



LISTEN UP!

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

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XII, Number 10

OCTOBER 2000



**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636**
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372
Meets
7:30 p.m.,
2d Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
315 North Street, Doylestown, PA

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Jr. VICE COMMANDANT:
DON H. GEE, PC

ADJUTANT:
GARY SMITH

PAYMASTER:
ROBERT C. CODY

JUDGE ADVOCATE:
BOB MOMORELLA

CHAPLAIN:
FRANK YOHE, PC

QUARTERMASTER:
ROBERT DUFF

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:
ROBERT A. SUNDLING

MESS SERGEANT:
WIL HAAS

WEBMASTER:
TRACY BROCKMAN

MARINE OF THE YEAR:
WIL HAAS

Hoax Surfaces on Internet

A message to the INTERNET has caused some confusion among veterans who have VA insurance policies. False information about dividends appear periodically.

These announcements declare that Congress has recently passed a bill which entitles veterans and service persons to a dividend based upon their prior years of service, and are part of a recurring problem of misinformation that dates back to 1965.

The dividend "hoax", as VA refers to it, had its origins in a special dividend that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), then known as the Veterans Administration, did pay to World War II veterans who had National Service Life Insurance policies. Approximately \$2.7 billion was paid in 1950 to more than 16 million of these veterans under the "1948 special dividend." Sometime in 1965, the special dividend news announcements of 15 years earlier resurfaced and were mistakenly published by several newspapers.

The special dividend had already been paid out to virtually all eligible government life insurance policyholders and there was no new special dividend.

The actual scope of the original dividend became fictionalized and some publications declared the dividend available to all veterans (not just World War II) and even to those who never carried gov-

ernment life insurance while in the service.

The 1948 special dividend program required veterans to apply for the payment.

Over the years the dividend story has prompted hundreds of thousands of veterans to write and "apply" for this benefit. Although the amount of letters has fluctuated, VA has received as many as 15-20,000 inquiries per week about this dividend in the past. Because of the volume of these requesters for a non-existent benefit, Congress passed a law in 1970 that prohibited payment of any special dividend declared prior to 1952 unless the application was received before 1954.

Dividends are not payable to current service members insured under Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) or Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI). SGLI and VGLI are group policies and therefore, do not pay dividends.

For information, VA continues to pay routine dividends on several policy series, but only to veterans who have kept their policies in force.

These veterans receive their dividends automatically on the anniversary date of their individual policy. They do not apply.

Contact your local VA Regional Office for additional assistance by dialing VA's toll-free number, 1-800-827-1000.

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT
1930 ON 11 OCTOBER 2000 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST,
315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Our Detachment continues to grow. We added another new member at the September meeting. We also had a guest at the meeting. **Southeast Division Vice Commandant Ray Devlin** brought the Commandant of a new Detachment from Philadelphia. He wanted to check out how to run a meeting. Ray Devlin said a few words and filled us in on what went on at the National Convention. While he was at the meeting, we talked Ray into coming out to practice with the rifle team.

Since our Junior Vice Commandant was not at the meeting, there was no information on the upcoming Birthday Ball. I'm sure that **Don Gee** has it totally under control and that there is no need to worry. There will be a full report at the October Meeting. It probably wouldn't hurt to get your check book ready and bring it to the October Meeting with you. If you haven't made plans to attend, make them or you'll miss out on a great time with some outstanding people.

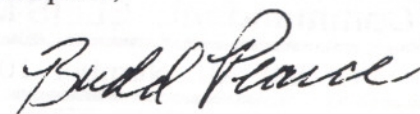
The Detachment Rifle Team will be out for the Department of Pennsylvania Rifle Match at Ft. Indiantown Gap on Sept. 29, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, doing its best to represent the Detachment honorably. Most of the team members have had their rifles worked on and they are ready to go. This event is one of the most fun events held by the Marine Corps League. Imagine more than 300 former Marines getting together to do what all

Marines are trained to do...shoot rifles and the bull at the same time. It is one great weekend, no matter what the weatherman does to us. If you have never been to one of these matches, you should try to make it some year. You don't have to be a shooter to go. You can just go to watch, or help out. Think about it for next September. You might like it.

The next highway cleanup will be on Saturday Oct. 14. That's the Saturday after our Detachment Meeting. The last time we held one, not very many people showed up to help out. I am sure we will

have a better turn-out this time. If it rains, we will hold the cleanup the following Saturday. Don't forget, everyone meets at Lu's Place in Furlong at 8 a.m. and we get a good, hearty breakfast on the Detachment before we get started. This will be announced again and full information will be available at the October Meeting. I'll see you there.

Semper Fi,



Former CMC Joins Casino Board

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ--One of the largest gambling corporations in the world is putting its money on Marine green.

It's recruiting retired **General P. X. Kelley** for its Board of Directors.

Park Place Entertainment--a huge gambling corporation investing in more than 2,000,000 square feet of gaming space--announced the addition of the 28th Marine Corps Commandant.

Kelley was the top Marine from 1983 until his retirement in 1987.

"His reputation for honesty and integrity precede him," said **Geoffrey Davis**,

Vice-President of Corporate Communications at Park Place.

"He's regarded as an expert in the areas of corporate governance and regulatory issues."

Kelley is a partner with the investment firm J. F. Lehman & Company and a Director with a number of corporations, including Exant Inc., London Reinsurance Company and the Wackenhut Corporation.

Park Place Entertainment owns, manages or has an interest in 29 gaming properties operating under the Bally's, Caesars, Flamingo, Grand, and Hilton brand names, with a total of more than 28,000 hotel rooms and approximately 65,000 employees worldwide.

2000 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DETACHMENT MEETING
OCTOBER 11

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
OCTOBER 14

DETACHMENT MEETING
NOVEMBER 8

BIRTHDAY BALL
NOVEMBER 11

DETACHMENT MEETING
DECEMBER 13



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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

OCTOBER
Ronald C. WOOTERS
Nicholas ZELENEVICH

NOVEMBER
John P. CASSIDY
Raymond A. STARK

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, was held September 13, 2000, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 21 members present including all officers except the Junior Vice Commandant. Distinguished members in attendance included Department of Pennsylvania **Southeast Division Vice Commandant Ray Devlin**, **Past Commandant Frank Yohe**, **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**, and **Marine of the Year Wil Haas**.

Marine Andrew Davis was unanimously accepted for membership.

The Minutes of the August Meeting were unanimously accepted.

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

Sick Call: Marine of the Year Wil Haas recently underwent laser surgery and reports he is doing well. **Past Commandant Bill Plant** is on medication for three blocked arteries and is progressing well.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment strength at 53 members: 34 Regular Members, 15 Life Members, and 4 Associate Members.

Judge Advocate Bob Momorella is preparing required Corporate Reports.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling reported no requests for the Detachment Color Guard.

Quartermaster Bob Duff reported he will order "special" items for the Detachment if members will let him know what they would like.

Public Relations--In the absence of the Public Relations Officer, **Commandant Budd Pearce** set the deadline for submitting materials for the October issue of "*Listen Up!*" as September 20.

Young Marines--**Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling** reported the Unit is going strong and has planned a Survival Trip to the Appalachian Trail.

Committee Reports

Rifle & Pistol Team--**Rifle & Pistol Team Coordinator Bill Rosenberger** reported the Rifle Team is ready for the Department Rifle Match Sept. 30-Oct. 1.

"Marine of the Year"--**Marine Paul Caprio** reminded the members that nominations for "Marine of the Year" must be submitted in writing, with full justification for the nomination, by the October Meeting. Nominations should be sent to **Marine of the Year Wil Haas**. Voting by former Marines of the Year will be conducted at the conclusion of the October Meeting and the 2001 "Marine of the Year" will be announced at the Birthday Ball.

New Business

Marine Ray Krout asked the Detachment to donate \$1,000 to the American Legion Post to help cover the cost of repairs and air conditioning for the building. The motion was passed.

Southeast Division Vice Commandant Ray Devlin reported on the Department Convention and presented certificates for 100% Membership and Newsletter participation to the Detachment.

Announcements

Judge Advocate Bob Momorella reported the Shriners Rodeo is set for Sept. 15-17. They have enough members to cover the gates this year so they will not need the Detachment to provide security. Anyone wanting to attend the rodeo should contact Bob.

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



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Central Bucks Detachment

P.O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372

Sponsoring
a
BIRTHDAY BALL

Celebrating
the
225th Anniversary
of the

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Date: NOVEMBER 11, 2000

Place: ORION CLUB, Naval Air Station, Willow Grove, PA

TIME: 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35.00 per person (includes Dinner & Open Bar)

MARINES, FORMER MARINES AND Friends of MARINES

Are Invited and Encouraged to Attend

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NUMBER ATTENDING: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED : \$ _____

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Mail Reservation by OCTOBER 25, 2000 to:

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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Central Bucks Detachment

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USMC BIRTHDAY BALL INFORMATION NEEDED

PLEASE RETURN THIS with your check payable to:

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Detachment or Organization's Name: _____

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED : \$ _____

PRIME RIB _____

OVEN BAKED CHICKEN _____

Name of Person Attending

Dinner Choice:

Beef

Chicken

_____	_____	_____
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Iwo MOH Recipient Douglas T. Jacobson Dead at 74

Douglas T. Jacobson preferred not to talk about the war. He never spoke without prompting about his service as a Marine Private on Iwo Jima or about the Medal of Honor he earned there.

Jacobson, one of 81 Marines decorated during World War II with the most prestigious medal for wartime bravery, died Aug. 20 at Bon Secours St. Joseph Hospital in Port Charlotte, FL, of congestive heart failure and pneumonia. He was 74.

Jacobson was born in Rochester, NY, and his family moved to Port Washington when he was an infant. The son of a master carpenter and an only child, he joined the Marines before graduating high school and was stationed in the Pacific with the 4th Marine Division.

He landed on the beaches of the tiny Volcano island of Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945, engaging in a 36-day fight for the strategic air base for fighter-escorts supporting long-range bombing missions against mainland Japan.

On Feb. 26, in a single-handed assault

on the strategic Hill 382, Jacobson destroyed an anti-aircraft gun and used a 3.5 rocket launcher to demolish several machine gun positions and concrete bunkers, killing about 75 Japanese soldiers and ultimately destroyed 16 enemy positions.

"He never wanted to talk about the war," said his wife, Joan, whom he met in 1961 when she was working as a school teacher for the Department of Defense on Okinawa.

"He just didn't want to do that, it just brought back too many memories. If someone asked him, he would reluctantly tell what he did when he got the

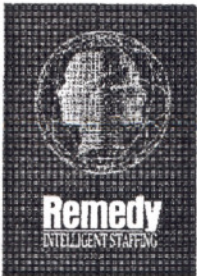
Medal of Honor, but he wouldn't volunteer it."

In **President Harry S. Truman's** presentation of the Medal of Honor, awarded to 22 Marines during this battle alone, he called Jacobson's "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty."

He left the military after the war, only to return the following year, and serve in Korea and Vietnam before retiring from active duty in 1967.

Military services were held in Punta Gorda and interment with full military honors is scheduled for Oct. 27 at Arlington National Cemetery.

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Application for Membership Marine Corps League

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Date of Birth ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning _____

Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement _____ SSN# _____

Type of Application -- New () Renewal () Associate () Phone (____) _____

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)

Remit this form with check or money order (made payable to CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MCL)
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Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
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