

# LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE  
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXIII, Number 9

SEPTEMBER 2010

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Editor: DON H. GEE

## VA Makes Filing Claims Easier and Faster with Simpler Forms

WASHINGTON--As part of the effort to break the back of the backlog, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reducing the paperwork and expediting the process for Veterans seeking compensation for disabilities related to their military service.

"These reductions in paperwork, along with other improvements to simplify and speed the claims process, symbolize changes underway to make VA more responsive to Veterans and their families," said **Secretary Eric K. Shinseki**.

VA has shortened application forms to reduce paperwork for Veterans. The new forms, which are being made available on VA's Web site at [www.va.gov/vaforms](http://www.va.gov/vaforms) <<http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>>, include:

\* A shortened VA Form 21-526 for Veterans applying for the first-time to VA for disability compensation or pension benefits. This form has been cut in half--from 23 to 10 pages. It is immediately available to Veterans via Web download, and will be available through VA's online claim-filing process later this summer at

[http://va\\_benefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp](http://va_benefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp)

Please see **FORMS**, Page 6

## G.I. BILL'S 66th ANNIVERSARY

WASHINGTON--On the 66th anniversary of signing the GI Bill into law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it has issued more than \$3.6 billion in the bill's newest manifestation, the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Benefit payments under the bill, implemented last year, have gone to more than 285,000 people and their educational institutions.

On June 22, 1944, **President Franklin D. Roosevelt** signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the GI Bill of Rights.

The Veterans Administration--as it

was known at that time--was responsible for carrying out the law's key provisions for education and training, loan guaranty for homes, farms or businesses, and unemployment pay.

Before the World War II, college and homeownership were, for the most part, unreachable dreams for the average American. Thanks to the GI Bill, millions who would have flooded the job market opted for education instead.

In the peak year of 1947, Veterans accounted for 49 percent of college admissions. By the time the original

Please see **G. I. BILL**, Page 6

## Space Available Travel for Retirees

Retirees who dream of climbing an Egyptian pyramid, schussing down a black diamond ski slope in Bavaria, or walking on a Hawaiian beach can make these dreams come true with Space-Available travel.

Typically, these dreams require a lot of money; however, Space-A travel is free with the exception of customs or federal inspection fees on some chartered commercial air service missions.

Air Mobility Command aircraft fly all over the globe and often have open passenger seats available. An AMC aircraft takes off every 90 seconds. More than 130,000 Space-A

travelers take advantage of this military benefit each year.

Retired service members with a retiree ID card and who are eligible to receive retired or retainer pay, fly as Category VI passengers. Since missions can be rerouted, delayed or canceled for a variety of reasons - weather, maintenance issues or higher priority missions - retirees need to be flexible. They need to plan for any potential delays and added expenses for stays, especially in high-cost areas. There are four different methods for signing up for Space-A travel:

Please see **SPACE**, Page 6



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## COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Hello Marines,

Hopefully everyone has survived the extreme summer heat so far as we head in to the fall season.

Again this year **Junior Past Commandant and Department SE District Vice Commandant Bill Miller** and I attended the 87<sup>th</sup> annual Marine Corps League National Convention and 71<sup>st</sup> MODD Supreme Grawl, in Greensboro, NC.

We had a great time with the Devil Dogs as Pennsylvania Pack had 11 Dog advance to PDD and this year the Kennel was able to raise \$20,000 for the Brenner

### G.I. BILL *from Page 1*

By the time the original GI Bill ended, July 25, 1956, 7.8 million of the 16 million World War II Veterans had participated in an education or training program.

In 1984, former Mississippi Congressman **G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery** revamped the GI Bill. The Montgomery GI Bill assured that VA home loan guaranty and education programs continued to work for Veterans of the post-Vietnam era.

In 2009, GI Bill benefits were updated again.

The new law gave Veterans with active duty service on, or after, September 11 2001, enhanced educational benefits to cover more expenses, provide a living allowance, money for books and the ability to transfer unused educational benefits to spouses or children.

For more information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill for Veterans, visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>.

Children's Hospital in Winston-Salem.

The Convention was somewhat contentious at time as there were many bylaws changes proposed and the Commandant and Judge Advocate positions were up for grabs by two candidates each.

All of the Khaki shirt bylaw change proposals were defeated and I believe that they are gone forever. I will discuss this and all of the other activities that went on at the Convention at our September meeting.

Everyone should also be aware that nominations for Detachment Marine of the Year should be turned into the Detachment Marine of the Year Committee prior to the October Detachment meeting.

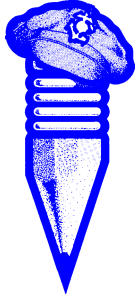
If you believe that someone in the Detachment has done things during the past year that warrants consideration for this great honor, please put together a nominating letter for that Marine. Then pass it onto the Marine of the Year Committee, which consists of all of the past Marines of the Year.

Also, **Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile** and his committee are working on the Birthday Ball and we will be discussing this in more detail at the next few meetings, too.

Hope to see you at the September meeting.

Semper Fi,

# AUGUST DETACHMENT MEETING



# M I N U T E S

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held August 11, 2010, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 14 members present including all officers except the Commandant and the Judge Advocate. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Budd Pearce, and Bob Sundling, Past National Northeast Division Commandant/Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth.**

**Sick Call:** Marine of the Year Ken Murray is undergoing treatment at the V. A. Medical Center in Coatesville. It was also noted that **Army Medal of Honor recipient Dave Dolby**, who was the Grand Marshal for this year's Memorial Day had died suddenly Aug. 13 while in Idaho. The **Minutes** of the July Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The **Paymaster's Report** was presented and was unanimously accepted.

## OFFICER REPORTS

In the absence of **Commandant Jim Powell** who was attending the Marine Corps League National Convention, **Senior Vice Commandant Ben Jones** reported the Detachment strength at 68 including 29 Life Members, 30 Regular Annual Members, 2 Dual Detachment Members, 6 Associate Annual Members and 1 Honorary Member. He also reported he had nearly completed the Detachment 25th Anniversary logo and should have it at the next meeting.

**Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile** reported the Detachment strength at 68 members including 29 Life Members, 30 Regular Members, 2 Dual Members, 6 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member. He has done some preliminary investigating of sites for this year's Birthday Ball. More information will be given at the September Meeting. He also discussed the Breakfast Fund-Raiser at Applebee's in Newtown on Saturday, July 17. The event was very successful for a first-time activity. We hope to do even better next time.

**Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC,** reported there had been no requests for the Color Guard since the last meeting.

The **Public Relations Officer** set Aug. 20 as the deadline for submission of material for the next **LISTEN UP!** The Detachment has again been requested to participate in Nockamixon Day in September. More on this at the next meeting.

**Quartermaster Corey Fisher** reported sales of \$11.00 at the last meeting.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling** reported the Liberty Young Marines Unit held its "Boot Camp" for 12 new members in Lakehurst, NJ. The Unit is also finalizing a trip to Washington at the end of the month. Anyone interested in participating should contact him as soon as possible.

**Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce** announced the next highway clean-up will be on Saturday, Aug. 14.

**Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Budd Pearce** reported the Department Rifle Match will be held Sept. 24-26 at Ft. Indiantown Gap. The Detachment will have six members participating this year. Anyone else interested in joining the Detachment team should contact him as soon as possible. Chaplain Pearce also announced the Detachment Parade Float will undergo repairs after Labor Day. He is still looking for members to help with the repairs.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Audit Committee--Junior Vice Commandant Gentile** reported the annual audit of the Paymaster's records had been completed and everything was in order.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Senior Vice Commandant Powell** presented a Marine Corps League Life Member card to **Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile.**

A motion was unanimously accepted to donate \$100 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

A motion was made and unanimously accepted to make a \$100 donation to the Wounded Warrior Project.

A motion was made and unanimously accepted to make a \$100 donation to the Philadelphia Veterans Comfort House.

A motion was made and unanimously accepted to give a \$50 honorarium to Junior Vice Commandant Gentile for the use of his truck during this year's Memorial Day and 4th Of July Parades.

#### Announcements

Sergeant-at-Arms Sundling announced his son--our own **Marine Bob Sundling** (the younger)--is to be married on August 28.

The Sergeant-at-Arms also relayed stories of the legendary Seamus Garrity and his world-renowned farm near Gettysburg where he entertains Generals and Privates alike at sumptuous barbecues and special events.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 8.**

## **VA Announces Test of Paperless Claims Processing System**

WASHINGTON--The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has selected its regional benefits office in Providence, RI, to test a paperless system and new procedures to improve processing of Veterans' claims for disability compensation.

"This test program marks a major milestone in VA's move to paperless processing," said **Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki**. "It supports VA's transformation of the claims process to ensure speedy delivery of benefits to Veterans, their families and their survivors." The pilot, which initially focuses on compensation benefits, is expected to start at the Providence facility in November, with completion in May 2011. Additional pilots are expected before the new claims system is deployed to all 57 VA regional benefits offices.

The Providence pilot is part of the Vet-

erans Benefits Management System, one of more than three dozen initiatives in progress at VA to "break the back of the backlog." This first VBMS pilot comes after completion of the Virtual Regional Office project collocated at the Baltimore Regional Office in May 2010. VA brought claims processors from around the country to Baltimore this past spring to assist in the rapid prototyping of a demonstration system.

Secretary Shinseki has set a goal that by 2015 VA will process all claims within 125 days with 98 percent accuracy.

VA will provide compensation, pension, education, loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation, employment, and insurance benefits valued at nearly \$70 billion this year to Veterans, their families and survivors through 57 VA regional offices.

## **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!**

# **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**LABOR DAY  
6 SEPTEMBER**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
8 SEPTEMBER**

**PATRIOT DAY  
11 SEPTEMBER**

**GRANDPARENTS  
DAY  
12 SEPTEMBER**

**FIRST DAY  
OF AUTUMN  
23 SEPTEMBER**

**COLUMBUS DAY  
11 OCTOBER**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
13 OCTOBER**

**DEPARTMENT  
STAFF MEETING  
22-23 OCTOBER**

**ELECTION DAY  
2 NOVEMBER**

**MARINE CORPS  
BIRTHDAY  
10 NOVEMBER**

**DETACHMENT  
MEETING  
10 NOVEMBER**

# SEEKING DONATIONS



**AMERICA  
4R  
MARINES**  
SEMPER FIDELIS - ALWAYS FAITHFUL



## 2010 OPERATION MERRY CHRISTMAS MARINES AND SAILORS DESTINATION: AFGHANISTAN

**AMERICA 4R MARINES 5th Annual Christmas Stockings to our deployed Marines and Sailors  
NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE!!!**

Our Marines and Sailors are now living in very remote and volatile environments with very few basic amenities.

We **MUST** show them that they are never forgotten for the sacrifices they make daily on behalf of our nation.

Sending them the holiday traditions while they are deployed is a huge lift to their morale. Last year, we shipped 4,000 stockings filled with tactical gear and other items that weighed in at 9.5 tons. Our goal this year is to send 5,000 identical stockings.

This mission may cost over \$400,000. Shipping costs alone will be around \$14,000.

**YOU can make this a SUCCESS!** Please show your patriotism by making a donation!

**Our Marines and Sailors expect nothing and truly appreciate the smallest gesture of support sent their direction!**

### OUR MARINES AND SAILORS NEED YOU!

Online donations: Visa/ MC/ PayPal accepted at [www.america4Rmarines.org](http://www.america4Rmarines.org)

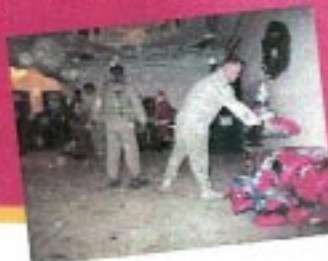
Checks payable to: America 4R Marines

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c/o America 4R Marines

2900 W. Moreland Road

Willow Grove, PA 19090



AMERICA 4R MARINES is a registered DBA of MOM 4R MARINES, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

This is a 100% volunteer organization. No one receives any personal compensation.

Neither the United States Marine Corps nor any other component of the Department of Defense has approved, endorsed, or authorized any of the endeavors of Mom 4R Marines.

## FORMS from Page 1

\* VA Form 21-526b for Veterans seeking increased benefits for conditions already determined by VA to be service-connected. This new form more clearly describes the information needed to support claims for increased benefits.

In order to make the claims process faster, VA has also introduced two new forms for Veterans participating in the Department's new fully developed claim (FDC) program, which is one of the fastest means to receive a claims decision.

Gathering the information and evidence needed to support a Veteran's

disability claim often takes the largest portion of the processing time.

If VA receives all of the available evidence when the claim is submitted, the remaining steps in the claims-decision process can be expedited without compromising quality.

To participate in the FDC program, Veterans should complete and submit an FDC Certification and VA Form 21-526EZ, "Fully Developed Claim (Compensation)," for a compensation claim, or a VA Form 21-527EZ, "Fully Developed Claim (Pension)," for a pension claim.

The forms were designed specifically for the FDC program. These six-page application forms include

notification to applicants of all information and evidence necessary to "fully develop" and substantiate their claims. With this notification, Veterans and their representatives can "fully develop" their claims before submission to VA for processing.

Along with the application and certification, Veterans must also submit all relevant and pertinent evidence to "fully develop" their claims. A claim submitted as "fully developed" may still require some additional evidence to be obtained by VA, to include certain federal records and a VA medical examination.

VA provides compensation, pension, education, loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation, employment, and insurance benefits to Veterans and their families through 57 VA regional offices.

Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to a Veteran for disabilities that are a result of--or made worse by--injuries or diseases that happened while on active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty training. Pension is a benefit paid to wartime Veterans with limited income, and who are permanently and totally disabled or age 65 or older.

For additional information, go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) <<http://www.va.gov/>> or call VA's toll free benefits number at 1-800-827-1000.

### CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT MARINES ON THE NET

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of the Marines Corps

[http://  
www.virtualusmc-  
museum.com](http://www.virtualusmc-museum.com)

# Quartermaster Store

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\$5.00

## USMC SATIN JACKET



\$55.00

## LIFE MEMBER BLAZER CREST



\$25.00

## COVER



\$22.00

## DETACHMENT T-SHIRT

## MCL PATCH



\$3.50

## DETACHMENT LICENSE PLATE



\$10.00

\$15.00

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)**

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**P. O. Box 1372**  
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**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**