



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

VOLUME XI, Number 5

MAY 1998

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held April 8, 1998, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 26 members present including all officers except **Judge Advocate Bill Plant, PC**. Distinguished Marines in attendance included: **National Public Relations Officer Don Gee**; **Department of Pennsylvania Southeast Division Vice Commandant Dan Doty**; **Past Detachment Commandants Don Parzanese Sr., Frank Yohe and Don Gee**; and, **Marine of the Year Paul Caprio**.

The Minutes of the March Meeting were unanimously approved.

The Paymaster's Report was presented by **Paymaster Bob Cody**. The Paymaster's Report was unanimously approved.

Commandant Budd Pearce inducted a new regular member into the Detachment-- **William Miller**. The Commandant reviewed plans for the Memorial Day Parade.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Rosenberger reported the Detachment's strength at 46 members with two members delinquent.

Junior Vice Commandant Paul Caprio reminded us that the deadline for receipt of funds from the sale of Department Annual Raffle Tickets is the May Meeting. He also reminded the Detachment that tickets for "California Suite" are available for \$10 each and we are limited to 150 tickets.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported the Department of Pennsylvania will hold its annual convention in York, PA, from June 25-27. He reported the Detachment had received no correspondence from Marine Corps League Headquarters.

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

Quartermaster Bob Duff told the Detachment he would try to acquire news items for the Locker Box if members would let him know what they would like to see in the Quartermaster's Locker Box.

(Continued on Page 3)

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON 13 MAY 1998
AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN



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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

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Sr. VICE COMMANDANT:

DON H. GEE, PC

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT:

PAUL CAPRIO

ADJUTANT:

GARY SMITH

PAYMASTER:

ROBERT C. CODY

JUDGE ADVOCATE:

BOB MOMORELLA

CHAPLAIN:

DON PARZANESE JR.

QUARTERMASTER:

ROBERT DUFF

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

ROBERT A. SUNDLING

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

& EDITOR:

DON H. GEE, PC

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Thanks to all who made the April meeting. The installation of officers went very well. A complete list of the new officers can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have not been to a meeting recently, come on out to the next one and say hello to everyone. The May Meeting is an important meeting because we will be going over last minute details for the upcoming Memorial Day Parades and Picnic. The Detachment will be in two parades, a flag-raising ceremony, and a park dedication on Memorial Day weekend and the dedication of the Bucks County World War II Monument on Saturday, May 30. Please come out and join us for a few of these events and show your support for the Detachment.

Thanks to **Past Commandant Don Parzanese Sr.** for representing the Detachment at a funeral on April 20. I gave Don very short notice, but he was able to make the time to go and help out as a pallbearer and on the rifle detail. The funeral was for **Marine Adrian McLane**. Marine McLane was a former member of All Divisions Detachment. I got a call from our own **Tony Kimes** about the funeral, then I contacted the daughter of Marine McLane. It was through her I learned of her father's past association with All Divisions. I then contacted **Ray Devlin**, who is All Divisions' Chaplain, and he got a number of their members to turn out. We had quite a few shared funerals with All Divisions lately. It's good to know that when our detachment needs help it can call on our neighboring Detachment (and vice versa). The Brotherhood continues!

Don't forget that the Department of Pennsylvania has its annual Pistol Match coming up on the last weekend in May. If you wish to go and shoot as a member, or just want to go out and watch, you are welcome! Contact **Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger** at 348-7275 or me at 343-5609 for more information. This is a fun weekend and we usually get nice weather for this event. It figures that we would get good weather, though. We have a roof over our heads at the Pistol Match.

Marine Mike Waldron handed me a piece of paper the other day about the 75th Anniversary of the Hartsville Fire Company. They are going to host the Bucks County Firemans Parades on June 13. There is a possibility that we may be able to enter the Detachment, complete with float, in this parade. I really need to get the members' feedback on this at the May Meeting or you can call me and let me know if I should enter our Detachment or not. I know that we are already participating in a lot of local parades, but this is a very good way of getting, and keeping, community support and recognition. My vote is that we try to do this, but my vote doesn't mean squat if you're not behind me. Let me hear from you!

I know that I had a few more things to tell you, but my mind just went blank. I guess that you will just have to come to the May Meeting and find out if my mind came back. See you then!

Semper Fi,

PUBLIC RELATIONS--Public Relations Officer Don Gee, PC, reminded the Detachment the deadline for the next newsletter was April 20.

STANDING COMMITTEES

VAVS--The Detachment logged nine volunteer hours since the last meeting.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Don Parzanese Sr., PC, reminded the membership that the highway clean-up was scheduled for Saturday, April 18. Participants meet at Lu's Place Restaurant around 8 a.m. for breakfast and go to the clean-up after breakfast. He also stated the Detachment had received a "thank you" note from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for our Adopt-A-Highway program participation.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

PARADE FLOAT COMMITTEE--Marine Wil Haas showed the members the Marine emblem he had constructed for the Detachment float. Marine Bob Momorella constructed the hardware upon which the emblem was mounted. Marine Haas plans to construct something similar for the float if he can get a special outline of the Iwo Jima Flag-Raising.

A-DAY--A-Day Coordinator Bob Schaffer reported he had enlisted six parking areas for Delaware Valley College's "A-Day" event on April 25-26. He was compiling a list of volunteers to help man the parking lots on Saturday and Sunday.

OFFICER INSTALLATION

Department of Pennsylvania Southeast Division Vice Commandant Dan Doty installed the Detachment's 1998-99 officers. They included: Commandant Ellis M. "Budd" Pearce; Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC; Junior Vice Commandant Paul Caprio; Adjutant Gary Smith; Paymaster Bob Cody; Judge Advocate Bob Momorella; Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling; Quartermaster Bob Duff; and Chaplain Don Parzanese Jr.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed until 1930 on May 13.

HELP WANTED--THE ANNUAL AIR SHOW AT WILLOW GROVE IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO STAFF THE DETACHMENT'S BOOTH AT THE SHOW! DETAILS AT MAY MEETING.

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THE ORIGINS OF MEMORIAL DAY

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of former Union soldiers and sailors--the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)--established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate graves of the war dead with flowers. MajGen. John A. Logan declared it should be May 30. The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, DC. The cemetery already held the remains of 20,000 Union dead and several hundred Confederate dead.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant and other Washington officials presided. After speeches, children from the Soldiers and Sailors Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, MS, April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today cities in the North and the

South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, GA, claim the title, as well as Richmond, VA. The village of Boalsburg, PA, claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, IL, cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866.

Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon B. Johnson declared Waterloo, NY, the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There a ceremony on May 5, 1866, was reported to have honored local soldiers and sailors who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-mast. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day. The Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971 Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of

Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day the last Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

Gen. Logan's order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 "with the choicest flowers of springtime" urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ...Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave--a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

VA Launches 'One-Stop Shopping' Concept

Veterans' questions are now being answered electronically by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on the federal government's first interactive "one-stop-shopping" customer service page available via the Internet.

"VA continues to lead the way in providing effective, responsive customer service," said VA Secretary Jesse Brown. "We are eager to use every means possible to reach out to America's veterans and their survivors to inform them of available benefits and services and respond to their questions. This Internet connection has meant quicker responses for veterans at less cost to VA."

The 1-Stop Customer Service Inquiry Page provides easy links to a number of VA services, and general and specific program information. Veterans can click on a number of questions frequently asked of VA for quick access to information they may need. The page also has point-and-click "buttons" for various VA programs and issues, including medical care, education and training, home loans, insurance, disability compensation and pension benefits, vocational rehabilitation and counseling, Agent Orange, Persian Gulf illness, and veterans' appeals. Veterans can obtain information or submit E-mail messages to program experts.

Responses are usually provided immediately, but some contacts involve issues that are quickly forwarded for resolution to a VA medical center, regional office, national cemetery, or VA headquarters in Washington.

Veterans and others from throughout the U.S. and foreign countries have contacted the page. International contacts have included inquiries from veterans and active duty personnel in Bosnia, England, Japan, and other countries.

The 1-Stop Customer Service Inquiry Page is located within the VA Home Page on the Internet at <http://www.va.gov/>. On the Home Page, the "1-stop shopping" service is reached by pointing and clicking on "Putting Veterans First." To ask questions, express concerns and complaints, or offer suggestions or compliments, veterans can also click on the "Consumer Affairs Page" button.

Linkage to the 1-stop page also can be made through the White House's Home Page, which provides a gateway to fre-

quently requested federal services. The White House website is at www.whitehouse.gov.

AAAV Design Center Opens

The Marine Corps has joined defense contractor General Dynamics in cutting the ribbon for a research center that will develop a 21st-century amphibious vehicle.

The planned Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle, designed to land Marines on hostile beaches, will move across water at speeds up to 29 mph, three times faster than current landing craft, according to General Dynamics.

On land, the AAAV will move as fast as 45 mph and be capable of protecting troops from nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Within the next year, General

Dynamics plans to employ 250 people at the research center, including personnel from the Marine Corps and subcontractors.

Navy Secretary John Dalton and top executives from General Dynamics said the center is taking a new approach to developing a weapon system.

By bringing together the Marines, the designers and the manufacturer under one roof, the process will be more efficient and cost-effective, they said.

The company hopes to manufacture more than 1,000 vehicles with delivery starting in 2005.



MARINE CORPS TRIVIA QUIZ



1. What is the M16A2 rifle's maximum effective burst rate of fire?
2. Which hand grenade is used to practice throwing techniques?
3. Who are known as the soldiers in sailors uniforms with Marine training, doing civilian work at WPA wages?
4. Name three leadership traits.
5. What is the largest formal Marine Corps school?

Answers in Next Month's Newsletter ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. The two types of defensive positions employed by Marines are Perimeter Defense and Linear Defense.
2. The blood stripe represents the Battle of Chapultepec, Mexico.
3. FEBA stands for "Forward Edge of the Battle Area."
4. The two knots authorized for the Marine khaki tie are the half windsor knot and the fore-in-hand knot.
5. A silver star on the Marine Battle Color represents five campaign awards.

American Veterans Return World War II Souvenirs

CAMP S.D. BUTLER - Various Okinawan war souvenirs and personal memorabilia obtained by U.S. forces during the Okinawa Campaign of World War II were returned to the Ryukyu America Historical Society (RAHS) during a ceremony at Building 1 here, Tuesday.

Okinawa suffered the only direct land invasion of World War II in Japan. During the invasion, the island was in shambles, and many U.S. service men gathered personal souvenirs to take back home. RAHS obtained the wartime souvenirs through the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum, San Diego.

RAHS's mission to retrieve books, documents, and person items lost in Battle on Okinawa and return them to families or use them for public study. RAHS's 13-year search has been successful in finding items across the United States and tracing them back to more than 145 families in several Japanese societies.

"We felt after being taken for 45 to 50 years, they should be returned to their rightful owners," said **Alex Kishaba**, RAHS president.

RAHS hoped by using local media during the ceremony, families on Okinawa and

mainland Japan will be able to identify their person and family belongings. Items include several Japanese flags, Inkan stamps, photographs, letters, and other person items given to the MCRD museum by war veterans of the 6th MarDiv., who participated in the Okinawa Campaign.

Lieutenant Colonel Lea Hollar, commanding officer, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division, hand delivered the souvenirs after his unit arrived on Okinawa as part of the six-month Unit Deployment Program from MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Hollar attended the presentation as a representative for retired **Major General James L. Day**, coordinator for the search and the

museum. MajGen. Day, who fought in the Okinawa Campaign as a corporal with the 6th Marine Division in 1945 and later became commanding general of III MEF, took action in helping RAHS locate lost items.

"It is my hope that this is another step in our effort to enhance the relationship between the Marines and the Ryukyans," said **Lieutenant General Frank Libutti**, commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Bases Japan.

Following his remarks, LtGen. Libutti presented **Shiei Tokeji**, RAHS director, with a small Japanese flag from the items, to symbolize the return of belongings to the Japanese society.



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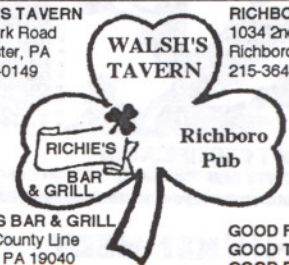


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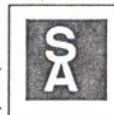
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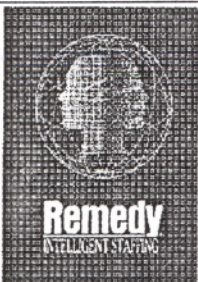
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