



# LISTEN UP!

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

**Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III**

**Editor: DON H. GEE**

VOLUME XII, Number 8

SEPTEMBER 2000



**CENTRAL BUCKS  
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**MARINE OF THE YEAR:**  
WIL HAAS

## Williams To Become ACMC

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen recently announced that President Bill Clinton has nominated Lieutenant General Michael J. Williams, currently Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs and Resources at Headquarters Marine Corps, for appointment to the grade of General and assignment as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

LtGen. Williams was born on July 12, 1943, in Baltimore, MD. He enlisted in the U. S. Navy in 1960 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from the U. S. Naval Academy with a B.S. degree in June 1967. He also holds a Masters Degrees from the University of Southern California (1974) and the College of Naval Warfare.

Upon completion of Naval Flight Training at Pensacola, FL, he was designated a Naval Aviator in February 1969.

He next served operational tours in both the continental United States and the Republic of Vietnam before being ordered to the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico, VA, in 1973. Upon graduation in June 1974, he served on Okinawa with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Returning to the United States in the summer of 1975, Williams joined Marine Helicopter Squadron One at Quantico. There, he was designated a Presidential Helicopter Pilot while serving in various

positions with the Squadron.

In July 1978, he was selected to attend the Marine Corps Command & Staff College, Quantico.

Following graduation in June 1979, he was ordered to the Naval Academy where he served as a Company Officer and Executive Assistant to the Commandant of Midshipmen. He transferred to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, El Toro, CA, in July 1982, for duty as Executive Officer of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 16 (H&MS-16) and later as Commanding Officer of Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301.

From June 1984 until June 1985, Williams attended the Naval War College, Newport, RI. Following graduation, he was ordered to the 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa, where he served as the Assistant G-3 (Operations).

Returning to the states in the summer of 1986, he reported to Headquarters Marine Corps for duty as the Marine Corps Program Development Officer and, later, as the Head, Program Development Branch, Requirements and Programs Division.

In July 1989, he was transferred to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point, NC, as the Wing Inspector before assuming duties as Marine Aircraft Group 26 Executive Officer in April 1990.

(See ACMC, Page 4)

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT  
1930 ON 13 September 2000 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST,  
315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN



## OFF The Marine Corps BOOK SHELF

### **The Marines of Autumn**

by James Brady

New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000.

288 pages with 1 map.

**James Brady**, author and well-known columnist, has brought to the public another fine example of why the Korean War will become a remembered rather than a forgotten period in American History.

The author does not pull his punches with the likes of Syngman Rhee, General MacArthur or the powers that recalled Captain Tom Verity and many other Marines who joined the Reserve when told it would hasten their return to civilian life at the end of WWII.

The book starts with the recall of Capt. Verity, a WWII veteran of Guadalcanal, Okinawa and North China, and moves easily with first-hand knowledge throughout. Capt. Verity leads a radio-intercept team charged with the mission to determine if and when the Chinese "Volunteers" cross the Yalu River in support of the North Korean Peoples Army. It continues with what seems a romp in the park such as in the opening pages of Brown's Walk in the Sun. And on to the advance north to the Chosin Reservoir, the intervention of the Chinese, the abrupt reversal of that advance and concludes with the long, coming-out-fighting, March to the Sea.

The ending contains a shocker reminiscent of the collapse of the bridge on which Gandalf and a demon fought, casting them into oblivion in Tolkien's Lord of the Rings.

The Marines of Autumn more impor-

tantly speaks of two points generally overlooked or purposely put aside by the general citizenry.

It is easy to teach "how-to-kill" but to maintain survival skills is extremely difficult. Survival requires a constant high state of preparedness. The pro-Marine/anti-Army nature of the novel is brought out in many ways, at times satirical comment, but mostly as statements of fact. Beyond the inter-service rivalry is the unspoken fact the Marines had maintained a higher level of training and preparedness than their sister service. Those of the sister services stationed in the Far East were allowed to attune their duty to one merry camp of rest and relaxation rather than a forward echelon of readiness. It was a wonderful, relaxing tour of duty. This low level of readiness provided the North Koreans and the Chinese many easy victories costly to the Army not only in lost materials but in extremely high killed, wounded and missing-in-action casualty numbers. The human form in different uniforms were pretty much the same. Mr. Brady asks the United States Government and its peoples to insist on a first-rate state-of-the-art level of training and preparedness of our Armed Forces and be willing to pay for it.

Mr. Brady speaks to the horrors of war as did Steven Spielberg in Saving Private Ryan. War is not a stroll in the park. In *The Marines of Autumn*, Mr. Brady brings out many fine examples of courage, self-sacrifice, heroics, and the close-

ness only those who have experienced combat understand. He also puts the spotlight on privation, terror, filth, man's inhumanity to man, and other primal levels of existence which only war brings. There are examples in the novel where the dead became a matter of inconvenience and a burden but there is also many examples where the dead, dying and wounded are tended with great concern, compassion and care such as General Puller's relentless pursuit to bury a large number of Marines rather than leaved them to the animals of prey. Also, the action of Verity's two women bending many regulations to get the Captain off the beach and into caring hands for his return to the States is another example of personal concern.

Mr. Brady knows of what he writes. Though he was not in Korea at the time of *The Marines of Autumn*, he was there as a Platoon Leader, the Executive Officer of Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, and later as the Battalion S-2 (Intelligence). His arrival on the scene was early enough to speak with and be told many first-hand stories by those who fought and lived *The Marine of Autumn*. In his memoir, *The Coldest War*, he relates his personal experiences and tells of combat at its worst and, occasionally, best.

*The Marines of Autumn* is a moving and gripping novel that is a "must read" for all persons, in and out of uniform, who desire to dance with children on the bridges of Paris in peace in our lifetime.

### **Movement Underway to Get 'Chesty' Stamp**

A movement is afoot to honor Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller with a commemorative postage stamp to be issued by the U. S. Postal Service.

Chesty served in the Marine Corps for 37 years. Five times he was awarded a Navy Cross and 35 other decorations.

The first Navy Cross was for action in Haiti. Another was for action on Edson's Ridge on Guadalcanal. In the same action, Gen. Puller wrote the commendation that resulted in John Basilone receiving the Medal of Honor.

He continued to serve in the 1st Ma-

rine Division in various capacities on Cape Gloucester and in the battle for Peleliu. He was always in the forefront of the action.

In Korea, he was in the front lines of the Inchon Landing and in the breakout from the Chosin Reservoir. Individual members of the Army, Navy and Air Force have been honored by the Postal Service. No Marine has been so honored.

How can you help? Write: Postmaster General; 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW; Washington, DC 20260-2437.



### **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 on July 12, 2000, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #213, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 22 members present including all officers except the Junior Vice Commandant and the Adjutant. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandant Frank Yohe**, and **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**.

The Minutes of the July Meeting were unanimously approved.

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

**New Member: Ed Lynch** of Chalfont was unanimously approved for regular membership.

**Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller** reported the Detachment strength at 52 including 14 Life Members, 34 Regular Members and 4 Associate Members.

**Judge Advocate Bob Momorella** reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** reported he had received no requests for the Detachment Color Guard.

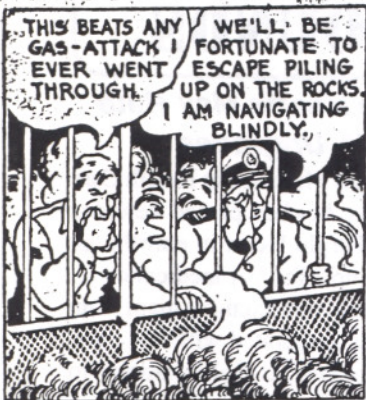
**Quartermaster Bob Duff** reminded the members to submit requests for specific items for the QM Locker Box to him and he would try to acquire them.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

**Public Relations--**In the absence of the Public Relations Officer, **Commandant Pearce** set August 20 as the deadline for submitting materials for the August issue of *Listen Up!*

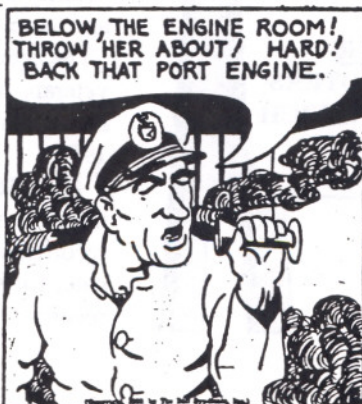
### SERGEANT STONY CRAIG—Keep Up-Wind

—By Frank H. Rentfrow and Don Dickson



### SERGEANT STONY CRAIG—Hard About!

—By Frank H. Rentfrow and Don Dickson





# Korean War Commemoration Display Opens at Pentagon

by **Jim Garamone**

*Armed Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON, DC--Korean War veterans helped DoD open the Joint Services Korean War Commemoration Display on July 26 near the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes.

The exhibit honors the sacrifices of U. S. Korean War veterans made during the battles from 1950 to 1953. Retired Army General Robert W. Sennewald, a former commander of U. S. Forces, Korea, said one mission for the exhibit is to educate Americans on the Korean War and its place in defending freedom.

Hundreds of people who take the Pentagon tour each day would view the display, he noted.

"It is an opportunity over the next three years to educate the citizens of the United States on the Korean War, its aspects and what it was all about," Sennewald said.

"This exhibit presents the background on the war. This is a wonderful place to have it for all the people who will view this as they tour the Pentagon."

Gen. Paik Sun Yup, a guest at the opening, commanded the South Korean 1st Division when the North Koreans charged across the 38th parallel on June 25, 1950.

"Four days later, Seoul fell," he told the assembled veterans during the ceremony.

"It was a time of deep despair."

He recalled how he watched U.S. Army General Douglas MacArthur as the commander of U. S. forces in the Far East observed operations in South Korea.

Paik said he felt "we would win this war" from that moment on.

Paik, who presented the Republic of Korea's Korean War Service Medal to six veterans, told the audience that South Korea today has the 10th largest econ-

omy in the world. "

This prosperity came at the expense of you American veterans of the Korean War," he said through an interpreter. "We respect and we show deep gratitude toward the American people and American veterans.

"Today, the government of Korea and the people of Korea will always have the deepest appreciation got the American veterans of the Korean War."

The exhibit consists of four large display cases that highlight the contributions of U.S. forces in Korea.

One, for example, has models of Korean War-era Air Force aircraft along with photos and news stories of the fighting.

One Korean War vet pointed to a bazooka and said to a buddy, "I used one of those.

It would dent the armor on the Russian tanks. Had to wait until you could get a side shot before the thing was effective."

Other Korean War vets went to the map of Korea and pointed to where they fought.

## ACMC

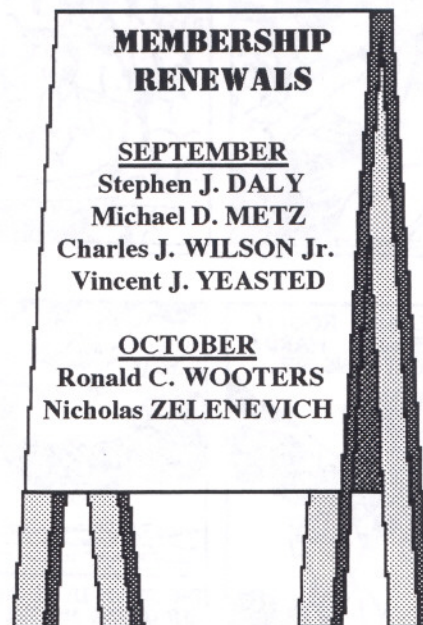
(Continued from Page 1)

Col. Williams assumed command of the Squadron on July 16, 1990. He deployed the Group to Saudi Arabia to take part in OPERATION DESERT SHIELD and OPERATION DESERT STORM.

Returning to the U.S. in May 1991, he was assigned duties as the Vice Director for Operational Plans and Interoperability, J-7, and Vice Director, Joint Staff for Military Education, The Joint Staff, in November 1991. While serving in this capacity, he was selected for promotion to Brigadier General in December 1991 and advanced to that grade on April 1, 1992. He served in that capacity until July 16, 1993, when he assumed command of the 2nd Force Service Group. On June 8, 1994, BrigGen. Williams was appointed Commanding General, Joint Task Force 160, a humanitarian relief effort for Haiti and Cuban migrants at Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba. He resumed command of 2nd FSSG on Oct. 31, 1994. He was advanced to Major General in March 1995 and, in July, was appointed Director of the Marine Corps Staff, Washington, DC. On July 23, 1996, he became

Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico.

Gen. Williams' personal decorations include: the Defense Superior Service Medal with gold star, the Legion of Merit with gold star, the Bronze Star Medal with combat "V," the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with Strike Flight Numerals "25" and bronze star, and the Navy Commendation Medal with gold star and combat "V."



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

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Charles J. WILSON Jr.  
Vincent J. YEASTED

**OCTOBER**  
Ronald C. WOOTERS  
Nicholas ZELENEVICH

## SHORT ROUNDS

### Purple Hearts May Rate VA Upgrades

The Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act has placed veterans awarded a Purple Heart in enrollment priority Group 3 for VA medical care.

The new law also exempts them from co-payments associated with VA care. VA has directed its field stations to move qualified veterans previously in Priority Groups 4 through 7 to Group 3 and to omit co-payment requirements.

The agency also has ordered that such veterans be reimbursed for any co-payments paid on or after November 30, 1999.

Eligible veterans may submit documentation, such as DD-214s, service records, orders of award, or the certificate, for inclusion in their VA health records.



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# U. S. Marines Help Build Romanian NCO Corps

BUCHAREST, Romania--How do you establish a professional NCO corps in a military that has never had one? Call in the United States Marine Corps.

Eight Marine NCOs from Quantico, VA, and Camp Pendleton, CA, are "training-the-trainers" at the Romanian NCO School near the city of Pitesti. The Marines are slated to remain in Romania for two years.

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen praised the Marines' work as he spoke with European defense ministers here. Cohen said the training program is an example of U.S. commitment to Romania.

The program is an outgrowth of a 1998 visit by Romania's President and Defense Minister to the Marine Corps Base at Quantico. Impressed by the professionalism of the American NCOs, Romanian Defense Minister Victor Babiuc asked DoD to help his military develop a professional NCO corps, one that would be interoperable with NATO.

Romania previously followed the for-

mer Soviet military model where NCOs were more like senior Privates. They were conscripts with no real training, motivation or sense of esprit. In the Soviet model, senior conscripts were assigned as Sergeants and put in charge of younger conscripts. After two years service, the soldier returned to civilian life.

Small unit leadership is at the heart of the three-month course Marine instructors devised for the Romanians, Marine Corps **Sergeant Major R. J. Kirby** said. "We did land navigation, close order drill, and a lot of NATO training so they will be interoperable," Kirby said.

The Romanian soldiers spent 12 nights in the field learning military operations in urban terrain and noncombatant evacuation operations, among other things. "It was pretty intense," Kirby said. The 25 Romanian NCOs trained in the program will in turn teach future classes of Romanian soldiers.

The Romanians hope to train 750 NCOs per year, Kirby said.

The Romanian NCOs will first practice their teaching skills by instructing their Marine Corps trainers. The Marines will, evaluate how they do, give them advice and help them through their first couple of classes, Kirby said.

The biggest obstacle the Romanians must overcome, Kirby said, is convincing some of the older officers that professional NCOs will benefit their military. "These young men have a tremendous amount of talent," Kirby said.

"They just need the opportunity and the experience. When I speak with Romanian officers, I tell them they have to let the NCOs do NCO work."

The Romanian NCOs have learned there's more to being a good NCO than just ensuring a soldier gets fed, Kirby said. "We teach they've got to take care of him, his family and any personal problems the soldier has. Everything in that soldier's life is their responsibility," he said. "At the same time, a good NCO is 'growling' other soldiers who want to be just like him."

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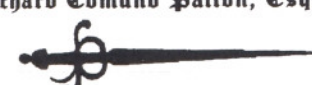
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Type of Application -- New ( ) Renewal ( ) Associate ( ) Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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(Applicant's Signature)

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