

LISTEN UP !



VOLUME XXVI, Number 5

Commandant: Joseph M. Kier

May 2013

Editor: Joseph M. Kier

VA to expedite decisions for year-old claims

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it is implementing an initiative to expedite compensation claims decisions for veterans who have waited one year or longer.

Effective today, VA claims raters will make provisional decisions on the oldest claims in inventory, which will allow veterans to begin collecting compensation benefits more quickly if eligible. Veterans will be able to submit additional evidence for consideration a full year after the provisional rating, before the VA issues a final decision.

Provisional decisions will be based on all evidence provided to date by the veteran or obtained on his or her behalf by VA. If a VA medical examination is needed to decide the claim, it will be ordered and expedited. If any increase is determined to be warranted based on the additional evidence received, benefits will be retroactive to the date the claim was initially filed. The initiative protects the veteran's right to appeal the decision. If no further

evidence is received within that year, The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) will inform the veteran that his or her rating is final and provide information on the standard appeals process, which can be found at <http://www.bva.va.gov/> Throughout this initiative, VA will continue to prioritize claims for homeless veterans and those claiming financial hardship, the terminally ill, former Prisoners of War, Medal of Honor recipients, and veterans filing Fully Developed Claims. More information about filing Fully Developed Claims is available at: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/transformation/fastclaims/> Claims for

wounded warriors separating from the military for medical reasons will continue to be handled separately and on a priority basis with the Department of Defense through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES). Wounded warriors separating through IDES currently receive VA compensation benefits in an average of 61 days following their separation from service.

Veterans can learn more about disability benefits on the joint Department of Defense—VA website at: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>



Department/National Meeting Schedule.

- 2013 Department of PA Pistol Championships
Fort Indiantown Gap, PA
31 May– June 2
- 2013 DEPARTMENT OF PA CONVENTION ,
MECHANICSBURG, PA
12-15 JUNE
- 2013 NATIONAL CONVENTION
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
4-10 AUGUST

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**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, INC. #636**

P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372
Meets 7:30 p.m.
2nd Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
315 North Street, Doylestown, PA

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MESS SERGEANT

Vincent DeBella

WEB SERGEANT

James Powell, PC

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN



Marines,

As I enter my second term as your Commandant I would like to thank the 2012-2013 Staff for a great job, and look forward to working with those of you who have stepped up again to serve on the Detachment staff. Returning we have Jack Gentile as Sr Vice Commandant, Vince DeBella as Jr Vice Commandant, Jim Powell, PC as Adjutant/Paymaster, Robert A. Sundling, PC as Sergeant at arms, and Corey Fisher as Quartermaster. New to the Staff we have William McBride as Judge Advocate, and Samuel DiValentino as Chaplain we welcome these Marines to their new positions and I am excited to see what they will bring to the Detachment Staff.

We have our Memorial Day fundraiser coming up on May 23rd and going till Sunday afternoon on May 26th. We will be looking for Vince DeBella to get a schedule out, and when we get it make sure you step up and fill in a time. At this point the Memorial Day fundraiser is our biggest fundraiser.

Following our fundraiser is the Memorial Day parade on May 27th, we need everyone that can to come out and ride on the float for the parade. The details on the Memorial Day Parade are we will meet at the Lenape Middle School on Rt. 202 in Doylestown at 0800-0830 to get the float together and head over to the staging area for the parade. As we head over to the staging area the color guard and I will have to break off to do the flag raising at 0900. As usual the preferred uniform is the short sleeve undress; however red hats are fine too. If you don't have a red hat come on out with your USMC tee shirt and ball cap either way we stand to have a great time at the parade.

Thanks to the efforts of Sr Vice Jack Gentile, my younger brother Jim, and myself we are getting ready to refit the parade float. We are going to replace all the railings with angle iron welded to the frame, a new wood floor, a new tire, and we are resizing the box in the center to hopefully fit some seats in the middle. Lastly

we plan to paint the frame red and the wheels yellow. We look forward to showing off the new look at the parade.

If I can work it in I would like to have a staff meeting this month. That's all for now see you on the 8th at our regular meeting.

Semper Fi,

Joseph M. Kier
Commandant



2013 Officer installation officiated by District 2 Vice Bill Miller



Doylestown Hospital Volunteer appreciation luncheon colorguard. (L to R) Joe Kier, Don Gee, Bill McBride, and Sam DiValentino.



DETACHMENT INFORMATION



OUR MISSION

Vet Centers serve veterans and their families by providing a continuum of quality care that adds value for veterans, families and communities. Care includes professional readjustment counseling, community education, outreach to special populations, working with other community agencies, and act as a liaison between the veteran and other services in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



215-823-5245



Services Provided

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Marital/Family/Significant Other Counseling
- Alcohol/Drug Assessment and Referral
- Benefits Referral
- Job Referral
- Employment Counseling and Guidance
- Community Education
- Liaison with VA Facilities
- Referral to Community Agencies
- Information regarding local and national veterans organization and projects
- Bereavement Counseling (Family Members)
- Sexual Harassment/Trauma Counseling



Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or "Delayed Stress"

- Characterized as a delayed and often chronic reaction experienced by normal people exposed to abnormally intense amounts of stress, such as encountered in war zones, sexual assault, natural disasters and other catastrophic situations.
- "Delayed Stress" or PTSD may surface after many years and manifest itself in several symptoms.
- Not everyone who experiences trauma has Delay Stress or PTSD.

Vet Center Locations

Montgomery County, PA Vet Center
320 E Johnson Hwy, Suite 201
Norristown, PA 19401
215-823-5245
(Se Habla Español)

Bucks County, PA Vet Center
Canal's End Plaza
2 Canal's End Road, Suite 201B
Bristle, PA 19007
215-823-4590

Philadelphia Center City Vet Center
801 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-627-0238

Northeast Philadelphia Vet Center
101 East Olney Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19120
215-924-4670
(Se Habla Español)

Normal working hours are 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. **In an effort to better serve the veteran and family members, upon request Vet Centers will provide services after normal work hours.**



Eligibility Requirements

All veterans who served in any combat zone, from WWII to Present, including Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Other periods of hostilities such as: Lebanon, Grenada, Kosovo/Bosnia, Persian Gulf, Somalia etc. are eligible.

• Services are also available for their family members if the veteran is registered.

• Any veteran who experienced sexual harassment or assault while in the military regardless of the period of service.

• Bereavement counseling available for parents, spouses and children of Armed Forces personnel are also available.

Please call the Vet Center if you have any questions regarding eligibility.

Montgomery County, PA Vet Center



Bradley Herron @VA.GOV

320 E. Johnson Hwy
Suite 201
Norristown, PA 19401

215-823-5245



Readjustment Issues

Readjustment issues can be mild and brief in duration or severe and life-long. What is now known is that anyone exposed to events "outside the realm of normal human existence", such as war, may potentially have difficulties adapting to that experience. Some symptoms include:

- Anxiety or stress reactions (nervous, tense)
- Chronic depression
- Difficulty trusting others
- Emotional numbing ("shutting down")
- Anger, irritability, rage
- Hyperalertness and startle reactions (jumpy or alert)
- Impacted grief (unable to feel loss)
- Intrusive memories
- Isolation and alienation from others
- Loss of interest in activities that used to be enjoyable
- Low tolerance to stress ("short fused")
- Problems with authority
- Self-esteem problems
- Sleep disorders and nightmares (insomnia, constant awakening)
- Survival guilt
- Substance abuse (drinking to fall asleep, etc.)
- Employment issues

Confidentiality and Privacy

The Vet Center Staff respects the privacy of all veterans and upholds all rules and regulations covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996

320 E. Johnson Hwy
Suite 201
Norristown, PA 19401

215-823-5245



DETACHMENT INFORMATION

CONTINUED



*Dedication of Memorial Marker
For Samuel Nicholas
First Commandant of
The United States Marine Corps
June 1, 2013 at One PM
Friends Meeting House
3rd and Arch Streets,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Samuel Nicholas



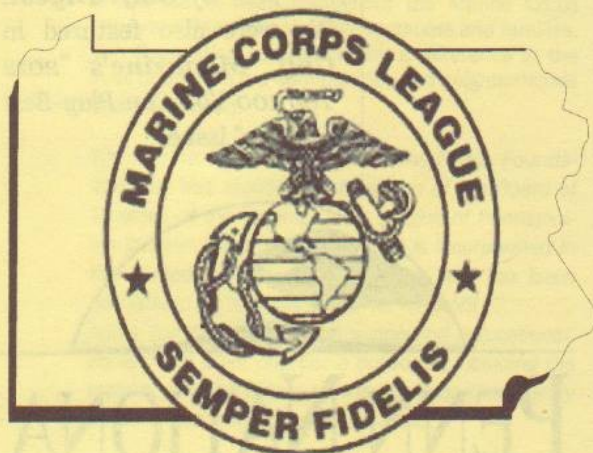
1st Commandant of the Marine Corps (1775–1783)



DETACHMENT INFORMATION

2013 Annual Golf Outing

To Benefit
**Marine Corps League
of Pennsylvania
Foundation, Inc.**



E-mail:
admin@mclofpafoundation.org

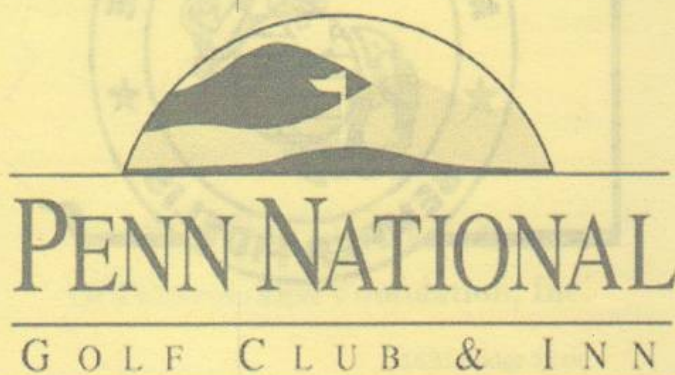
Website:
<http://mclofpafoundation.org/>



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Fayetteville, PA 17222

(800) 231-0080

24 August 2013 for more info
go to mclofpafoundation.org

VETERANS REPORT FOR MAY 2013

New monument in South Korea to honor U.S. troops

Nearly six decades after the Korean War armistice was signed, the United Nations Cemetery in Pusan, South Korea, is finally getting a monument that honors U.S. forces who fought there. While monuments to other U.N. forces have been erected at the cemetery, the sacrifice of American troops has yet to be recognized in such a way.

"We will begin construction on a monument this spring and plan to dedicate it in July on the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice," said Raymond Wollman, deputy secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). Wollman's announcement was part of his April 10 testimony before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. He also testified that three visitors' center projects will be completed this year: one at the Cambridge American Cemetery in England, another at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial near Anzio, Italy; and a third at the Pointe du Hoc Ranger Monument in Normandy, France. ABMC's first mobile app, a tour of the Pointe du Hoc battlefield, was released last December. The app gives users a virtual experience of the site, where U.S. Army Rangers scaled 100-foot cliffs during the June 1944 Normandy invasion to destroy a critical German battery and take control of the coastal highway. "We plan to produce apps and virtual tours for all of our sites," Wollman said, "so we can bring these national historic assets to life — not only to our visitors, but on our website and in our classrooms."

Congress has authorized \$5 million for ABMC to restore, operate and maintain Clark Veterans Cemetery in the Philippines. Wollman said an agreement is being negotiated with the Philippine government, but the funding "may be insufficient for a cemetery that is partially covered in volcanic ash and may have other unknown infrastructure issues. We won't know the true cost until we complete a site assessment. Nonetheless, the mission has been assigned to the ABMC, and we will work toward executing that mission when an agreement allowing us to do so has been signed with the Philippine government."

Kathryn Condon, executive director of Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), told the subcommittee that the cemetery had made much progress in its new digital environment. "Long gone are the typewriters, the three-by-five index cards and the paper maps colored in with pencils," Condon said. "In less than two years, we are the first national cemetery to geo-spatially manage cemetery operations."

ANC currently has three expansion projects: Columbarium Court 9, the Millennium Project and the Navy Annex Project. "Once completed," Condon said, "these projects should extend Arlington's first interment burials well into the 2050s."

The new columbarium's dedication is scheduled for May 9. Covering nearly 63,000 square feet, the \$12.9 million structure will add more than 20,000 niche spaces, extending until 2024 the availability of first inurnments. The Millennium and Navy Annex projects will also add thousands of grave sites and urn niches to the cemetery.

Veterans access to burial benefits was increased in 2012, with \$31.8 million worth of expansions and improvement projects completed at national cemeteries. Steve Muro, under secretary for memorial affairs in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA), also reported to the subcommittee that land acquisition and planning for the construction of five new national cemeteries has been initiated.

VETERANS REPORT FOR MAY 2013 CONTINUED

Distinguished Warfare Medal canceled

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced today that the proposed military decoration that honors drone pilots and cyberwarriors — the Distinguished Warfare Medal — has been cancelled and will be replaced by a distinguishing device that can be affixed to previously awarded medals.

American Legion National Commander James E. Koutz protested the Distinguished Warfare Medal's proposed ranking, which placed it higher than the Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Combat "V." Last month, Koutz said that placing the medal above those given for valor and courage under fire was "wholly inappropriate."

Hagel halted production of the medal on April 5, and directed Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey to conduct a review of its ranking. Hagel's decision kept the evolving roles of military combat in proper perspective, Koutz said.

"Cyber and drone warfare have become part of the equation for 21st-century combat, and those who fight such battles with distinction certainly deserve to be recognized. But The American Legion still believes there's a fundamental difference between those who fight remotely, or via computer, and those fighting against an enemy who is trying to kill them."

A Vietnam War veteran, Koutz served with Company C in the U.S. Army's 169th Engineer Battalion and was honorably discharged in March 1971.



Entrance to the United Nations Cemetery in South Korea (story on p.4)

"Placing the medal above those given for valor and courage under fire was 'wholly inappropriate.'"



One type of Drone used by the cyberwarrior team that has been instrumental in the war on terror

**CHECK US OUT
ON THE WEB AT
WWW.MCLCB.ORG**

The regular meeting of Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held April 10th, 2013, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA. There were 17 members and 3 guests present including all officers except **Chaplain Don Parzanese Jr.** and **Junior Past Commandant Budd Pearce, PC** who were excused. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Bob Sundling, Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr., Department of Pennsylvania District 2 Vice Commandant and Past Detachment Commandant Bill Miller, Department of Pennsylvania Junior Vice Commandant and Past Detachment Commandant Jim Powell** and **Marine of the Year Vince DeBella**. Distinguished guests in attendance were **Department of Pennsylvania Aide-de-Camp Tony Capelli** and **Department of Pennsylvania District 2 Assistant Vice Commandant Bob Rup**. Other guests were Brad Herron of the VA.

The **Minutes** of the March Meeting as published in *Listen Up!* were adopted.

Sick and Distressed: **Commandant Joe Kier** reported that his daughter had medical issues and was to undergo a procedure to correct the problem.

Guest Speaker: Brad Herron of the VA Vet Center in Montgomery County talked to the membership on their Global War on Terrorism Outreach Program. He spoke on a range of issues in regards to returning Combat veterans and the programs the VA has for them. He also requested that any veteran that has questions to contact him at 215-823-5245 or email him at Bradley.Herron@va.gov.

New Members: Geoffrey Burgess

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Joe Kier reported on the Department Quarterly Meeting held March 15th and 16th at the Department Headquarters Building on Fort Indiantown Gap and on the Northeast Division Conference held March 22nd and 23rd in Matamoras, Pennsylvania. He also reported on his attendance at the Eagle Scout ceremony he attended where he presented a MCL Eagle Scout Certificate. He also reported that he will be registering the Detachment for the Doylestown Memorial Day Parade and that our Color Guard would be leading the Parade this year. He also reported that the Highway Cleanup will take place this Saturday and everyone should meet at "Back to the 50's" diner at the corner of Rte. 263 and Edison-Furlong Road at 0800.

Senior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile reported that the Detachment had 39 regular members of which 2 are dual, 25 life members and 6 associates for a total of 70.

Junior Vice Commandant Vince DeBella reported on the Valley Forge Gun Show in Warminster that was held on April 6th and 7th. The Detachment raised \$317 in donations, sold 48 Youth and Veterans tickets. He had one new member, Geoffery Burgess, joined this evening and he had a couple of other possibilities arise from this event. He also spoke about the WWII Weekend to be held on April 20th and 21st at Graeme Park on County Line Road in Willow Grove and was looking for members to help with this fundraiser. And he spoke about the upcoming Celtic Weekend and pancake breakfast that we will be holding. The pancake breakfast will be held on June 8th in Newtown. He will have updated information at our next meeting.

Adjutant/Paymaster Jim Powell, PC presented the Paymaster's financial report and it was adopted.

Judge Advocate Don Parzanese Sr., PC reported that there were no outstanding issues.

Chaplain was excused and Sam DiValentino filled in.

Public Relations Officer Joe Kier set March 20th as the deadline for submitting material for the next *Listen Up!* Newsletter.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC reported on the Young Marines upcoming Car Wash at Pep Boys on Street Road and their flashlight fundraisers.

Quartermaster Corey Fisher had nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pistol Team /Rifle Team – all forms are required to be in by this meeting, both Pistol and Rifle. If anyone would like to shoot but has not submitted any paperwork, contact **Commandant Kier** or **Bud Pearce, PC** a.s.a.p. to discuss.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commandant Kier reminded the membership about the upcoming Doylestown Hospital Color Guard which is for their special event to honor their 1000 volunteers on April 18th. Arrival time will be 1130. He also reported on the June 1st dedication of the headstone for the First Commandant of the Marine Corps, Samuel Nicholas, which will take place in Philadelphia.

NEW BUSINESS

Don Gee, PC made a motion to put a 1/2 page ad in the Department Convention Book. It was seconded by **Bob Sundling, PC** and was passed by the body.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The Department Installation team of District 2 Vice Commandant, Bill Miller and his assistants Bob Rup and Tony Capelli performed the Installation of Officers ceremony for the Detachment. Those taking the Oath were:

Elected:

Commandant	Joe Kier
Senior Vice Commandant	Jack Gentile
Junior Vice Commandant	Vince DeBella
Judge Advocate	Bill McBride
Adjutant/Paymaster	Jim Powell

Appointed:

Chaplain	Sam DiValentino
Sergeant-At-Arms	Bob Sundling
Quartermaster	Corey Fisher
Web Sergeant	Jim Powell
Public Relations/Newsletter	Joe Kier
Mess Sergeant	Vince DeBella

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 1930 on Wednesday, May 8, 2013.

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT MARINES ON THE NET

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IMPORTANT DATES

**DETACHMENT MEETING
8 MAY**

**MOTHER'S DAY
12 MAY**

**ARMED FORCES DAY
18 MAY**

**MEMORIAL DAY
27 MAY**

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF PA
PISTOL CHAMPIONSHIPS
31 MAY- 2 JUNE**

**DEPARTMENT OF PA
CONVENTION
12-15 JUNE**

**FATHER'S DAY
16 JUNE**

**KOREAN WAR BEGINS
27 JUNE**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY
4 JULY**

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
NATIONAL CONVENTION
4-10 AUGUST**

QUARTERMASTER STORE

COVER STRIPS

\$5.00



USMC SATIN JACKET

\$55.00



BLAZER CREST

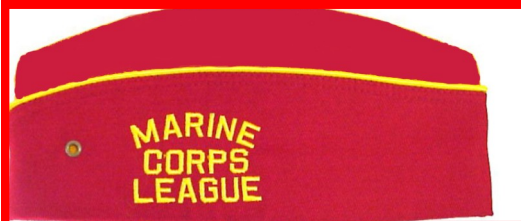
\$25.00



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**MCL RIBBONS
AND MEDALS
\$1.25 AND UP**

**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT PATCH
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DETACHMENT MEETING, CONTACT**

**QUARTERMASTER COREY FISHER
AT**

PH: 215-822-6898

EMAIL: CBQUARTERMASTER@AOL.COM

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, Inc.
P.O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



“ONCE A MARINE ALWAYS A MARINE”

Application for Membership—Marine Corps League

Full Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ + _____

Date of Birth _____ E-mail address _____

Date of Enlistment/Commissioning _____ Date of Discharge/Retirement/Separation _____

Type of Application – New (☐) Renewal (☐) Membership Type -- Regular (☐) Associate (☐) Dual (☐)

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? YES (☐) NO (☐) If YES is checked, I agree to waive my rights under the Privacy Act and disclose the nature of the felony conviction for consideration of membership in the Marine Corps League.

I hereby apply for membership in the _____ Detachment, Marine Corps League and enclose \$ _____ for one year's membership.

Further, I hereby certify that I am currently serving or have served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps, on active duty, for not less than ninety (90) days and earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, * or have served or am currently serving in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and have earned no less than ninety (90) Reserve Retirement Credit Points or that I have served or am currently serving as a U.S. Navy Corpsman who has trained with Marine FMF Units in excess of ninety (90) days and earned the Marine Corps Device or Warfare Device worn on the Service Ribbon authorized for FMF Corpsmen. If discharged, I am in receipt of a DD Form 214 or a Certificate of Discharge indicating "Honorable Service". ("Honorable Service" will be defined by the last DD Form 214 or Certificate of Discharge that the applicant received). *General Discharge under Honorable Conditions is acceptable.* By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of honorable service/discharge upon request. I hereby authorize the National Executive Director, Marine Corps League to obtain an un-redacted copy of my latest DD Form 214 from the Marine Corps custodian of Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), and/or verification of honorable service if deemed necessary to verify my eligibility for regular membership in the Marine Corps League. I understand the DD Form 214 may contain information such as military awards, training, and character of service. * ("Korean War Era Marines See National Bylaws, Article 6, Section 600")

Sponsor (where applicable)

Applicant's Signature