewed sense of zeal and commitment. Let us never forget those Marines and members of our Sister Services serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and in every clime and place around the world where their presence is needed. They make this special day possible. Let us pray for their families and for their safe return to our fold. And let us never forget our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action - they will always be remembered.

Happy Birthday Marines!!

Semper Fidelis,

JACK RYAN
National Commandant

HELP WANTED

SPECIAL REQUEST

by Rich Scott

I have been asked by the Central Bucks School District to create a Speakers Bureau. The purpose of the bureau is to support the efforts of classroom teachers in insuring that the role of veterans, the concepts of patriotism and Americanism are properly presented to students of the district.

In this regard, if you are (and hopefully you will be) interested in participating in events at schools in the district such as: speaking in classes, participating in Veterans or patriotic events, or leading discussions about your or military service in general, please contact Rich Scott.

In times such as these it is important that the youth of today understand the price of freedom and the responsibilities attendant to living in this great country. It is not always taught in the classroom and we have a responsibility to insure that it is.

Contact **Rich Scott** at 215-512-5300 or by e-mail at richgscott@aol.com.



DID YOU KNOW....

At the Vietnam War Memorial sits a flag pole.

At its base are the seals of each U.S. military service. Every day throughout the entire year a group from Marine Barracks, 8th & I, Washington, DC, marches to the flag and polishes the Marine Corps emblem.

The other services have NEVER touched their's!

ORIGIN OF VETERANS DAY

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, West-



minster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on Nov. 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., Nov. 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day."

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through Congressional action.

If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the war to end all wars," Nov. 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after

the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

An answer to the question of how to pay tribute to those who had served in this latest, great war came in a proposal made by Representative Edwin K. Rees of Kansas: Change Armistice Day to Veterans Day, and make it an occasion to honor those who served America in all wars.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day.

On Memorial Day, 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War.

In 1973, a law passed providing interment of an unknown American from the Vietnam War, but none was found for several years. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from that conflict was placed alongside the others.

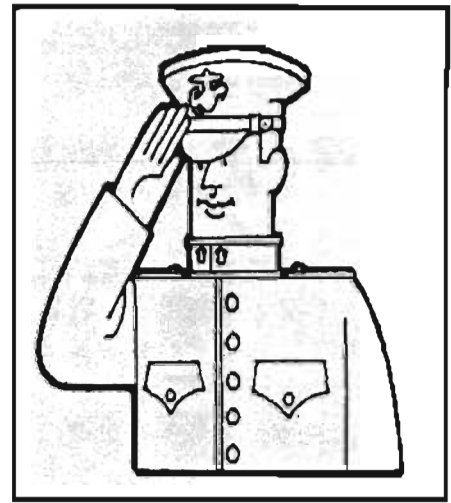
To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army Guard, The 3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October.

It soon became apparent, however, that Nov. 11 was a date of historic significance to many

Americans. Therefore, in 1978, Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m., on Nov. 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the



laying of a presidential wreath.

The bugler plays "Taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater. Veterans Day ceremonies in Arlington and elsewhere are coordinated by the President's Veterans Day National Committee. Chaired by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the committee represents national veterans organizations.

Governors of states and U.S. territories appoint Veterans Day chairpersons who, in cooperation with the National Committee and the Department of Defense, arrange and promote local ceremonies.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

HALLOWEEN
31 OCTOBER

DETACHMENT MEETING
8 NOVEMBER

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY
10 NOVEMBER

VETERANS DAY
11 NOVEMBER

THANKSGIVING
23 NOVEMBER

DETACHMENT MEETING
13 DECEMBER

WINTER BEGINS
22 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS
25 DECEMBER

NEW YEAR'S EVE
31 DECEMBER

NEW YEARS DAY
1 JANUARY

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT
20TH ANNIVERSARY
7 JANUARY

DETACHMENT MEETING
10 JANUARY

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
15 JANUARY

DETACHMENT MEETING
14 FEBRUARY

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TO THE SHORES OF TRIPOLI

The Marines Hymn sings of only two events in Marine Corps history: the Halls of Montezuma and the Shores of Tripoli.

The Marine Corps was still young at the turn of the 19th Century. Despite a recent war with the French, the Marine Corps found itself at a reduced size of 23 officers and 453 enlisted men in 1801.

The battle at Tripoli was to be a wakeup call to a nation that had almost forgotten about the Corps, but the call to glory did not begin as planned. The Barbary States, which consisted of Algiers, Tunis, Morocco, and Tripoli, were violent entities on the North African coast. The states existed by primarily preying upon unarmed Mediterranean merchant ships and forcing them to pay a fee to allow their vessels to pass. When the United States refused to pay, tension between the United States and the Barbary States grew.

In the summer of 1803, the United States sent a squadron of Navy ships to form a blockade. Assigned to the squadron was the USS PHILADELPHIA, a fast moving frigate. On the morning of Oct. 31, 1803, the PHILADELPHIA made a crucial mistake.

The frigate became grounded on an uncharted reef and the American giant became nothing more than target practice for the undersized Tripolitan gunboats. Not a single person was injured, but Navy Captain William Bainbridge surrendered the PHILADELPHIA's flag. The 308 Americans aboard, including 43 Marines commanded by 1st Lt. William S. Osborne, were taken ashore and imprisoned for 19 months.

The Tripolitans had freed the PHILADELPHIA from the reef and brought it into a Tripolitan harbor. Navy Capt. Edward Preble decided to destroy the frigate rather than let the enemy use her.

On the night of Feb. 16, 1804, 74 volunteers, including eight Marines, rode into the harbor on a stolen Tripolitan vessel. Receiving permission to tie up next to the PHILADELPHIA, the volunteers boarded the frigate and killed or captured all but two of the enemy. Not a single American was hurt and the Philadelphia was set ablaze.

In the spring of 1805, the United States launched an overland expedition to overthrow the Pasha of Tripoli. This brought one of the greatest Marine heroes of the Tripolitan War to the forefront, a young First Lieutenant from the Blue Ridge Mountains named Presley Neville O'Bannon.

O'Bannon led his Marines and approximately 500 men from Tunis, nearly 800 miles across the desert, toward the harbor fortress stronghold of Derna, Tripoli.

At 2 a.m. on April 27, O'Bannon led his Marines, and approximately 70 Tunis men, into the city of Derna. O'Bannon's initial attack was stopped cold, but when reserves showed, he was able to press on into the city. The Marines led the charge with bayonets drawn through a shower of bullets. Finally, at 3:30 a.m., O'Bannon raised the American flag over the harbor fort. For the first time, the Stars and Stripes had been raised in battle over the Eastern Hemisphere.

On June 3, the imprisoned men of the PHILADELPHIA were released after a ransom was paid, and a treaty was signed on June 10. According to legend, O'Bannon was given a jeweled sword that would serve as the model for the "Mameluke sword." That sword is still used today by Marine officers.

Though the war was not an overwhelming victory for the United States, it proved the young nation would fight. The war also proved a training ground for young naval officers of future wars.

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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.

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