

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

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CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #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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CORPS CHANGING THE FAMILY NAME

Active duty Marines have been given the word---"Stop calling your family members 'dependents'."

The word "dependent" was ordered removed from the Marine Corps' collective vocabulary in mid-October by Commandant Gen. James L. Jones.

"All Marines are defined by a desire to serve our country," the Commandant wrote in a Corps-wide message, ALMAR 27/99. "The term 'all Marines' means active, reserve, retired, and veteran Marines; the sailors and civilians who serve with us; a and our family members. All of these groups depend on each other in achieving our first priority--mission accomplishment. Use of the word 'dependent' is neither accurate nor appropriate in many circumstances."

"Family members" is the new accepted term.

Jones hinted at his desire to eliminate the word from everyday speech in his Commandant's Guidance, released July 1.

"The ALMAR is a way to solidify the concept that was put forth in the Commandant's Guidance," said Maj. Dave Lapan, a Public Affairs Officer at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

In the guidance, Jones made a point to include Marine families in the fold and to emphasize the need to support and accommodate families.

Jones' Oct. 13 message makes clear

he doesn't expect Marine Corps documents to be rewritten overnight to reflect his policy.

"Changes to directives and manuals can be made during periodic reviews," he wrote. "There is no requirement to make changes solely for the purpose of eliminating the word 'dependent.' However, as a matter of course, the term is no longer in the Marine Corps lexicon."

Jones said the term "dependent" must still be used in cases where there is a legal basis to use it, such as referring to dependent identification cards or the Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Reporting System.

(See DEPENDENTS, Page 4)

Military Retirees Getting 2.4 Percent C-O-L-A

Military retirees will get a 2.4 percent cost-of-living increase in their retirement checks Jan. 1.

Disabled veterans, surviving spouses who receive dependency and indemnity compensation, Social Security beneficiaries and others who receive payments from the federal government also will get the 2.4 percent increase.

The COLA hike is 2.2 percentage points higher than it was at the start of 1999, when retirees and others received a 1.3 percent increase.

(See C-O-L-A, Page 4)

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON 8 DECEMBER 1999 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Christmas is coming and I know all of our members would really like to do something nice for some kids in need. Well, I have just the thing. Bring in a new toy, or a few new toys, to the December Meeting and our resident Santa, Wil Haas, will make sure they find a good home with a needy child. The Marines at MAG-49 are full in the toy department, so this year's toys will go directly to area shelters. I am also talking to the NCOIC in charge of the "Toys-for-Tots" program to see if we can help get some of their toys into the hands of area kids--and out of the warehouse.

Another thing I am talking to MAG-49 about is an "Open House" program. Since we, as Marine Corps League members, have sworn to support the Marine Corps, I think that if there are any Marines in the MAG who can't get home for Christmas, we should invite them into our homes for a home-cooked dinner. I know I should never open my mouth without first checking with the members, but I did make the offer. The ways the members of this Detachment have always supported me, I'm sure I won't have to feed everyone here. But, if that be the case, I'll be glad to do it, and you'd be welcome, too. I hope all of our members and their families have a wonderful Holiday Season!

I want to say "Thank you" to all of you Marines who came to the November



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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.

Meeting to spend some time with the Young Marines. There were about 20 Young Marines at the meeting and some of their parents. We had a cake-cutting ceremony and Marine Mike Waldron led us in singing "The Marines Hymn." Thank you, Mike, for leading us in song. You should have been a choir director. After the meeting, some of the members and some of the Young Marine leadership staff were heading to Philly to check out "Cookie's Tavern" and the big birthday celebration there. I hope everyone had a good time and got home safely. Thanks to Marine Ed Hoth, PDC, for

bringing in his beautiful mameluke sword for our cake-cutting ceremony.

That's about it for now. With any luck my computer is Y2K okay and I'll have another typed letter next month. If not, I guess you'll find out why my mother and teachers always said I should grow up and be a doctor.

See you at the meeting.



Masculine or Feminine?

A language instructor was explaining to her class that French nouns, unlike their English counterparts, are grammatically designated masculine or feminine. Things like "chalk" or "pencil," she described, would have a greater gender association although in English these words were neutral.

Puzzled, one student raised his hand and asked, "What gender is a computer?"

The teacher wasn't certain which it was, and so divided the class into two groups and asked them to decide if a computer should be masculine or feminine. One group was comprised of the women in the class, and the other, of men. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The group of women concluded that computers should be referred to in the masculine gender because:

- 1-In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on.
- 2-They have a lot of data but are still clueless.
- 3- They are supposed to help you solve your problems, but half the time they ARE the problem.
- 4-As soon as you commit to one, you realize that, if you had waited a little longer, you could have had a better model.

The men, on the other hand, decided

that computers should definitely be referred to in the feminine gender because:

- 1-No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
- 2-The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
- 3-Even your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for later retrieval. 4-As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

DID YOU KNOW...

Colors or standards should never be allowed to fall into enemy hands. If capture seems likely, they should be burned.

When a Naval vessel is passing Washington's Tomb in Mount Vernon, VA, between sunrise and sunset, the ship's guard and band must be paraded, the ship's bell tolled and the National Ensign half-masted when the bell begins. When opposite the tomb, the guard presents arms while facing the tomb and "Taps" is played. The flag is then hoisted to the "Truck" at the last note of "Taps," the tolling ceases, and the National Anthem played.

High lights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania was held November 10, 1999, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 25 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included National Director of Public Relations and Past Commandant Don Gee, Past Commandant Frank Yohe, Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth, and Marine of the Year Wil Haas. Guests included Jerry Dole of All-Divisions Detachment, Member-at-Large Tom Short, and the Young Marines Unit and some of their parents.

The Minutes of the October Meeting were unanimously accepted.

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

Commandant Budd Pearce presented the Distinguished Citizen Medal (Bronze) to Judge Advocate Momorella for his numerous contributions to the Detachment during the past year.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment strength at 49 members including 13 Life Members, 32 Regular Members and 4 Associate Members. There are four members delinquent. He presented "Dedicated Service Awards" to members as part of the League's "Tenure Program."

Junior Vice Commandant Paul Caprio reported that those who attended the Birthday Ball, Nov. 6, at the Orion Club at NAS, Willow Grove, had a good time. He will report the "facts and figures" on the Ball at the December Meeting.

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

Adjutant Gary Smith reported we had received no communications from the Department or National organizations.

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

Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC, set November 20 as the deadline for the December issue of "Listen Up!"

New Business

The Young Marines' Commanding Officer gave a brief talk about the unit's organization, activities and goals.

Announcements

Marine Ray Krout reminded the members the American Legion Post will hold their District Meeting on Dec. 8 and we will, therefore, have to hold our December meeting downstairs.

Commandant Pearce reminded the members to bring new toys to the December Meeting for distribution to needy children in our area.

Marine Bruce Sergeant announced that Delaware Valley College has a series of historical documents on display for public viewing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m.

BRING A NEW TOY TO THE DECEMBER MEETING. HELP A NEEDY CHILD ENJOY CHRISTMAS DAY.

Iwo Jima Preservation Committee Reports

After more than two years of an uphill fight to defend our beloved Marine Corps War Memorial from encroachment by intrusion of an Air Force Memorial, it seems appropriate to reflect on this struggle and comment on just where we stand today, 3 November 1999, on the eve of another birthday of our Corps. First, let me assure everyone reading this message, we are stronger today than we have ever been before in this struggle.

With your help and encouragement, we have joined forces with "Friends of Iwo Jima," the "Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima," the Marine Corps Association, and all USMC veteran and fraternal groups, 355 strong, and the considerable Marine Corps Retired Community to lead the resistance to this effort, by "every legal means at our disposal."

We started behind the power curve but have steadily gained momentum. Our initial legal efforts were unsuccessful, largely because the judges did not want to take over the process of site selection for memorials. They noted in their judgment that they didn't know where the Air Force Memorial should be located, but that the court was not the proper agency to determine this matter. We were disappointed but this was a small bump in the road. Shortly after this ruling, we had

DEPENDENTS

(Continued from Page 1)

The guidance included other ideas for supporting families, such as advocating family stability, by developing a plan to reduce permanent change-of-station moves to allow for family "homesteading" when possible.

"We must acknowledge that the world has changed in ways that cause Marine families to seek increased stability," Jones wrote in his guidance. "We should work to avoid placing Marines in situations that require such decisions."

Finally, he promises to listen more to spouses and their concerns.

"We will work to further strengthen the role of Marine spouses in our Corps," Jones wrote. "In many cases, spouses are the 'duty experts' on issues effecting family life." our first real opportunity to publicly express our views. By law, the Air Force Memorial Foundation and the National Park Service prepared an Environmental Assessment stating that their incursion would have "no adverse impact" on the Marine Corps Memorial. Public comment was mandated. Since that time, in February and March, when hundreds of letters and personal appeals were registered against the Air Force Memorial at public hearings, by persons of all stripes, veterans, Air Force retired, civilians, neighbors, and active duty Marines, it has become apparent that our foes miscalculated in a most gross way. It shocked them. The rejection and animosity aroused was overwhelming.

Their Environmental Assessment proved to be woefully inadequate, inaccurate, and unsatisfactory. The killing blow was the highly technical and accurate official response from the Marine Corps, which laid out the many shortfalls of this piece of paper. The inputs made back in February and March have been sorted, collated, and studied by the National Park Service. The ball is in their court. They musty decide on one of three courses. First, to tell the USAF to move to another site. Second, to admit that the assessment was in adequate and incorrect and then commence a very complete Environmental Impact Study, a lengthy, comprehensive process that could delay the matter for another year. Thirdly, the paste a few Band-Aids on their original product and attempt to force the matter back to the National Capitol Planning Commission for final design approval.

We have waited almost eight months

for a decision. Meanwhile, the Marine Corps has entered the fray by contesting the original contention of the Park Service that our Memorial was not eligible for nomination to the National Historic Register. Our appeal of that matter has recently resulted in the "Keeper" of the National Historic Register stating that not only was it eligible but that our Memorial was eligible in its own right, alone, as a national treasure, not as a part of any park. This unique and important ruling creates another protective barrier around our beloved churchyard of the Corps. Should the National Park Service not respect this ruling and other aspects of the law, we are backed up by a Washington law firm of international repute, Covington and Burling, who will institute an immediate law suit in our behalf.

We get stronger each day. We are still hoping that the Air Force Memorial Foundation will accept our offer to assist them in finding an alternative location; i.e., the knoll by the Navy Annex. They have repeatedly turned down any offers of help, saying they have already won and will proceed. They will not and cannot until the last shot is fired. We have public support, the Park Service's delay makes it possible that the authorization for the Air Force Memorial may expire before they can get through all their necessary approval "wickets." We are dug in and determined. This has been too long but it's necessary for all to understand the complexities we are dealing with.

Semper Fi,

C. G. Cooper

LtGen., USMC (Ret.)

C-O-L-A

(Continued from Page 1)

It is 0.5 percentage points less than the 2.9 percent increase offered in 1997.

Congress adjusts benefits for retirees, veterans and Social Security recipients each year to offset inflation.

The Jan. 1 increase largely is due to the rising costs of fuel, health care, tobacco and durable goods during the 1999 fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, 1998, and ended Sept. 30.

The annual increase is pegged to the Consumer Price Index, or CPI, which measures price changes in a constant "market basket" of goods and services.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, an agency of the U.S. Labor Department, calculates the index. The increase retirees and other federal beneficiaries receive is based on the average price of goods and services in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year--July, August and September --compared to the average prices during the fourth quarter of the preceding year.

Marine Corps Replacing WWII-Era Jeeps

The Marine Corps is poised to get the first of its brand-new fast-attack vehicles this month after Corps officials put the purchase on a speedy fast track.

The Interim Fast Attack Vehicle will replace, albeit temporarily, the World War II-era M-151 Jeep, considered to be unreliable and a bit unstable. Ultimately, the Corps will replace all the old Jeeps and the new fast-attack vehicle with a new generation of trucks by 2004.

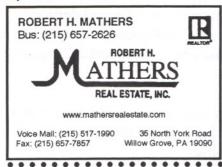
In the meantime, the Corps is having 62 new IFAVs built to "bridge the gap" between now and then.

It took a miraculous 50 days to get the new truck on line. The Corps decided it needed the truck in late May, the contract was awarded to Mercedes-Benz in mid-July, and the first batch of trucks will be delivered this month.

Most Marine Corps purchases take many months or even several years from when the Corps decides it needs something to when the contract is awarded.

"They said they needed it quick," said LtCol. Tom Manley, project officer for the new truck at Marine Corps Systems Command. "This is not the normal program, it was done very fast and very well."

The new diesel-powered fast-attack vehicle can be transported inside either a CH-46E or a CH-53 helicopter, making it a good addition to a Marine Expeditionary Unit.



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The interim vehicle will have coil suspension on all four wheels, "much better" ground clearance, more mobility and payload capacity.

The trucks will also have mounts for

Today's Marines Don't Remember Mothers' Sacrifices

A Gold Star Mother recently visited a Marine base. When she met several field-grade officers she let them know she was a Gold Star mom (her son was killed in Beirut).

The officers smiled condescendingly, replying, "That's nice."

At an 8th & I parade, a general officer made a similar faux pas.

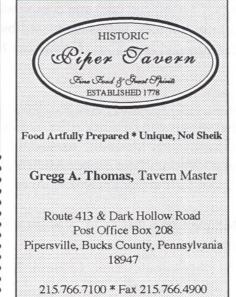
Seems Headquarters Marine Corps (Public Affairs) has an awareness challenge.

Every Marine should know and respect the mothers and wives who lost their children and husbands who died ion combat.

Remember that old WWII ditty? "There's a Gold Star in her window that shines for all the world to see...there's a Gold Star that shines for victory."

Guess too many have not ...

It is our duty to remember!



machineguns or Mark 19 40mm grenade launchers.

Also, the manufacturer will provide worldwide support, meaning parts can be shipped for the new truck almost immediately, said Maj. Frank Motley, requirements officer for the project.

The old Jeep has been difficult to maintain because parts are scarce.

The Jeeps also are gas-powered, which means units must keep two kinds of fuel since most vehicles are diesel-powered.

"This is kind of an interim fix for the MEUs," Motley said of the interim vehicle. "They can't even take out the Jeeps."

By 2004, the "next generation" of fastattack vehicles will become available, Manley said, and all the M-151s and the 62 interim vehicles that will begin rolling out this month will be replaced.

Corps officials are preparing to solicit contractors for the new, permanent vehicle, immediately.



By Bill Plant

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TUN TAVERN



Built in 1693 by Samuel Carpenter, the Tun Tavern became Philadelphia's outstanding hostelry in colonial times. George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were among the notables who frequented Tun Tavern. It became the unofficial meeting place for the members of the Continental Congresses, where they planned, discussed and negotiated the policies of our new-born nation.

Other organizations, too, trace their origin to the Tun: the St. George's Society in Philadelphia, in 1729; the Grand Lodge (Masonic Order-of which, Washington, Jefferson and Franklin were members), 1732; and St. Andrew's Society, in 1747. The tavern was also used in 1756 to organize a regiment under the command of Colonel Benjamin Franklin, as a defense against Indian uprisings in the area.

The Tun was of brick construction, two-and-a-half stories high, and situated near the banks of the Delaware

River. Above the main tapfor rent to transient guests rooms. Records show that vided into boxes fitted with lighted.

Because of its waterfront of manpower who gathered Congress ordered that two be raised there and that they

"Resolved that two battalconsisting of one Colonel, two Majors and other offiments; and that they consist

room were rooms available and several large club the dining room was ditables and "elegantly"

location and the abundance there, the 1st Continental battalions of seafaring men be called Marines.

ions of Marines be raised, two Lieutenant Colonels, cers as usual in other regiof an equal number of pri-

vates with other battalions; that particular care be taken, that no persons be appointed, or inlisted (sic) into said battalions, but such as good seamen; or so acquainted with marine affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea when required; that they be inlisted (sic) and commissioned to serve for and during the present war between Great Britain and the colonies, unless dismissed by order of Congress; that they be distinguished by the names of the first and second Battalions of American Marines." (Continental Congress, Nov. 10, 1775)

That very evening, men in coarse homespun clothing, blue woolen peacoats, or soft doeskin vests and britches, with tri-cornered hats atop their heads and flintlock rifles at their sides, raised their mugs of rum. "Long live the United States, and success to her Marines!" toasted the officer.

His name was Captain Samuel Nicholas and, with Capt. Robert Mullens, he had been sent to Tun Tavern—owned by Mullens' father—to recruit men for the Continental Marines.

Thus, Tun Tavern gained its place in Marine Corps history as "The Birthplace of the Marine Corps" and the "First Marine Corps Recruiting Station."



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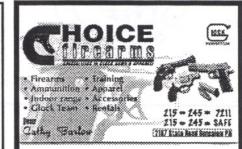
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