



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
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Air Force Settles on New Site for Its Memorial

The top officers of the Air Force and Marine Corps jointly have endorsed a deal to move the site of a planned Air Force memorial from near the famed Iwo Jima statue to grounds overlooking the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery.

The endorsements from **Gen. John P. Jumper**, who became Air Force Chief of Staff Oct. 1, and **Gen. James Jones**, the Marine Corps Commandant, promise to end a long, bitter dispute between veterans of both services. Previously, the Air Force and Marine Corps had failed to agree on a way to settle what some called the "Battle of the Monuments."

Gen. Jumper's willingness to endorse the move - and the expected approval of the private Air Force Memorial Foundation - is a victory for Marine veterans who fought in court, in the media and on Capitol Hill to shift the project. They argued that the memorial complex encroached on what they called "hallowed ground." Previously, the foundation adamantly refused to relinquish the prime site at Arlington Ridge between the cemetery and the Potomac River.

A House-Senate conference on the 2002 defense authorization bill is now working on an official memorial cease-fire. The legislation would transfer the federal land at the Navy Annex to the Army, which runs Arlington Cemetery. The defense secretary would then provide four acres to the foundation for the memorial. The remaining land would be used for burial sites once the annex is vacated later this decade.

The annex, a complex of buildings that once housed Marine Corps headquarters, overlooks the Pentagon and is bordered by Interstate 395 and the cemetery.

The Air Force foundation had planned to erect its 50-foot-high building 200 yards from the bronze statue depicting Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945, after one of World War II's fiercest battles.

"We wish to jointly express our enthusiastic support of the proposal to locate the Air Force Memorial at the Arlington Navy Annex," said a letter jointly signed by Gen. Jumper and Gen. Jones, and sent to **Rep. Bob Stump**, Arizona Republican and Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

"Given the immense benefits the Navy Annex site has to offer, and the multiple concerns that have attended this project previously, we want to urge the committee of conference to act now and ensure success," the two Generals wrote. "The time has arrived for bringing to reality this lasting tribute to Air Force men and women past and present."

Retired Air Force **MajGen. Edward F. Grillo Jr.**, the foundation's president, said yesterday the group is willing to accept the new site, subject to the trustees' approval.

"It is our intention, assuming that the congressional language is passed and the Air Force Memorial Foundation considers it to be in the best interest of the foundation and our contributors, to relocate," Gen. Grillo said.

He said the foundation has raised \$29 million from 130,000 individuals, organizations and corporations. Founded in 1992, the foundation was headed for years by beer magnate **Joseph Coors**.

(See MEMORIAL, Page 2)

Marines Help One of Their Disabled Own

Marines take care of their own.

"Once a Marine, always a Marine," said **Carroll Hockaday**.

Hockaday's decision to join the U.S. Marine Corps nearly 35 years ago paid dividends recently when a group of Marines delivered a new double bed with box springs and mattress to Hockaday's apartment in Richmond, VA.

Hockaday, a Vietnam veteran who is disabled with serious back problems, was delighted to see the eight Marines from the Richmond recruiting office.

"The Marines have landed!" he said as they entered his apartment and greeted him with firm handshakes and enthusiastic *semper* exchanges.

Gunnery Sgt. Karl Bartley looked Hockaday straight in the eye as he shook his hand vigorously.

"Always family," Bartley said. "For life."

Hockaday, a Richmond native, joined the Corps in the late 1960s because "I wanted to be a man, so I joined the Marines," he said.

Hockaday showed off a photograph of himself in uniform. Pointing at the young Marine in the old picture, he said: "That's what you call old salt."

Hockaday, a former heavy equipment operator, said he suffers from spondylolysis, which means his spinal column is degenerating. He has had two surgeries and faces a third.

"I used to drive steamrollers and other types of heavy equipment that didn't have shock absorbers," he said. "I assume all that bouncing up and down had something to do with my back problems."

For the past nine months, social worker

Sarah Stein tried to find a new double bed to replace Hockaday's single bed with a worn mattress.

"I knew he badly needed a new bed," said Stein. "I called numerous agencies and businesses trying to find somebody to donate a bed to him. Nobody could help."

Knowing Hockaday had been a Marine, Stein finally called the Richmond recruiting office and spoke with **Sgt. Susie Khamthong**, the office's Public Affairs NCO.

"She called me back in 15 minutes to say she had found a bed," Stein said.

Khamthong, who accompanied the team of Marines delivering the bed, said she was delighted to help. "This is what Marines do," she said. "We serve the community where we live."

Hockaday was overwhelmed by the attention. "This means so much to me," he said, tears welling in his eyes.

Someone joked that the recruiters might try to persuade Hockaday to rejoin the Marines for a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

"I would gladly go to Afghanistan," he said, laughing. "If I could get back the back I had when I was a Marine."

Memorial

In July, **Ross Perot Jr.**, an ex-Air Force fighter pilot, became the new chairman.

The memorial will have to be redesigned, or a fresh design ordered, to fit the new site.

"You have to have a new memorial that not only represents what one wants it to represent but is also perfectly suited for the environment in which it is placed," Gen. Grillo said.

He added, "The country is at war right now, and the last thing we need is anything of an interservice controversy that this has somewhat caused in the past."

Indeed, ill feelings among some Marines and Air Force veterans festered during much of the mid- and late 1990s.

Marines noted that nearly 30,000 of their brethren were killed or wounded in taking the Pacific island so that Army Air Corps pilots had an airfield on which to land disabled bombers returning from Japan.

The Air Force had a reply. "No branch of the service has earned an exclusive right to 'hallowed ground,'" wrote retired **Maj. Gen. Charles D. Link** in 1999 when he served as foundation president. "There is more than enough room in the 25 acres on Arlington Ridge for the two-acre site of the Air Force Memorial."

Retired **Gen. Charles Krulak**, then the Marine Commandant, weighed in, saying in 1998, "What people need to

(From Page 1)

understand is that the Marine Corps lost, either killed or wounded, on Iwo Jima almost 30,000 people and when you look at that memorial, and then understand that some 150 yards away we're thinking about building something else, we just don't think that that's the right thing to do."

Gen. Jumper and Gen. Jones called the Navy Annex location a "win-win solution."

"It affords the Air Force Memorial Foundation an inspiring site with impressive views of our nation's Capitol on which to erect a lasting memorial to the airmen who have bravely defended our nation in both peace and war," they said.



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.

2002 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DETACHMENT MEETING
JANUARY 9**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
FEBRUARY 13**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
MARCH 13
(ELECTIONS)**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
APRIL 10
(INSTALLATION)**

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania was held December 12, 2001, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 21 members present including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr. and Frank Yohe; Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth; and Marine of the Year Bob Momorella.**

Three new members were inducted into the Detachment: **William E. Jerrom** of Doylestown; **Frank J. Kukuchka** of Perkasio and **Tim Neumann** of Lansdale.

The Minutes of the November Meeting unanimously approved.

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

Sick Call: **Marine Paul Caprio's** mother-in-law passed away recently. The Detachment expressed its sincere condolences to Marine Caprio and his wife Evelyn for their loss.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Budd Pearce thanked the Detachment for donating toys to the Commandant's Table. The toys will be taken to MAG-49 at Willow Grove for distribution to needy families in our TAOR.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. reported that the Marine Corps Association had returned some of the funds for the Marine Corps Birthday items which did not arrive in time for our celebration. He also reminded the members that all tickets and money for the Department of Pennsylvania's Annual Raffle must be turned in to him by the May Meeting in order to get them to the Department Senior Vice Commandant in time for the Annual Convention. He also explained that the Detachment earns a 40 percent commission on all ticket sales. The commission increases to 50 percent for sales over \$1,500.00. He enjoined the members to sell as many tickets as possible this year to bolster our treasury. Proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets support the Department's Scholarship Fund.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no communications from either the National Headquarters or the Department.

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

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

Quartermaster Bob Duff had nothing new to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Young Marines--Young Marines Liaison **Bob Sundling** reported the Young Marines unit enjoyed the Marine Corps Birthday celebration and thanked the Detachment for inviting them to be a part of the observance.

Public Relations--The Public relations Officer set December 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the January issue of *Listen Up!*

OLD BUSINESS

Marine Mike Waldron read a letter from his daughter expressing her thanks for supporting her in the recent Breast Cancer Walk sponsored by Avon.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously accepted to donate \$100 to the *Intelligencer* "Give-A-Christmas" fund.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 9.

A FEW GOOD STUDENTS!



The MARINE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION is looking for students who qualify for Academic Year 2002-2003 scholarships.

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website at www.marine-scholars.org

Application Submission Deadline: April 1, 2002

DOD NEWS BRIEFS

BAH Hike Due January

Basic Allowance for Housing will increase January by an average of 10 percent if the President signs the Fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act. The provision will drop out-of-pocket costs for housing from 15 percent to 11.3 percent. This would keep the Defense Department on track to eliminate out-of-pocket costs entirely by Fiscal 2005.

Combat Zone Tax Break Announced

Service members in Afghanistan have been given significant tax breaks retroactive to September 19 thanks to an executive order signed by the president. This combat zone tax exclusion applies to service in Afghanistan and the airspace above it, and to members directly supporting operations in Afghanistan from other locations if they are receiving imminent danger pay or hostile fire pay. Under the exclusion, enlisted members and warrant officers will pay no federal income tax on any basic pay or special pay. Officers will pay tax only on that portion of their pay that exceeds the highest enlisted pay plus the \$150 imminent danger pay, a figure currently set at \$5,043. Those eligible for the exclusion will receive an automatic extension to file their taxes. They also can expect a refund of taxes already paid and elimination of future withholding during their exclusion status.

Congress Waffles on Concurrent Receipt

Congress has voted in principle to end pay cuts for military retirees who are authorized VA disability compensation. However, the legislation would authorize concurrent receipt in a future year only if the president puts it in the budget and Congress legislates it. This looks like a show-stopper because the Administration has told Congress it opposes concurrent receipt. This failure by Congress means that disabled military

retirees must continue to fund their own disability by a \$1 reduction in their retired pay for each \$1 of VA disability compensation they have earned. American Legion commander Richard J. Santos blasted this lip service, saying that it undermined the will of the majority in Congress. He said it sends a message to troops injured on active duty today that they should get out of the service to avoid being shortchanged in their retirement years. The legislation is awaiting the president's signature.

Special Compensation for Disabled Retirees

Although Congress has refused to authorize funding for concurrent receipt (previous item), it upped special compensation for some disabled retirees and added others to the compensation list. Retirees with VA disabilities of 70 percent or higher currently receive \$100 to \$300 monthly. This will increase by \$25 a month beginning January 1, 2003 for retirees rated 80 percent or more, and \$25 a month effective October 1, 2004, for those rated 70 percent or higher. Added to the list for special compensation of \$50 a month beginning February 1, 2002 will be retirees who served at least 20 years on active duty and who were awarded VA disabilities of 60 percent within 4 years of retiring. All of these changes depend upon whether the President signs the Fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act, which is on his desk.

NDAAs Derails Retiree Forced Choice

The fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act includes a provision that blocks the Administration's plan to force military retirees with VA disabilities to choose between military or VA health care. Retiree and veterans groups have objected to "forced choice" because: (1) VA care is earned by incurring disability due to military service while Tricare is earned through

the hardships of a military career, and (2) selecting one over the other would force the beneficiary either to forego specialty care that other veterans rate, such as hearing aids and prosthetics, or to relinquish a choice of civilian providers that other military retirees rate.

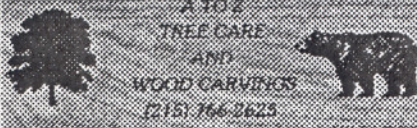
VA Recognizes Gulf War ALS Claims

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense have found preliminary evidence that veterans who served in Desert Shield-Desert Storm are nearly twice as likely as their non-deployed counterparts to develop amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly called Lou Gehrig's Disease. Because of this finding, the VA is now accepting claims from veterans who served in the Persian Gulf August 1, 1990, to July 31, 1991, and have subsequently developed ALS. For additional information call the VA toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.

'Frequent Flier' Benefits to Become Personal Property

When details are worked out, service members will be able to keep for their personal use "frequent flier" and similar travel affinity program benefits they accrue through official travel. The change, part of the FY 2002 National Defense Authorization Bill, is a reaction to dissatisfaction with the current system in which the government gets such benefits even if it can't use them, and under which members incur a record-keeping burden of maintaining separate accounts for benefits earned through personal versus official travel. Congressional officials said the change in frequent traveler policy would be retroactive, meaning members who have built up such credits in the past would be allowed to convert them to their personal use. Precisely how the changeover would work remains to be seen.

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Type of Application -- New () Renewal () Associate () Phone (____) _____

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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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