



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

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Commandant: WILLIAM R. MILLER

Editor: DON H. GEE

MARINE RECEIVES NAVY CROSS

CAMP PENDLETON--As Marine Sergeant Willie L. Copeland III stepped forward from his battalion to receive a Navy Cross last month, he looked much like any other member of his battalion. But his actions in battle last year set the Marine apart from his fellows.

When his platoon was ambushed in April 2004 in an attack, Copeland led five Marines out of the heaviest fire, found cover and killed 10 of the enemy in close combat. When his commanding officer fell wounded, Copeland used his body to shield the officer as he administered first aid.

For his leadership and dedication to duty, the 26-year-old from Utah received the Navy Cross, the Navy's second-highest honor. Seven Marines have received the Navy Cross for Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to the latest figures from the Marine Corps Awards Branch.

Copeland said he was embarrassed by the attention and explained that he was doing only what every Marine would do.

"Nothing's natural about running into bullets," he said. "It's more important for me to make sure my men are OK."

Copeland was a team leader with the Camp Pendleton-based 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force. On the afternoon of April 7, 2004, Copeland's platoon was in a 15-vehicle convoy that was ambushed by 40 to 60 insurgents southeast of Fallujah in a volatile region known as the Sunni Triangle. The insurgents, firing from well-fortified and concealed positions along the Euphrates River, crippled the lead Humvee with a rocket-propelled grenade and disabled Copeland's vehicle with mortar rounds and gunfire.

After the ambush, reinforcements arrived, but not before Copeland's commanding officer, **Capt. Brent Morel**, was mortally wounded.

Copeland did not want to discuss the battle Thursday, but a *Navy Times* account of it said Copeland shielded Morel with his own body and dragged the officer to an irrigation ditch.

Copeland stripped off his combat gear, vest and blouse and treated Morel, who was still conscious, by covering the captain's bleeding wounds with his hands and tying a bandage around his chest. For 15 minutes, Copeland stayed with Morel until an armored Humvee arrived. Morel was taken to a combat hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Richard Greco Jr., who pinned the cross on Copeland's chest at the Del Mar Boat Basin on Camp Pendleton, told battalion members of the roots of the word charity, and compared it to the Sergeant's actions.

"True love, true charity is defined as giving of the flesh," Greco said. "There is no greater charity than for an individual to lay down his life out of love."

(See *NAVY CROSS*, Page 5)



**CENTRAL BUCKS
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Marines,

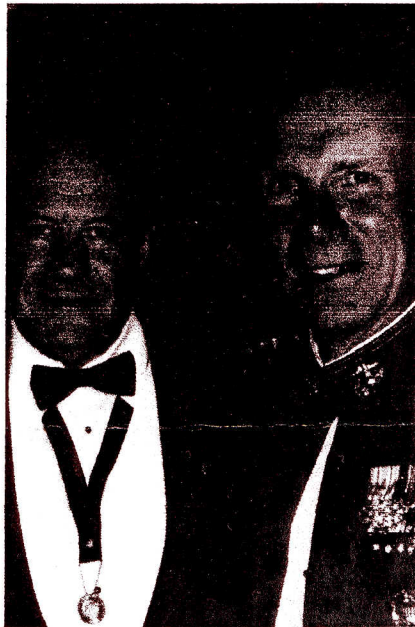
Let me begin by thanking Sr. Vice Commandant Jim Powell for conducting the August detachment meeting while I was away in Cleveland for the National MCL Convention. Also it's my understanding that Jr. Vice Commandant Jim McComb filled in for Adjutant Gary Smith who was absent. Thanks Jim for taking the minutes of the meeting.

It has been brought to my attention that a motion was introduced and passed by the membership that we join the Montgomery County detachment for the Marine Corps Birthday Ball being held on Friday evening November 11th at the Blair Mill Inn in Horsham. Further details will be provided when they become available.

I have just returned from Cleveland where I attended the 82nd National Convention as a delegate from our detachment. It was reported that over a thousand people had attended and delegate strength from the Department of PA. totaled 39. I know that when we gathered as a group for a meeting, we took up a lot of space within the room. National Commandant Helen Hicks has been replaced by the Sr. Vice Commandant Frank Kish, and the Jr. Vice Commandant John Ryan moves up to Sr. Vice Commandant.

Not a whole lot to report on as the Convention business session moved along ever so rapidly thanks to Commandant Hicks no nonsense approach to dealing with matters of concern. The Convention came to a conclusion on Friday

evening with the Grand Banquet where the new National Officers of the Marine Corps League and Auxiliary were installed. I would also like to mention that Ruth Moyses, wife of Past Department of PA. Commandant John Moyses was installed as the National President of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary. We wish Ruth all the best in her new position. Also many awards were presented as well.



COMMANDANTS—Detachment Commandant Bill Miller with CMC Gen. Michael W. Hagee

The highlight of the evening (for me at least) was the attendance of the 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael W. Hagee. General Hagee was the Guest of Honor and Main Speaker. As the General paced back and forth across the stage, he spoke of the current events in Iraq, Afghanistan, and gave us a heads up on the state of the Marine Corps, as well as a special tribute to the members of 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment based in the Brook Park section of Cleveland. As you are well aware of by now, several Marines in this unit answered the final call in Iraq. I was also given the privilege of meeting General Hagee, having a brief chat, and a photo taken. (by my wife, a real close up) It was a wonderful evening that I will long remember.

For those of you that are interested, the 2006 National Convention will be held in Boston, (Quincy) and the 2007 Convention will be in Albuquerque, NM.

That's all I have for this month Marines. I hope that you found it interesting. See you at the September meeting.

Semper Fi!

Bill Miller

UNCLE SAME (STILL) WANTS YOU--EVEN IF YOU'RE 42 YEARS OLD

The Defense Department quietly asked Congress last month to raise the maximum age for military recruits to 42 for all branches of the service.

Under current law, the maximum age to enlist in the active components is 35, while people up to age 39 may enlist in the reserves. By practice, the accepted age for recruits is 27 for the Air Force, 28 for the Marine Corps and 34 for the Navy and Army, although the Army Reserve and Navy Reserve sometimes take people up to age 39 in some specialties.

The Pentagon's request to raise the maximum recruit age to 42 is part of what defense officials are calling a package of "urgent wartime support initiatives" sent to Congress Monday night prior to a Tuesday hearing of the House Armed Services military personnel subcommittee.

At that hearing, David S.C. Chu, under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said he felt the military's recent problems with recruiting were improving, but that additional incentives would help.

Chu mentioned the age change in passing during the hearing but gave no other details, such as whether any of the services were seriously considering recruiting 42-year-olds.

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 #636, Inc. of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc. was held August 10, 2005 at the Albert R. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North Street, Doylestown, PA.

There were 11 members present including all officers except the Commandant, Adjutant, and Public Relations Officer. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandant Bob Sundling**, **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**, and **Marine Of The Year Bill Jerrom**.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved.

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

Officer Reports

Commandant: no report

Senior Vice Commandant: the Detachment strength stands at 53; 23 life members, 24 regular members, 4 associate members, and 1 honorary member.

Junior Vice Commandant: further details have been received from the Montgomery County Detachment concerning the Marine Corps Ball. A motion will be presented during New Business.

Adjutant: no report

Judge Advocate: proposed changes to the by-laws have been received and will be reviewed. The detachment has no known legal problems.

Sergeant-at-arms: There have been no requests for the color guard since the last meeting.

Chaplain: services are available but have not been requested since the last meeting.

Committee Reports

Young Marines: Liaison Bob Sundling reported that the Young Marines have a new Commanding Officer who is a retired Master Gunnery Sergeant.

New Business

Junior Vice Commandant Jim McComb introduced a motion for the detachment to join with the Montgomery County detachment for the Marine Corps Ball. The motion was seconded by Senior Vice Commandant Jim Powell and was approved by the members. Details of the ball are not complete but as it now stands, the ball will be on Friday evening, November 11, 2005 at the Blair Mill Inn. Further details will be provided as soon as they are available.

Announcements

Past Commandant Bob Sundling read a letter from his son at basic training at Parris Island.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 PM on Wednesday, September 14, 2005.

How to Properly Wear Ribbons and Medals

- * No pins, medals or any other devices shall be worn on the MCL Cover other than the EGA.
- * Either DOD or MCL ribbons to be worn one eighth inch above the left breast pocket of white short sleeve aviator shirt. DO NOT INTERMIX.
- * Shooting badges will not be worn with MCL ribbons.
- * MCL Ribbons ONLY on the MCL Ceremonial Uniform (khaki shirt) No DOD ribbons or Shooting Badges to be worn.
- * Miniature medals may be worn on the Blazer as part of the MCL Formal Uniform (tuxedo shirt, bow tie).
- * Large medals may be worn on the MCL Mess Jacket.

What's Special About A Marine?

Ask a Marine what's so special about the Marines and the answer would be "Esprit de Corps", an unhelpful French phrase that means exactly what it looks like - the spirit of the Corps, but what is that spirit, and where does it come from?

The Marine Corps is the only branch of the U.S. Armed Forces that recruits people specifically to fight.

The Army emphasizes personal development (an Army of One), the Navy promises fun (let the journey begin), the Air Force offers security (its a great way of life).

Missing from all the advertisements is the hard fact that a soldier's lot is to suffer and perhaps to die for his people, and take lives at the risk of his/her own. Even the thematic music of the services reflects this evasion.

The Army's Caisson Song describes a pleasant country outing. Over hill and dale, lacking only a picnic basket.

Anchors Aweigh, the Navy's celebration of the joys of sailing, could have been penned by Jimmy Buffet.

The Air Force song is a lyric poem of blue skies and engine thrust. All is joyful, invigorating, and safe.

There are no land mines in the dales nor snipers behind the hills, no submarines or cruise missiles threaten the ocean jaunt, no bandits are lurking in the wild blue yonder.

The Marines Hymn, by contrast, is all-combat. We fight our Country's battles, First to fight for right and freedom, we have fought in every clime and place where we could take a gun, in many a strife we have fought for life and never lost our nerve.

The choice is made clear. You may join the Army to go to adventure training, or join the Navy to go to Bangkok, or join the Air Force to go to computer school. You join the Marine Corps to go to War!

But the mere act of signing the enlistment contract confers no status in the Corps.

The Army recruit is told from his first minute in uniform that "you're in the Army now", soldier. The Navy and Air Force enlistees are sailors or airmen as soon as they get off the bus at the training center.

The new arrival at Marine Corps boot

camp is called a recruit, or worse, but never a MARINE. Not yet, maybe never. He or she must earn the right to claim the title of UNITED STATES MARINE, and failure returns you to civilian life without hesitation or ceremony.

Recruit Platoon 2210 at San Diego, CA, trained from October through December of 1968. In Viet Nam the Marines were taking two hundred casualties a week, and the major rainy season operation Meade River, had not even begun. Yet Drill Instructors had no qualms about winnowing out almost a quarter of their 112 recruits, graduating eighty-one. Note that this was post - enlistment attrition; every one of those who were dropped had been passed by the recruiters as fit for service.

But they failed the test of Boot Camp, and not necessarily for physical reasons; at least two were outstanding high school athletes for whom the calisthenics and running were child's play. The cause of their failure was not in the biceps nor the legs, but in the spirit. They had lacked the will to endure the mental and emotional strain, so they would not be Marines. Heavy commitments and high casualties notwithstanding, the Corps reserves the right to pick and choose.

History classes in boot camp? Stop a soldier on the street and ask him to name a battle of World War One. Pick a sailor at random to describe the epic fight of the Bon Homme Richard. Everyone has heard of McGuire Air Force Base. So ask any airman who Major Thomas McGuire was, and why he is so commemorated.

I am not carping, and there is no sneer in this criticism. All of the services have glorious traditions, but no one teaches the young soldier, sailor or airman what his uniform means and why he should be proud of it.

But ask a Marine about World War One, and you will hear of the wheat field at Belleau Wood and the courage of the Fourth Marine Brigade, fifth and sixth regiments.

Faced with an enemy of superior numbers entrenched in tangled forest undergrowth, the Marines received an order to attack that even the charitable cannot call ill - advised. It was insane. Artillery support was absent and air support had not

yet been invented, so the Brigade charged German machine guns with only bayonets, grenades, and indomitable fighting spirit. A bandy-legged little barrel of a gunnery sergeant, Daniel J. Daly, rallied his company with a shout, "Come on you sons a bitches, do you want to live forever"?

He took out three machine guns himself, and they would give him the Medal of Honor except for a technicality, he already had two of them. French from the Devil."

Every Marine knows this story and dozens more. We are taught them in boot camp as a regular part of the curriculum. Every Marine will always be taught them! You can learn to don a gas mask anytime, even on the plane in route to the war zone, but before you can wear the Eagle Globe & Anchor and claim the title "Marine", you must know about the Marines who made that emblem and title meaningful. So long as you can march and shoot and revere the legacy of the Corps, you can take your place in line. And that line is unified spirit as in purpose.

A soldier wears branch of service insignia on his collar, metal shoulder pins and cloth sleeve patches to identify his unit. Sailors wear a rating badge that identifies what they do for the Navy.

Marines wear only the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, together with personal ribbons and their CHERISHED marksmanship badges. There is nothing on a Marine's uniform to indicate what he or she does, nor what unit the Marine belongs to. You cannot tell by looking at a Marine whether you are seeing a truck driver, a

computer programmer, or a machine gunner. The Corps explains this as a security measure to conceal the identity and location of units, but the Marines' penchant for publicity makes that the least likely of explanations. No, the Marine is amorphous, even anonymous, by conscious design.

Every Marine is a rifleman first and foremost, a Marine first, last and always! You may serve a four-year enlistment or even a twenty plus year career Without seeing action, but if the word is given you'll charge across that wheat field!

Whether a Marine has been schooled in automated supply, automotive mechanics, or aviation electronics, is immaterial. Those things are secondary - the Corps does them because it must. The modern battlefield requires the technical appliances, and since the enemy has them, so do we, but no Marine boasts mastery of them. Our pride is in our marksmanship, our discipline, and our membership in a fraternity of courage and sacrifice. "For the honor of the fallen, for the glory of the dead", Edgar Guest wrote of Belleau Wood, "the living line of courage kept the faith and moved

ahead."

They are all gone now, those Marines who made a French farmer's little wheat field into one of the most enduring of Marine Corps legends. Many of them did not survive the day, and eight long decades have claimed the rest. But their actions are immortal. The Corps remembers them and honors what they did, and so they live forever.

Dan Daly's shouted challenge takes on its true meaning - if you lie in the trenches you may survive for now, but someday you will die and no one will care. If you

charge the guns you may die in the next two minutes, but you will be one of the immortals.

All Marines die; some in the red flash of battle, some in the white cold of the nursing home. In the vigor of youth or the infirmity of age, all will eventually die. But the Marine Corps lives on. Every Marine who ever lived is living still - in the Marines who claim the title today. It is that sense of belonging to something that will outlive your own mortality, which gives people a light to live by and a flame to mark their passing.

Submitted by LtCol. Bill Quigley, USMC (Ret)

MARINE CORPS CLOSE AIR SUPPORT

Recently, a Marine Corps Harrier squadron was invited to attend the annual Air Force Red Flag exercises at Nellis Air Force Base, NV. This is one of the USAF's big exercises, where they test combined arms employment of tactical air assets.

The USAF F-15 pilots showed up on the ramp with dozens of rear echelon airman types and tons of equipment such as Ground Power Units, Accessory Power Units, Hummers, Trucks, Air Conditioners, etc. The Marines appeared ready to operate in a combat environment and showed up with only their Harriers.

The Air Force commander commented to the Marine commander:

"Where is all your support stuff? Geez, you guys really are just Grunts that know how to fly."

Not wanting to disappoint the Air Force commander, the Marine commander got an idea of his own. He talked to his 1st Sergeant and later that night, the 1st Sergeant had his Marines make up bayonet studs on hose clamps. (There's a pitot tube sticking out of the nose of a Harrier.) In the hours of darkness, the 1st Sergeant had the clamp with the bayonet stud tightened onto the pitot tube of each Harrier.

The next morning, the Air Force pilots fell out on the ramp in front of their F-15s. The Marine pilots fell out on the other side of the ramp in front of their Harriers. Each Marine pilot had on his deuce gear with a bayonet in the scabbard. The USAF commander ordered his pilots to "man your planes."

The USAF ground crews by the doz-

ens scrambled to their trucks, APUs, GPUs, etc. and the pilots ran to their planes. The Marine commander ordered his Marines to "Fix Bayonets," whereupon each pilot ran to the front of his Harrier and fixed his bayonet on the stud attached to the pitot tube. The Marine

commander then ordered "CHARGE," and the Marines jumped in their Harriers, dusted airborne, and flew off.

The Marine commander turned to the USAF commander and said; "This is what we Marines consider Close Air Support."

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!**

NAVY CROSS (From Page 1)

1st Lt. Kendall Bodnar, who serves in the Copeland's battalion, said he was impressed by the Marine's actions.

"I think what he did was outstanding," Bodnar said. "He did what Marines are supposed to do."

The ceremony was also attended by Copeland's parents, two younger brothers and his wife, Sgt. Danielle Copeland. Former Navy Cross and Medal of Honor recipients were also on hand.

Copeland has been in the Marines for seven years and is gearing up for his third deployment to Iraq. He met his wife at Camp Pendleton in 2001. The two were married in 2003.

Danielle Copeland said her husband plans to re-enlist in the future, and they hope to start a family within the next two years.

"I think every man would be proud to serve with him," Danielle Copeland said of her husband. "He would never leave a man behind."

Editorial

Why Marines Never Use the 'M Word

There are a lot of very practical reasons for Marines to watch their language, especially on the battlefield. For example, he/she will never use the word "Repeat" in radio communications, for fear that it may be misinterpreted as "Retreat."

Instead, a Marine will use the phrase "I say again"-a little clumsy, perhaps, but certainly unambiguous. The Army may refer to a hole dug in the ground as a "foxhole," but Marines balk at the term; after all, foxes hide in fox holes. The same hole, in Marine parlance, is a "fighting hole." And, while Army soldiers refer to their drab, olive green, field uniforms as "fatigues," Marines call their exact same drab, olive green, uniforms "utilities."

There is another word you'll never hear a Marine Corps officer, sergeant, or drill instructor use-and that is, "Manage." In fact the word is treated with such abhorrence, it is often referred to as the "M Word." That's because Marines are trained to lead, not to manage.

Now, to those of us who are managers, the distinction may not be so obvious. Here, then, are a few of the differences between "managing" and "leading," as seen from the Marine Corps perspective.

Managers push their people. Leaders pull theirs' by sheer force of personal example.

Managers order their personnel to get the job done. Leaders inspire their personnel to get the job done.

Managers build a fire under your butt. Leaders build a fire in your belly.

"Hands on" managers cultivate obedience. "Hands off" leaders cultivate independence and resourcefulness.

Managers consider themselves part of an exclusive club. Leaders maintain the respect and fellowship of the rank and file.

Managers accept credit for the success of their subordinates. Leaders turn away from the spotlight, letting it shine upon those they have the honor to lead.

When a project turns sour, the manager asks, "Who is responsible?" The leaders says "I am."

You work overtime for a manager; you work all the time for a leader.

Managers need to constantly make their presence known. Leaders inspire from afar-even from the grave.

We hope we have given you an idea of why Marines will never use the "M Word."

But before you despair, we do believe that Marine officers, Sergeants, and Drill Instructors would be very impressed by the new breed of managers, leading the corporate mission, in today's workplace.

Now and then, though, it doesn't hurt to remind ourselves of the differences between the "M Word" and the "L Word."

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5 SEPTEMBER**

**PATRIOT DAY &
GRANDPARENTS DAY
11 SEPTEMBER**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
14 SEPTEMBER**

**POW/MIA
RECOGNITION DAY
16 SEPTEMBER**

**CITIZENSHIP
(CONSITUTION)
DAY
17 SEPTEMBER**

**1ST DAY OF AUTUMN
22 SEPTEMBER**

**COLUMBUS DAY
10 OCTOBER**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
12 OCTOBER**

**DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS TIME ENDS
30 OCTOBER**

**HALLOWEEN
31 OCTOBER**

**ELECTION DAY
8 NOVEMBER**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
9 NOVEMBER**

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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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"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"