

# LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXIV, Number 10

OCTOBER 2011

Commandant: BUDD PEARCE

Editor: DON H. GEE

## STOLEN PISTOL RETURNED TO MoH RECIPIENT

An historic Colt .45-caliber, semi-automatic pistol stolen more than 30 years ago from a Medal of Honor recipient in South Carolina has been returned to its rightful owner.

The pistol and owner **John J. McGinty** were reunited after a history buff who bought the old handgun in an online auction last month, tracked down the retired Marine whose name is engraved on it.

McGinty's citation mentions his Colt .45 pistol.

"When the enemy tried to out-flank his position, he killed five of them at point-blank range with his pistol," it concluded.

"I knew if I found him and it was his gun, I couldn't keep it," said **George Berry**, 71, who knew little about the history of the gun when he purchased it from an auction house in Pennsylvania.

The story begins when Berry, a retired Navy Warrant Officer who also served in the Marine Corps, decided this summer to fulfill a lifelong dream of owning one of the historic handguns.

"I've always wanted to own a Colt Model 1911 .45 automatic - always wanted one," he says. "John Wayne had one in every World War II movie I've ever seen him in."

Early in July, he began searching the Internet and discovered that Alderfer Auction, a well-known auction firm in Hatfield, PA, would be offering three

of the Colt .45s in a July 12 auction.

In particular, lot No. 78 caught his

eye: "Colt 1911 A1 semi-automatic pis-

*Please see **MEDAL**, Page 6*

### Celebrating

# 85!



Please come and help Ray Krout celebrate his birthday! It's a **SURPRISE!!**

Please no gifts. Instead please bring cards, memories written down, and pictures to be placed in a scrapbook. Thanks!

**DATE**  
October 2, 2011

**TIME**  
11:00-5:00

**LOCATION**  
American Legion Post 210  
315 North Street  
Dorlestown, PA

**GIVEN BY**  
Family and Friends

**RSVP 9/23/11**  
Julia Krout  
jkrout139@gmail.com  
(267) 261-8976



**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

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## COMMANDANT'S COLUMN



Marines,

I was very happy to have been the presenter of nine Eagle Scout certificates this past weekend. **Junior Past Commandant Jim Powell** and I went up to Perkasio on Saturday to make the awards to the Boy Scouts from Troop 215. These kids really were impressive. Since the MCL wants us to get involved with this program we might as well get off to a good start. Most ceremonies are for one or two scouts, nine is amazing.

We have our Marine Corps Birthday coming up so make sure to get your reservations in to Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile as soon as possible. We will be getting more updates on our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration during the next couple of months, so try to make the meetings.

The Detachment has a full Rifle Team plus one for the upcoming match. We should do fairly well this year since **Jim Powell** and **Senior Vice Commandant Joe Kier** have

their new rifles. I am going to try to beat Joe with his own rifle this year. Perhaps I'll get my own for next year.

Next month is our highway clean up, so try to set aside the Saturday morning after our meeting for a free breakfast and a nice walk on a fall day.

That's all I've got for now, see you at the meeting!

*Budd Pearce*

### PERFORMANCE COMMENDED

Our own **Sgt. Bob Sundling, USMCR**, was recently awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal for "outstanding service" at last year's reserve deployment to Hawthorne, NV. He was also recently appointed Platoon Sergeant.

## LISTEN UP! Issues Needed

**Junior Past Commandant Jim Powell** is seeking copies of *LISTEN UP!* to complete our website archives.

If you can provide copies of the

November 1966, July 1998, September 2001, and/or November 2002 issues, please contact him at: 215-862-6280 or e-mail [usmc80@comcast.net](mailto:usmc80@comcast.net).

### 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!**

# SEPTEMBER DETACHMENT MEETING

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held Sept. 14, 2011, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 20 members present including all officers except the Adjutant/Paymaster, Chaplain, and Judge Advocate. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandant Bob Sundling, Department Junior Vice Commandant/Past Detachment Commandant Jim Powell, Southeast Division Vice Commandant/Past Detachment Commandant Bill Miller, and Past Department of New Jersey/Past National Northeast Division Vice Commandant Ed Hoth.**

**New Member: Hugh McGinniss** of Chalfont, PA, was unanimously accepted for membership.

The **Minutes** of the August Meeting were unanimously approved.

The **Paymaster's Report** was delivered by **Quartermaster Corey Fisher**. The report was unanimously accepted.



## M I N U T E S

### OFFICER REPORTS

**Commandant Budd Pearce** reported he had participated in the Color Guard (with **Ben Jones, David Gentile and Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling**) for the opening ceremony for the Travis Manion Foundation's Sept. 11 Run. He also reported he and **Junior Past Commandant Jim Powell** will be presenting nine Eagle Scout Certificates on Sept. 17 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Perkasio.

**Senior Vice Commandant Joe Kier** reported the Detachment strength at 69 members including 28 Life Members, 33 Annual Members, 2 Dual Members, 5 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member.

**Junior Vice Commandant Joe Gentile** reported on the 25th Anniversary Banquet (Jan. 28) and the Birthday Celebration (Nov. 12), both at the Water Wheel Inn in Doylestown. He also reported he was working on a pancake breakfast fund-raiser at Applebee's in Newtown on Dec. 10. Additionally, he discussed possible Rose Program fund-raisers on Oct. 22.

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC,** reported the Color Guard had participated in the Manion Foundation Run reported by Commandant Pearce.

**Quartermaster Corey Fisher** had nothing new to report.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce** set Saturday, Oct. 15, as the date for the next highway clean up.

**25th Anniversary Committee Chair Joe Kier** presented three versions of the 25th Anniversary patch. Patch #1 was selected as the Anniversary patch.

**Golf Tourney Chairman Joe Kier** reported the committee will meet with course people in March or April.

**Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling** reported the Young Marines Unit would be holding a Car Wash fund-raiser on Saturday, Sept. 24, at Pep Boys (just off Street Rd.) in Warminster, beginning at 9 a.m.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Junior Past Commandant Jim Powell** reported on the Department Convention.

A **motion** was made to add "or his appointed representative" to the measure authorizing the Detachment to reimburse the Commandant for expenses in attending Department Quarterly Staff Meetings and Department Conventions. The motion was unanimously accepted.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011.**

## Schedule of events

The official schedule of events will be posted closer to the event date on the AVTT website under "events", "Bridgewater, NJ"

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

### October 12, 2011 - Ride of Honor

A motorcycle escort will accompany the truck containing the Tribute to North Branch Park. The truck should arrive at North Branch Park at approximately 3:45 PM.

**October 13, 2011 – 1:00 PM** - The wall is open to the public around the clock until 3:00 PM on October 16, 2011.

Events will include:

- Opening ceremony
- Wreath laying ceremonies
- Memorial services
- Candlelight ceremony
- Closing ceremony

### Guest Speaker

#### **Jack H. Jacobs – MEDAL OF HONOR**

Jack Howard Jacobs is a retired Colonel in the United States Army and a Medal of Honor recipient for his actions during the Vietnam War.



This event is made possible through the generous donations of our partners. Please help honor our veterans by becoming a partner.

### Patriotic Partners

- Diamond \$5,000.00
  - Platinum \$2,500.00
  - Gold \$1,000.00
  - Silver \$500.00
  - Bronze up to \$499.00
- \*donations are tax deductible

We will proudly recognize our partners

- In the event program
- With signage at the event
- On the Bridgewater event page of the AVTT website.
- In a Special Edition Newsletter from Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 452
- On the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 452 website.

#### Partner information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made out to: VVA Chapter 452  
Mail to: Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 452  
Attn: Traveling Wall  
P.O. Box 999  
Flemington, N.J. 08822

## American Veterans

### Traveling Tribute

Cost of Freedom Memorial

October 13, 2011 after 1:00 PM  
thru

October 16, 2011 until 3 PM

Visitors welcome around the clock

Somerset County Park Commission  
North Branch Park  
355 Milltown Road  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807



### *Honor-Respect-Remember*

Sponsored by Vietnam Veterans of  
America Chapter 452  
[www.vva-nj452.org](http://www.vva-nj452.org)

## MEDAL OF HONOR Presentation



Sgt. DAKOTA MEYERS receiving Medal of Honor from President Barak Obama during Sept. 15 White House ceremony.

## CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT MARINES ON THE NET

CAPRIO, Paul .....	midupe@aol.com
CONCORDIA, Michael L. ....	m.concordia@verizon.net
CUPITT, Steve .....	scupitt@aol.com
DOHERTY, Joe .....	joedog7@verizon.net
DUFF, Bob .....	duffrft@verizon.net
GENTILE, Jack .....	jgentile@singerequipment.com
HAGAN, Vincent .....	vincent.hagan@pnc.com
HOTH, Ed .....	Edhothusmc@aol.com
JONES, Ben .....	benjaminjones1@gmail.com
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WIMER, Lee .....	leewimer@aol.com
YEASTED, Vince .....	vyeasted@comcast.net

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**YOUNG MARINES  
CARWASH  
24 SEPTEMBER**

**COLUMBUS DAY  
10 OCTOBER**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
12 OCTOBER**

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY  
CLEAN UP  
15 OCTOBER**

**HALLOWEEN  
31 OCTOBER**

**DAYLIGHT  
SAVING TIME ENDS  
6 NOVEMBER**

**ELECTION DAY  
8 NOVEMBER**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
9 NOVEMBER**

**MARINE CORPS  
BIRTHDAY  
10 NOVEMBER**

**VETERANS DAY  
11 NOVEMBER**

**MARINE CORPS  
BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATION  
12 NOVEMBER**

tol. Cal. 45. 5" bbl. SN 0103889. Reblued finish on all metal, plain walnut Colt grips, after-market rear sight, no magazine," the description read.

"Faint 'USMC' stamped on right side of slide, partial 'United States Property' wording is visible," it continued. "The name 'John J. McGinty USMC' stamped on left side of slide. Very good."

Berry was hesitant because it had been "reblued" and no longer had its original sights or grips, all factors decreasing its value.

"And it had somebody's name engraved on the left side of the slide," he observed.

He had no idea that McGinty was a war hero, let alone a recipient of the nation's highest military medal for valor.

Still, the gun was manufactured in 1914, making it an early model. And there was the USMC stamp he coveted.

"I decided to buy it in spite of the knocks against it," Berry said. "It was the only one I knew of with 'USMC' stamped on it."

Berry paid less than \$1,000 for the pistol. The two other Model 1911 Colt .45s in the auction went for roughly \$4,000 and \$6,000 each, he noted.

Curious about who this McGinty fellow was, he began an Internet search. Up popped numerous articles on a John J. McGinty, a retired Marine who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his courage in South Vietnam in 1966.

"The value of the gun just went up five-fold--that was my first thought, anyway," Berry recalled.

As he read more about McGinty and his story, he knew he had to locate him to see if he was the same man who once owned the gun. He also wanted to find out how he parted with the pistol, and whether the former Marine wanted it back.

"His medal citation actually mentions the pistol," Berry observed, referring to the fact the wounded McGinty used it to kill five enemy soldiers attacking

his position.

However, Berry did not yet know whether it was the same McGinty associated with his newly acquired pistol. He used the Internet to track down McGinty, 71, in Beaufort, SC. McGinty had retired from the corps as a Captain in October 1976.

The retired Navy warrant officer called the retired Marine Corps officer and asked him if it was his pistol.

"He said, 'Do you mean 0103889?'" Berry recalled, noting McGinty had just recited the gun's serial number.

That's when McGinty informed him the pistol had been stolen in 1978 when it was on display along with his uniform and sword. It was the very same pistol McGinty had used in Vietnam to repulse that final assault.

Berry sent the pistol to Beaufort. After receiving it, McGinty called and wanted to pay Berry for all his expenses.

"I told him I didn't want any money, that I had just wanted a Model 1911," Berry said.

Turns out that McGinty had a completely original Colt 1911 manufactured in 1918 that had been owned by John Finn, a longtime friend. Out of gratitude for having received his pistol back, he sent the Finn pistol to Medford for Berry to pick up last week.

"Can't thank you enough for your kindness," read a July 24 note accompanying the weapon. "I have enclosed some cards and a (Medal of Honor) challenge coin. The John W. Finn card was printed on the occasion of his 100th birthday. John passed away last year. Thank you again, George."

With his signature, McGinty, added "Semper Fi."

Finn, who died in the spring of 2010 at age 100, was the last survivor of the

15 Navy sailors who received the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Wounded nine times, Finn, who acquired the pistol during the war, was the oldest living recipient of the medal.

"I am absolutely deliriously happy it turned out this way," Berry said.

## MARINE IMPOSTER SENTENCED TO 16 MONTHS

GREENVILLE, NC--A local man who once falsely claimed to have seen the horrors of war will now see the inside of a prison cell, a U.S. federal court judge decided last month.

**Michael Delos Hamilton** of Richlands was sentenced in Greenville to 16 months in prison after having been convicted in April of wearing the medals and uniform of a highly decorated Marine Colonel without authorization, making false statements to federal authorities and embezzling fraudulent disability payments totaling more than \$37,000 from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

He was exposed as a phony in spring 2010, when he appeared before a gathering of veterans in Jacksonville in a colonel's dress regalia, including combat decorations including two Navy Crosses, four Silver Stars and eight Purple Hearts pinned to his chest. Remanded to the Pitt County Jail following his trial four months ago, the 68-year-old Hamilton looked especially frail as he was wheeled into the courtroom to learn his fate.

Hamilton faced a prison sentence of 15 to 21 months for the weightiest offense, but motions filed by the prosecution after the trial recommended he be placed in a more stringent penalty category in light of his apparent intentions to continue to embezzle disability payments for combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder for the rest of his natural life, which prosecution suggested would last another seven years, with over \$100,000 in payments taken.

Check Out Our  
Detachment Web Site  
at:  
[www.mclcb.org](http://www.mclcb.org)

# Quartermaster Store

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\$5.00

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\$55.00

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\$25.00

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\$22.00

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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](mailto: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**