



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

VOLUME XI, Number 3

MARCH 1998

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held February 11, 1998, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 22 members present including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant, the Adjutant and the Paymaster. Distinguished Marines in attendance included: **National Public Relations Officer Don Gee; Past Commandants Don Parzanese Sr., Bill Plant, Frank Yohe, and Don Gee; Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth; and Marine of the Year Paul Caprio. Gunnery Sergeant Mark Clark** of the Hatboro Marine Corps Recruiting Office was a guest. He is a member of the Upper Darby Detachment and plans to become an Associate Member of our Detachment.

The Minutes of the January Meeting were unanimously approved.

In the absence of **Paymaster Bob Cody, Commandant Budd Pearce** presented the Paymaster's Report but suspended voting on its acceptance until the next meeting when the Paymaster will be in attendance.

Sick & In Distress: **Marine Bob Schaffer** is undergoing testing and treatment for cancer. **Young Marines Regimental Commander Walt Roach** is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Commandant Budd Pearce reported the Detachment had received a "Thank You" note from the mother of the family to which the Detachment had donated Christmas Dinner.

Senior Vice Commandant-absent. The Detachment has 46 members on the rolls. We have 15 Life Members, 26 Regular members, and 5 Associate Members. There are two members delinquent in their dues.

Junior Vice Commandant Paul Caprio reminded the Detachment about the Department of Pennsylvania raffle tickets. He also pointed out this was another fund-raiser for the Detachment since we keep a percentage of the gross sales.

Adjutant-absent. Commandant Pearce passed on correspondence the Detachment had received since the last meeting. **Department of Pennsylvania Headquarters Building Chairman David Pavey**, PDC, announced the Department's Headquarters Building at Ft. Indiantown Gap was up and running. He is planning to hold an "Open House" for the building in the near future. The Department's Spring Meeting is scheduled for Mar. 13 & 14 at the Holiday Inn in Grantville, PA. Room rates are

(Continued on Page 3)

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON 11 MARCH 1998
AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN



LISTEN UP!

LISTEN UP! is the internal information publication of the **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT** of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc. It is published monthly by and for the members of the Central Bucks Detachment.

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT
Marine Corps League
of Pennsylvania, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372
Ph: (215) 822-6723
FAX: (215) 822-0163

Meets
7:30 p.m.,
2d Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
315 North Street
Doylestown, PA

COMMANDANT:
ELLIS M. "BUDD" PEARCE, PC

Sr. VICE COMMANDANT:
WILLIAM C.H. ROSENBERGER III

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT:
PAUL CAPRIO

ADJUTANT:
GARY SMITH

PAYMASTER:
ROBERT C. CODY

JUDGE ADVOCATE:
BILL PLANT, PC

CHAPLAIN:
FRANKLIN YOHE, PC

QUARTERMASTER:
ROBERT DUFF

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
ROBERT A. SUNDLING

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
& EDITOR:
DON H. GEE, PC

Commandant's Column

Marines,

I'm sorry I failed to get my letter in last month's Listen Up! I have been working at one job during the days and another at night, so it just didn't allow time for everything. That schedule will stop next week as I am starting full time at the place I have been working evenings. This job is a four-day-a-week position which will allow me the time I need to focus on some of the things that have been getting by. I will now be able to spend more time with the family and on Marine Corps League projects. Thanks for bearing with me while I have been making the change-over from one job to another.

I truly hope all of our members plan on attending this month's meeting. It is the **MOST IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE YEAR!** This is the meeting at which we hold our annual elections. Your vote is necessary and important! We have more than one candidate running for a couple of the offices. If you don't come out and vote for your choice, they might not get elected. I know you might not vote in any other election because some of you might not be registered voters, although you should be. But, if you are a regular member of this Detachment, you are already registered to vote in our election. Don't let someone else decide whom your officers are going to be. Come out and vote for them yourself! Besides, if you don't show up at this meeting, you might just find out YOU have been elected to something.

We have been talking about float ideas and parade plans at the last few meetings. Our float will be a completely new design this year. **Marine Mike Waldron** is the Parade Float Committee Chairman and has some fine ideas. If you think you might have something to contribute to these ideas, please come out to this month's meeting and let him hear what you have to say. We have been asked to be in the Sellersville Memorial Day Parade this year. We were in this parade two years ago. The Detachment discussed this at the February meeting and decided we would participate in the parade again this year. The parade in Sellersville is on Saturday and the Doylestown Parade is on Memorial Day Monday, so there will be no conflict as far as I can see. You are needed for these parades so we can fill out our new float and make a good impression on the public. Please make plans to attend both parades if you possibly can. Don't forget, while making plans for the Memorial Day weekend, we will be holding the second annual Detachment picnic after the Doylestown Parade. Location, time and what you can bring will be announced next month.

The Detachment has obtained quite a few parking lots for the annual "A"-Day at Delaware valley College. **Marine Bob Schaffer** has done a tremendous job putting this fund-raiser together. Now, we need your help. We are going to need every member of this Detachment to pull this off. If all goes well, weather and help wise, we stand to bring in more than last year. Last year we made more than \$3,000. This year we have the chance to almost double that amount. The Detachment needs this money so we can better help area vets and give more support to some of the programs we already have in place. You need not work all day--a few hours on Saturday or Sunday from each member is all that is needed. If you don't come out to help, it means one of your fellow Marines must do your time for you. So, show your stuff, Marines! Sign up for a time slot. Full details will be discussed at the March meeting; please be there!

Semper Fidelis,

Budd Pearce

\$59. Reservations can be made by calling: (717) 469-1554. The National Northeast Meeting is set for Apr. 17 & 18 at the Holiday Inn in New Cumberland, PA. Call (717) 774-2721 for reservations. The 75th National Marine Corps League Convention will be held Sunday, August 2, through Saturday, August 8, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Syracuse, NY.

Judge Advocate Bill Plant, PC, reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling reported the Detachment had received an invitation to participate in the Memorial Day Parade in Sellersville on Saturday, May 23. It was moved, seconded and unanimously accepted to participate in the parade. This does not interfere with our taking part in the Doylestown Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25.

Quartermaster Bob Duff officially replaced **Don Parzanese Jr.** as Quartermaster.

Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC, reminded the Detachment the deadline for the newsletter was Feb. 25.

STANDING COMMITTEES

VAVS--The Detachment logged 27 volunteer hours since the last meeting including attending a VAVS Committee Meeting and a VAVS Executive Committee Meeting. VAVS Volunteer forms and information are available from **VAVS Chair Don Gee**, PC.

POW-MIA--**POW-MIA Coordinator Bill Plant**, PC, reminded the Detachment there are still POWs and MIAs from World War II and Korea in addition to Viet Nam.

MARINE-OF-THE-YEAR--**Marine-of-the-Year Committee Chair Paul Caprio** reported he had received no new nominations since the last meeting.

YOUNG MARINES--**Young Marines Liaison Bill Plant**, PC, and **Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling** reported **Staff Sergeant Bowen** had joined the staff of the Bux-Mont Young Marines and would be assuming more responsibility in the running of the Unit. It was recommended SSgt. Bowen attend a Detachment Meeting in the near future to apprise the members of future plans for the Unit.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

PARADE COMMITTEE--**Parade Committee Chair Mike Waldron** presented new estimates for preparing the Parade Float. **Marine Bob Momorella** was requested to submit an estimate of cost to prepare Division and Air Wing patch-signs for the float and present them at the next meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE--**Junior Past Commandant Don Gee** presented the slate of nominees for the coming year. The slate includes: **Bill Plant**, PC, and **Budd Pearce**, PC (added), for Commandant; **Bill Rosenberger** and **Don Gee**, PC, for Senior Vice Commandant; **Paul Caprio** for Junior Vice Commandant; **Gary Smith** for Adjutant; **Bob Cody** for Paymaster; and **Bob Momorella** (added) for Judge Advocate. Election of officers for 1998-99 will take place at the March Meeting and the newly elected officers will be installed at the April Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

FRIENDLY'S RESTAURANT--An inquiry was made as to the status of this fund-raiser. Commandant Pearce stated he would follow up on this with the Senior Vice Commandant and report back to the Detachment.

NEW BUSINESS

A-DAY--Due to **Marine Bob Schaffer's** illness, it was determined that **Judge Advocate Bill Plant**, PC, would get in touch with him and assume the responsibility for coordinating A-Day Parking for the Detachment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Central Bucks Unit of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary is still conducting its "Easter Food Basket Drive" and members were enjoined to bring canned goods to the next meeting in support of this effort.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed until 1930 on March 11.

ATTENTION, MARINES!

The Auxiliary needs our help! They are having an Easter Food Drive to help those in need. What they require from us is a few simple canned goods. Our members always show up with a bunch of toys at Christmas to help the kids that wouldn't have any without our help. Now it's time to help them again; only this time we're going to help feed them. Please bring a few cans of food to the March meeting and put them in the box on the side table. Remember, a few cans of food doesn't seem like much to you and me, but to a hungry child, it means more than you can imagine. Don't be afraid that you'll bring too many, the box will be as large as it needs to be. Thank you, Marines!

Budd Pearce, Commandant

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Budd Pearce, Commandant

History of the PURPLE HEART

The modern Purple Heart medal originated as the Badge of Military Merit more than 200 years ago. The Badge was the first American decoration and was intended to honor "singularly meritorious" acts. The only three Badges known to have been awarded went to three Connecticut men. The first of these three recipients was an Enfield, Connecticut man, Sergeant Elijah Churchill. Churchill received the award on 3 May 1783.

By 1782, many of General George Washington's most trusted soldiers had served six years of hardship, privation and misery. As the war was winding down, the Continental Congress appropriated less money for the military and banned battlefield promotions.

General Washington, and his master trainer, Baron von Steuben, knew the importance of maintaining high morale. From Washington's headquarters came the idea for the establishment of a military decoration for meritorious action that would also bypass the miserly Continental Congress.

On 7 August 1782, General Washington issued the Order of Military Merit. Veteran non-commissioned officers and enlisted soldiers who served three years with bravery, fidelity and good conduct were awarded a "narrow piece of white, angular cloth to be affixed to the left arm of the uniform coats. Six years of meritorious action...not only instance of gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way" were "permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth, silk, edged with narrow lace or binding." Washington ended his orders: "The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus to all. This order is also to have retrospect for the earliest

days of the war and to be considered as permanent."

Following the Revolution, the Badge of Military Merit fell into disuse. No federal decoration was awarded to American soldiers until the Navy Medal of Honor was created in 1861 during the Civil War. When World War I became an American concern, there were only three decorations to reward extraordinary bravery and fidelity; the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal. Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces General "Black Jack" Pershing led the effort to develop what he called "a third decoration." This initiative came to fruition on 22 February 1932, the bicentennial of George Washington's birth. Chief of Staff of the Army Major General Douglas MacArthur issued his simple General Order, reviving the Badge of Military Merit as the Purple Heart medal: "Purple Heart - By order of the President of the United States, the Purple Heart established by General George Washington at Newburgh, New York, August 7, 1782, during the War of the Revolution, is hereby revived out of respect to his memory and military achievements."

Award of the Purple Heart medal was authorized to combat wounded veterans of World War I, as well as to soldiers who received Meritorious Service Citation Certificates signed by General Pershing. Fittingly, a fraternal organization for recipients of the Purple Heart was founded in Connecticut. The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc., is a unique veterans group. To be a member one must have shed blood in service of the United States.

In 1983, the Department of Defense enlisted the assistance of the citizens of Enfield, Connecticut. A national parade

was held in Enfield celebrating the 200th anniversary of Enfield native Sergeant Churchill's receipt of the first Purple Heart.

From this event an idea emerged: Enfield is the appropriate home for a national museum to honor the Purple Heart medal and all recipients. A local committee incorporated in 1987. From the Town of Enfield and State of Connecticut, the National Purple Heart Museum Committee obtained almost 15 acres of land, strategically located along interstate 91. A \$250,000 grant from the State enabled the committee to develop a complete architectural plan for the facility. In March 1997, the State of Connecticut approved a \$1 million grant, enabling the Museum Committee to conduct a national fundraising campaign and erect the 35,000 square-foot facility.

Connecticut Governor John G. Rowland is Chairman of the Museum Advisory Board. Senator Joseph I. Lieberman and Congresswoman Nancy Johnson are members of the Advisory Board. Actor James Garner (recipient of 2 Purple Hearts) is the original member of this body.

Recent recruits include General H. Norman Schwarzkopf (two Purple Hearts), Actor Dale Dye (two Purple Hearts). Medal of Honor recipient Roy P. Benavidez also joined the Board.

In July 1997, the National Purple Heart Museum Committee reincorporated under new by-laws that allow all Americans, 18 years and older, to join the Museum family. Museum members are now able to elect governing Board members and may run for office themselves. An annual election will be held each year, on or about 3 May, anniversary of Sergeant Churchill's receipt of the first Purple Heart.

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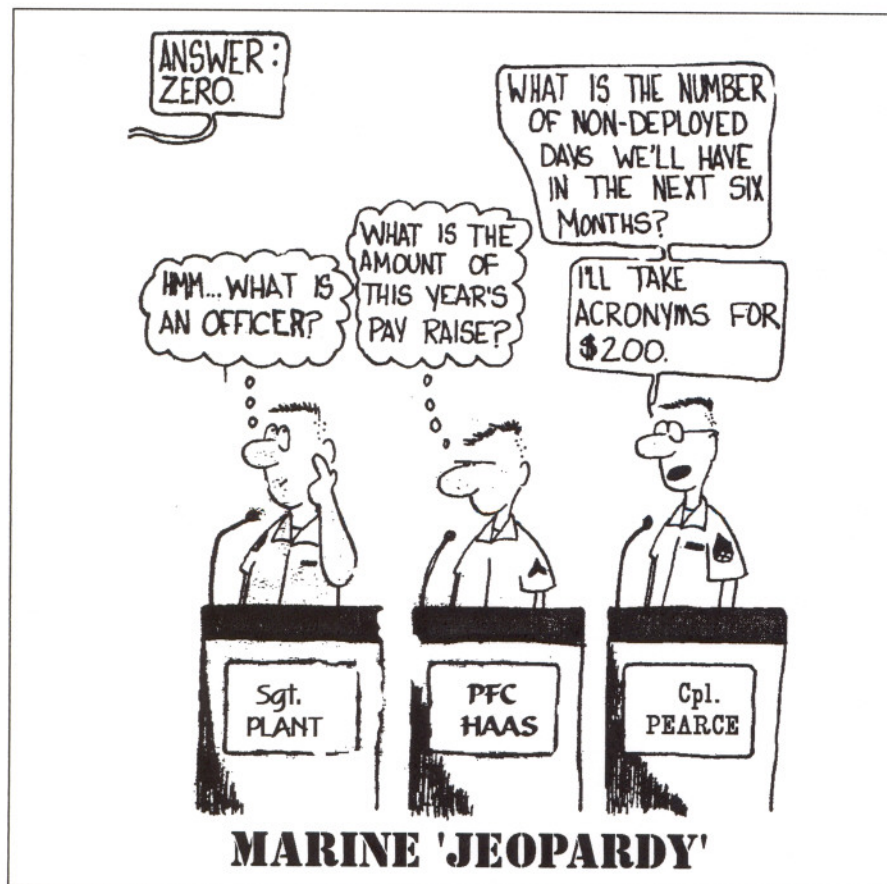
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FBI Seeks Woman Bigamist Who Was A Male Marine

The FBI is hunting for a woman who had four husbands at the same time and who deserted from the Marine Corps nearly 30 years ago while still a man.

Erica Sandra Kay, 47, was born Eddie James Mundell and was declared absent without leave in 1968 from Camp Lejeune, NC, according to FBI Agent Tim Coakley. She is wanted on fraud and desertion charges, he said.

He underwent a sex change operation two years later and changed her name.

"She suckered all of us," said Ammadell Whitsell, whose nephew John Bowers, 50, of Jasper, GA, married Kay on Oct. 19, 1996, while she was still married to a man in Georgia, and another man in Ohio. Whitsell said the couple had a church wedding and Bowers gave Kay a big diamond ring. "She saw he had a house, land and a vehicle," Whitsell said. "She called my sister 'Mother.' She planted a garden out back of the house and even canned the food. She was a cook. We were just taken in by her."

Kay left Bowers two months after the wedding, driving off in his new Mercury Mountaineer and taking his gold watch and much of the \$90,000 he had borrowed for home improvements.

Last New Year's Eve, Kay met painting contractor Ralph Caruso, 68, who lived in St. Petersburg, FL, and was on a gambling trip to Biloxi, MS. Caruso and Kay exchanged wedding vows in Las Vegas last April, Coakley said.

"She convinced him she was a successful interior designer," Coakley said. "They set up shop in St. Petersburg and she started running up bills. She told him she was pregnant. They even went so far as to put a nursery in the house."

Kay left Caruso in late October, driving off in his 1983 Cadillac Eldorado. The Mercury Mountaineer was found abandoned on a St. Petersburg street.

"We were probably about four days too late in catching her," Coakley said. "Unfortunately, Caruso didn't know she was wanted. He only called us after she was gone."



MARINE CORPS TRIVIA QUIZ



1. Which Marine Corps tank unit was the first to be deployed to Viet Nam?
2. What does SNCOIC stand for?
3. Where was the 3d Marine Brigade activated?
4. Where was the first amphibious landing school located?
5. What is the length of the M16A1 rifle with the M7 bayonet attached?

Answers in Next Month's Newsletter

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. General Holland M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith was largely responsible for developing the amphibious landing techniques in thre Pacific during WWII.
2. Operation FREQUENT WIND, Saigon, Viet Nam, was the largest helicopter evacuation ever attempted.
3. "Chesty" Puleer, the most decorated Marine in history, had 53 decorations, including five Navy Crosses.
4. President Thomas Jefferson was the President who first ordered Marines to guard U.S. ships.
5. William Perkins was the only Marine Combat Correspondent to receive the Medal of Honor.

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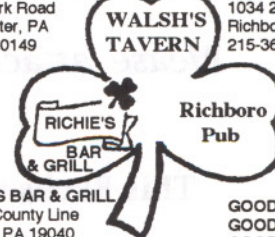


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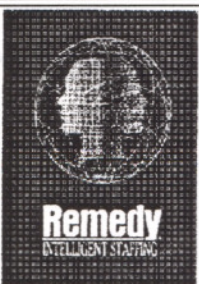
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I hereby apply for membership in the **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT**, Marine Corps League, and enclose \$30.00 for one year's membership (which includes subscription to **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MAGAZINE**).

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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Remit this form with check or money order (made payable to **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MCL**)
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