



LISTEN UP!

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

VOLUME XII, Number 10

OCTOBER 1999

CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT #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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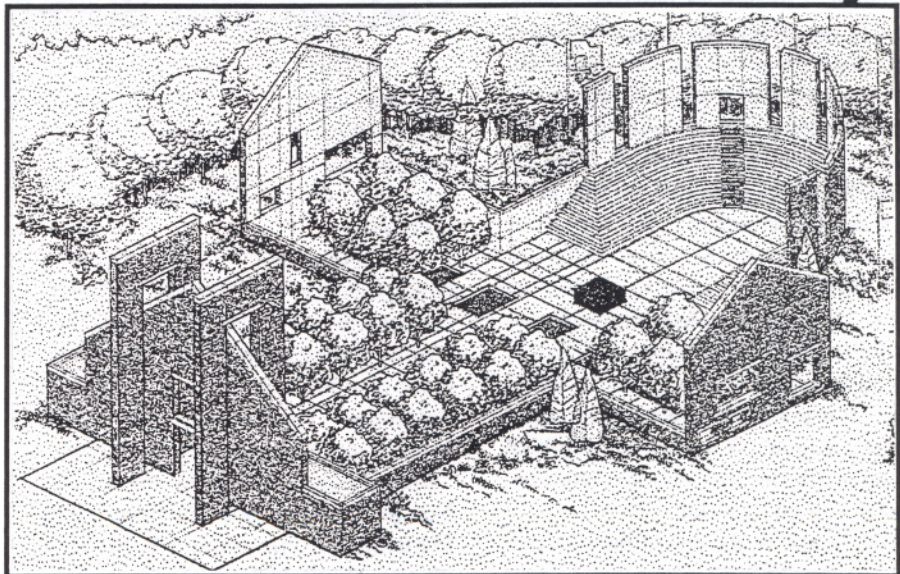
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Veterans Memorial A Reality!



From *The Veteran's Review*

INDIANTOWN GAP--It has been a long time coming!

In fact, there have been times when the strong have wavered and the faithful found themselves doubting, but at long last the Veterans Memorial is no longer in question.

The Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Commission (PVMC) has spent years raising funds, begging, pleading, and toiling to make this dream a reality.

The Marine Corps League, The American Legion, The VFW, and all of the other Veterans Service Organizations and their individual members have worked

tirelessly in pursuit of the goal. Now, thanks to the final heroic efforts of Representatives Jerry Nailor and John Barley, Peter Sug, Paul Semmel and Senators Bob Robbins, Richard Tilghman, and Robert Jubelirer, the money to build the Memorial is in the bank.

The Memorial will be built in the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA, just outside the Ft. Indiantown Gap National Guard Training Site. The location within the cemetery grounds has been under discussion for several months. The original location was changed because of developing plans within the

(See MEMORIAL, Page 4)

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON 13 OCTOBER 1999
AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

The Detachment helped out the Shriners at their big rodeo by taking tickets and manning the entry gates. They were very happy to have us and all went well. If you made it over to help out, we thank you. If you didn't, you missed a good time. We all had a great time and got free hot dogs and soda out of the deal., as well as a nice donation to the Detachment for our efforts.

The Detachment Rifle Team went out to Ft. Indiantown Gap to represent the Detachment at the Department of Pennsylvania Annual Rifle Match on Sept. 25-27. No word yet on how we did because I'm writing this before we actually went. I'm sure we will have a good time, as we usually do. I am also hoping that, since we got all the rain last week, the rain gods bless us with no rain out there this year (that would be a first). One of our newer members, **Marine Mike Metz**, joined the team this year. He was an Amtracker so it's a given he can shoot. After all, those things are very slow, so you have to be able to shoot. I hope, as the Detachment grows, the Rifle and Pistol Teams will grow. We have a fun time every time we go there. It is some of the best camaraderie in the League. You should think of taking a trip out to a match sometime, even if you go to shoot.

Well, here it is, the end of the summer and our Detachment plans turn toward the Birthday Ball. If you have not reserved your tickets, please do. The turnout from our Detachment last year was

rather weak and I would really like to see the majority of our members come out for this year's Ball. You know we have a good time--and the food is good. So, get hold of **Junior Vice Paul Caprio** and get those tickets ordered.

The Detachment has added a new member each month for the past three months and we are scheduled to swear in another this month. Keep brining in those Marines! If it is at all possible to make this month's meeting, please do. It looks really good for the Detachment when we have a good turn-out when a new member joins. Plus, you don't want to miss whatever **Mess Sergeant Wil**

Haas is planning for the refreshments. **Wil** couldn't attend the last two meetings, so I'm sure there is something goof in the works for this month. Come on out, get all the info about the Ball and other Detachment happenings, and get fed. You might even get lucky and win the 50/50. You can't do any of the above if you don't make the meeting. So, I'll see you there!

Semper Fi,

Budd Plance

Vietnam War Stamp Unveiled by USPS

HOLMDEL, NJ--The Vietnam War was remembered July 26 when a new commemorative postage stamp was unveiled by the U.S. Postal Service at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"The Vietnam War stamp will be a lasting tribute to the thousands of American men and women who served their country during the war, and particularly those who lost their lives," said **David Solomon**, Vice President, New York Metro Area, who unveiled the stamp.

Joining Solomon at the ceremony were **New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman**; **Congressman Rush Holt** (D-NJ); **Frank Delany**, President, New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation; and, **Vito Cetta**, District Manager, Central New Jersey District.

The Vietnam War stamp was selected by the public during nationwide balloting in May 1998 as one of 15 commemorative stamps saluting the 1960s. Over a two-year period, the public was offered the chance to vote for stamp subjects honoring the 1950s through the 1990s as part of the "Celebrate The Century" stamp and education program.

The stamps was issued Sept. 17 in Green Bay, WI.

The Vietnam War (1954-1975) was the longest military conflict in U.S. history. The hostilities in Vietnam, Laos,

and Cambodia claimed the lives of more than 58,000 Americans. Another 304,000 were wounded.

As a result of the Geneva Convention in 1954, after France's defeat in the French Indochina war, Vietnam was divided into North and South Vietnam. The war began in South Vietnam as Communist-led guerrillas attempted to overthrow the South Vietnamese government.

In 1961, the U.S. began sending support troops to South Vietnam, but following the Tonkin Gulf Resolution of 1964, the war quickly escalated. Under **President Richard M. Nixon**, the U.S. began a policy of increased bombing and troop withdrawals. In 1973, a Paris cease-fire agreement allowed U.S. troops to withdraw. The war ended in 1975 with a final offensive by the North Vietnamese and the defeat of the South Vietnamese Army.

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located off the Garden State Parkway near the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel. Comprised of 366 polished black granite panels, each 8-foot high, the memorial honors all those who served and, in particular, pays tribute to New Jersey's sons and daughters who went to Southeast Asia but did not return.

(See **VIETNAM STAMP**, Page 4)



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.

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania was held September 8, 1999, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #213, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 20 members present including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant, Sergeant-at-Arms and Quartermaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **National Director of Public Relations and Past Commandant Don Gee**, **Past Commandant Frank Yohe**, and **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**.

The Minutes of the August Meeting were unanimously approved.

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

New Member: Marine Steve Daly of Lansdale was unanimously approved for regular membership.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported the Detachment had received notice from the Department of Pennsylvania will hold its Fall Staff & Members Meeting on October 30 at the Best Western East Mountain Inn in Wilkes-Barre. Any one interested in attending should contact Commandant Pearce for particulars.

In the absence of **Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller**, **Past Commandant Don Gee** reported the Detachment strength at 49 including 13 Life Members, 32 Regular Members and 4 Associate Members. We have one member delinquent.

Junior Vice Commandant Paul Caprio reported the Detachment made a profit of \$130 on the Town & County Playhouse play. He also announced the Birthday Ball will be held on Saturday, Nov. 6, at the Orion Club at NAS, Willow Grove. Cost is \$35 per person. **Reservations must be received by OCTOBER 23.**

Judge Advocate Bob Momorella reported he had received the insurance certificate which provides liability insurance for Detachment activities. He stated he had NOT received a reply from Marine Corps League Headquarters about the status of the Young Marines.

Standing Committees

Public Relations--Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC, set September 20 at the deadline for the next issue of *Listen Up!* He also announced he would be changing the format of the newsletter beginning in November to conform to guidelines established by both the Department of Pennsylvania and the National Marine Corps League.

Adopt-A-Highway Committee --Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce set Saturday, October 16, as the next date for highway clean-up. As usual, the crew will meet at Lu's Place at 8 a.m. and will commence the clean-up after breakfast.

Rifle & Pistol Team--Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger reminded the Detachment the Team will be competing at the Department Rifle Match from Sept. 25-27. Although it is too late to add any one to the competition this year, he pointed out, the teams are always seeking new members. Contact Bill at (215) 348-7275 if you are interested in joining either or both teams.

Good of the League

Past Commandant Frank Yohe presented the Detachment a Streamer Holder for the Detachment Colors.

Announcements

Marine Mike Waldron reported Marine Aircraft Group 49 (MAG-49) is sponsoring a Golf Tournament on Sept. 27.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, October 13 at 7:30 p.m.

HOUSE GIVES ARLINGTON MORE SPACE

WASHINGTON, DC--The House took steps to prevent Arlington National Cemetery from running out of space in 25 years by passing a Fiscal Year 2000 Defense Authorization Bill recently with a provision to expand the nation's most hallowed burial ground.

Among the several initiatives of interest to veterans in the DoD bill, the provision authorizes the transfer of 36.5 acres at the Pentagon's Navy Annex to Arlington National Cemetery.

It would also require the Secretary of the Army, who is charged with supervising the cemetery, to modify its borders by including eight acres from nearby Fort Meyer.

Finally, the provision authorizes the Secretary to enter into negotiations with appropriate state and local officials to acquire any additional property that separates cemetery and annex land.

The initiative has been a high-priority issue for **Congressman Bob Stump**,

chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee.

His interest followed an Army report that Arlington Cemetery would run out of burial plots around the year 2025, a situation that would deny space especially for eligible veterans from Vietnam and subsequent eras.

A similar provision passed the House overwhelmingly in the previous 105th Congress, but the Senate took no action.

"Congress must take action now and not wait until space at Arlington is exhausted," Chairman Stump said.

"Burial at Arlington is the highest honor this nation can give to a veteran. We need to plan now to preserve that honor for future generations of veterans.

"I'm confident the Senate will show similar foresight and act this year on this

measure."

Stump has also led the fight to reserve Arlington for those veterans with distinguished military records, who died in battle, or received the highest military decorations.

League Tenure Awards To Be Presented At Birthday Ball

Detachment members who have reached their 5, 10, 15, 20-year or more Marine Corps League service mark will receive Tenure Awards at the Detachment's Birthday Ball next month at NAS, Willow Grove.

According to Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller, 28 members are eligible for the award this year and will be presented to those Marines during the Ball.

VIETNAM STAMP

(Continued from Page 2)

Designed by **Carl Herrman** of Laguna Niguel, CA, the Vietnam War stamp features a photograph by **Sergeant First Class Howard C. Breedlove**, U.S. Army DASPO, of men of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), participating in Task Force Oregon, leaping from a chopper near Chu

Lai in the spring of 1967.

The Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee recommends all stamp subjects and designs to the Postmaster General for approval.

The committee also selected the stamps to honor the 1900s through the 1940s.

During the month-long balloting periods, the public selected the subjects for stamps commemorating the 1950s through the 1990s.

MEMORIAL

(Continued from Page 1)

cemetery. The "final" location has now been agreed to by the Veterans' Memorial Commission, the architect for the NCA and the local Cemetery Director, **Charlene Lewis**. We are now awaiting the final commitment letter from Washington.

"This Memorial is going to be awe inspiring," says **Stan Reinhard**, Chair of the PVMC and Adjutant for the American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania. "It's designed to look like a war-ravaged church that was taken over by nature. When you walk in through the grove of trees, it will feel like a natural

cathedral."

The Memorial was designed for gatherings, both large and small, for memorial or interment services or just a spot for peacefulness. It also provides restrooms and shelter from the weather. The "choir" has seating for a large throng facing the "altar."

The highest wall in the building is 70 feet to the top. That's the reason the architect wouldn't accept one of the proposed sites. It would have just dominated the cemetery in that location. In the "final" surroundings, it will blend in, providing an inviting spot to stop for prayer or contemplation. Three reflecting pools, shallow to prevent accidents, bring a sense of peace to the roofless

interior.

Now that we have a spot, now that we have the money to build this worthy memorial, there is but one step left to complete. In order to guarantee that there will always be an attractive, well-kept memorial, we need to raise the money to have a fund which will earn enough interest each year to pay the upkeep into the future. About \$500,000 would probably be enough, a million would be perfect. We have come this far.

We must be able to maintain the memorial now that it is really going to be built. If each veteran in the Commonwealth gave just one dollar, it would be more than enough.

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NEW SERGEANT MAJOR OF MARINE CORPS POSTED

WASHINGTON, DC-- **Sergeant Major Alford L. McMichael** was posted recently as the 14th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps in a ceremony at the Marine Barracks here.

He relieved retiring **Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Lewis G. Lee**. SgtMaj. McMichael will be the first African-American to hold the post and the first to have never served in combat since the post was established in 1957.

McMichael was born in Hot Springs, AR. He enlisted in the Marine Corps on Aug. 27, 1970, and underwent recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA. After completing Infantry Training School and Basic Infantry training at Camp Pendleton, CA, he was assigned to the Marine Barracks, Pearl Harbor, HI. Upon completion of this tour, he transferred to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines.

In 1974, McMichael returned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, where he served as a Drill Instructor, Series Gunnery Sergeant, and Battalion Drill Master. His next assignment was with the 21st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division.

Transferred to the 3rd Marine Division in 1978, he served as a Shore Party Chief with 3rd Division Support Group. In January 1979, McMichael received orders to Marine Security Guard School at Quantico, VA, and, upon completion of

school, was assigned to the American Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark.

In 1981, he returned to Quantico as an instructor at Marine Security Guard School.

In 1983, McMichael was assigned to the University of Minnesota where he served as the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor for the NROTC Program. Upon completion of this assignment, he reported to Officer Candidates School, Quantico, as a Company First Sergeant.



After completing the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy Advanced Course, McMichael was assigned to Okinawa, Japan, as the First Sergeant of Company C, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. In 1986, he was ordered to Marine Barracks, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, as the Barracks First Sergeant.

From August 1988 to May 1989, he served as the Deputy Director of the Staff NCO Academy, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, CA, and then as its Director until May 1991, when he was assigned as the Sergeant Major of Officer Candidates School.

Returning to Okinawa in 1994, McMichael served as the Sergeant Major of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. In July 1995, he was assigned as the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Sergeant Major.

In January 1997, SgtMaj. McMichael was assigned as the Manpower and Reserve Affairs Sergeant Major at Headquarters Marine Corps, the post he held until being selected as Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

SgtMaj. McMichael's medals and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star.

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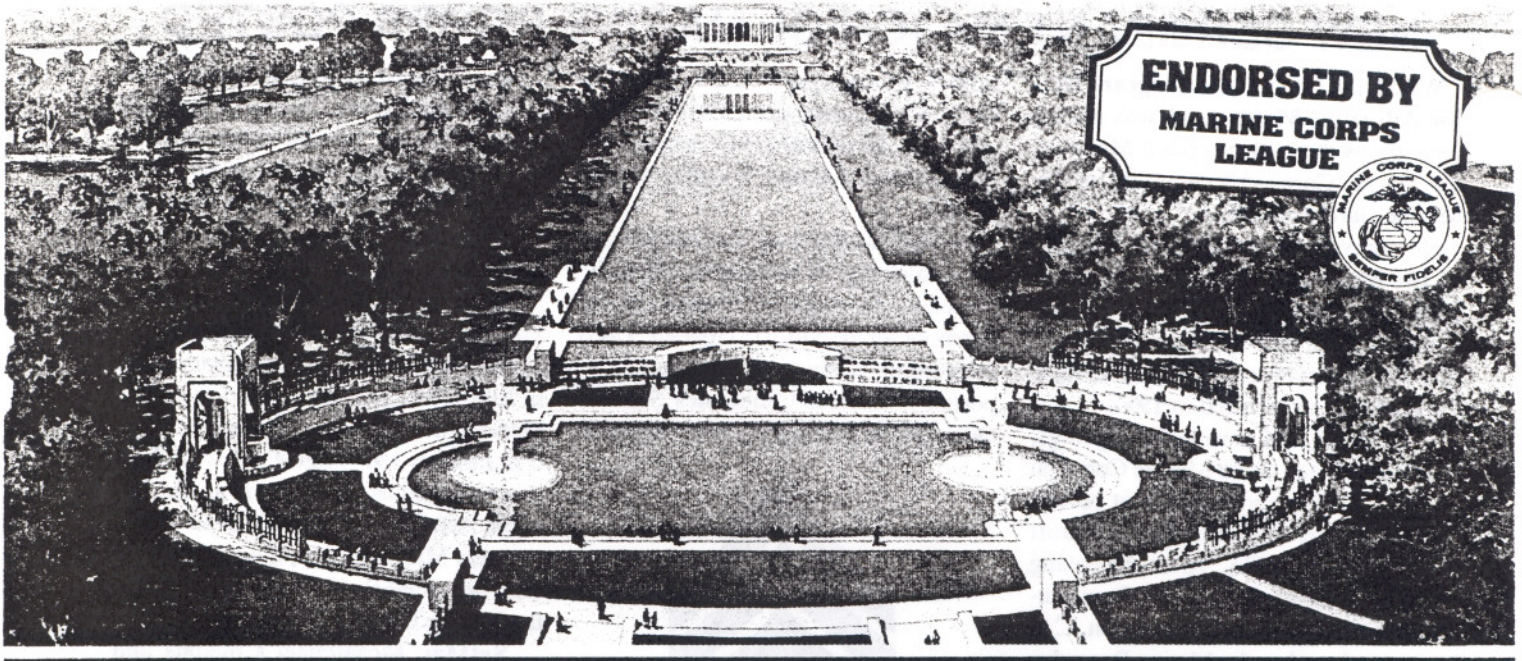
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Honoree's Title _____ Branch of Service (if any) _____

Honoree's Status: Killed in World War II World War II Veteran Civilian on Home Front

Honoree's First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Hometown _____ State _____

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MCL SERVICE RECORD

PERSONAL DATA

NAME (Last, First M.I.):	DATE OF BIRTH:
STREET ADDRESS:	
CITY, STATE & ZIP CODE:	SPOUSE:
Home Phone:	Work Phone:
FAX:	e-mail:

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From (Month/Year):	To (Month/Year):
MOS:	MOS Title:

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THE AIR FORCE & THE MARINES AT WAR

By *Kate O'Beirne*

Published June 28, 1999, by the *National Review*, page 34.

Last fall, with a threatened government shutdown hours away, Congressional leaders and senior White House officials huddled to negotiate the crucial final details of more than \$400 billion in spending. But negotiators put aside disagreements over major issues like abortion and labor regulations to handle a dispute just as hot: the duel between the Air Force and the Marine Corps over the site of a memorial.

In 1993, Congress approved a request from the Air Force to build a monument, with private funds, on an unspecified site. The Air Force Memorial Foundation began a fundraising drive led by Joe Coors Jr. and boosted by defense contractors. After reviewing proposed locations around Washington, the foundation settled on a lovely spot, a quiet 25-acre hillside near Arlington Cemetery in Virginia that enjoys a commanding view of the capitol's monuments across the Potomac River. Since 1954, this same hillside, known as Arlington Ridge, has also been home to the Iwo Jima Memorial.

The Iwo Jima Memorial commemorates the 26,000 Marine casualties suffered in the battle for that remote Pacific island in 1945. The sculpture is based on a famous photograph of a band of Marines raising the American flag on top of Mount Suribachi in the midst of fierce fighting. Over the past 45 years, the memorial has come to represent the sacrifice of all fallen Marines, and the Corp's veterans are determined to protect their hill from the threatened Air Force invasion.

Understandably so. There is more at stake in the fight than interservice bragging rights. There is indeed a touch of Kulturkampf behind the plans for a slick new modern memorial near the Iwo Jima sculpture, which Washington art poobah J. Carter Brown once dismissed as "kitsch." And there certainly is a huge helping of interservice envy, as the Air Force, formed in 1947, seeks by association some of the glory of the tradition-soaked, 224-year-old Marines.

The services have drafted veterans in Congress, bureaucrats, lawyers, and defense firms in a struggle that threatens to sour the

branches' relationship for years to come. In official backing, the Air Force so far has the advantage. The National Park service, the National Capitol Planning Commission, and the Commission of Fine Arts have all endorsed the proposed two-acre site and the memorial's design--which calls for a 50-foot-tall aluminum, origami-like structure that would include an underground visitors center.

Supporters of the Air Force memorial argue that the Marine Corps tacitly approved the proposed location in 1994 when Corps **Commandant Carl E. Mundy Jr.** refrained from objecting. For his part, Mundy says he wasn't informed just how intrusive the Air Force memorial would be. In any case, the Marines have now formally objected to the plans. More than two dozen former Marine Generals, including five former Commandants, have appealed to the Secretary of the Interior to preserve the current status of the "serene and contemplative park" on Arlington Ridge.

Complaints about the proposed memorial from Marines in the field have reached the Pentagon. And retired Marine Corps **Lieutenant General Charles Cooper**, Chairman of the Iwo Jima Preservation Committee, recently told supporters: "At this time, we need to avoid looking back, avoid any self-recrimination about whether or not our listening posts were on full alert. The fact is the enemy has penetrated our wire and our mission is to restore the integrity of our position."

How deep run the feelings? Former **Navy Secretary James Webb**, the son of an Air Force veteran, sees a lack of gratitude for the Marine Corps he himself served. "The very mission in the battle of Iwo Jima," he wrote, "carried out at a cost of 1,000 dead Marines for every square mile of territory taken, was to eliminate enemy fighter attacks on Air Force bombers passing overhead and to provide emergency runways for Air Force pilots who had flown in harm's way." Retired Marine **Colonel Dave Severance**, who commanded the troops who raised the flag on Iwo Jima, calls the proposed monument an historic insult: "I am convinced we Marines have done enough for the Army Air Corps/U. S. Air Force without having to share our Marine Corps War Memorial park with them."

In response, the Air Force invokes the 52,173 combat deaths suffered by the Army Air Forces in World War II who "deserve a similar respect," as one retired Air Force General put it. Another retired General, **Chuck Link**, President of the Air Force Memorial Foundation, argues that the Marines are reacting to an imagined slight "because 'there is no way our memorial interferes with their statue.'" The Air Force memorial would be 500 feet away from the Marines' monument and shielded from it by a stand of evergreens.

Burt Marine supporters don't care how separate the new monument is. The Friends of Iwo Jima and Marine veterans have recently retained a top-notch law firm to battle the National Park Service over the environmental impact of the proposed memorial. "Marines never quit. We will fight it out to the end, bitter or otherwise," declares former **Congressman Gerry Solomon**, also a former Marine.

Last year during the budget negotiations, it was Solomon who negotiated an agreement to consider moving the proposed Air Force site, only to have Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman and former fighter pilot **Ted Stevens** nix the arrangement. If construction of the Air Force memorial is stalled until the end of the year, Congressional approval of any monument would have to be reaffirmed, and the battlefield would again become Capitol Hill. Solomon's fellow Marines, including **Senators Pat Roberts, Conrad Burns, and Craig Thomas**, will continue his fight, while Stevens, with the support of minority leader **Tom Daschle**, an Air Force veteran, will continue to front for the Air Force.

The Marines are willing to help the Air Force gain quick approval for an alternative location near Arlington Cemetery, which would indeed be suitable. Through 45 years of quiet prayers, sunset parades and wreath-laying ceremonies, the Marines have an emotional and traditional claim on Arlington Ridge that ought to be honored. A new Air Force memorial right next door would be a monument, among other things, to disrespect. Surely the Air Force can commemorate its fallen just as well elsewhere and, rather than bring the Marines to their knees, content itself for now with the defeat of a far fitting adversary--**Slobodan Milosevic**.

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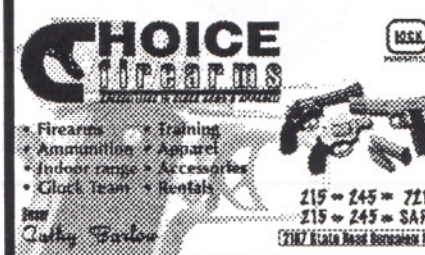
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