



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: ROBERT A. SUNDLING

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XIV, Number 10

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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

Sr. VICE COMMANDANT:
WILLIAM R. MILLER

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT:
DONALD D. PARZANEZE Jr.

ADJUTANT:
GARY SMITH

PAYMASTER:
ROBERT J. CODY

JUDGE ADVOCATE:
BOB MOMORELLA

QUARTERMASTER:
ROBERT DUFF

CHAPLAIN
BUDD PEARCE, PC

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:
TIM NEUMANN

MESS SERGEANT:
WIL HAAS

WEBMASTER:
JAMES E. PEARCE

MARINE OF THE YEAR:
FRANK YOHE, PC

Hagee Tapped for Commandant

A book-smart infantryman who understands the military's high-tech future, Camp Pendleton's **LtGen. Michael Hagee** is a solid, no-surprise choice as the Marine Corps' new leader, colleagues and analysts said in early September.

Hagee would lead the nation's smallest service during a crossroads period as the U.S. military fitfully evolves into a lighter, more agile fighting force - the Corps' traditional strength.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has selected the combat-tested Vietnam veteran as the 33rd commandant in the Corps' 226-year history, according to news reports.

Hagee directs about a third of the Marines' operating forces as commanding general of the 45,000 Marines in the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton. As commandant, he would oversee all 173,000 Marines.

Marine Corps officials said they wouldn't comment on Hagee's likely nomination until President Bush makes it official, probably in the next few weeks. The selection also requires Senate confirmation.

Hagee, a trim, 57-year-old Texan who speaks with a slight native twang, is described as someone with an engineer's brains and an even-keeled nature that has helped him negotiate the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency during his 34-year career.

"He's smart, he's flexible, he's pretty unflappable," said retired Marine **Gen. Walt Boomer**, a former Assistant Commandant and now a corporate executive in Connecticut.

Hagee has a "brilliant mind" and isn't known to raise his voice or display anger, said **Terry Murray**, a retired Marine Major General and Hagee's classmate at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Hagee placed 75th in his class, earning an engineering degree with distinction, among the 836 graduates in the class of 1968, which included former **LtCol. Oliver North** and author and former **Navy Secretary James Webb**.

"He's a very personable, down-to-earth, loves-the-troops kind of guy," said **Stephen Haines**, a classmate and chief executive officer of the San Diego-based Center for Strategic Management. "You feel at home with him whether you're a general or a grunt."

The current Commandant, **Gen. James Jones**, is leaving to be NATO's Supreme Allied Commander for Europe. He became Commandant in July 1999 and probably will serve just short of the usual four-year term. Hagee could take over early next year.

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON 9
OCTOBER 2002 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST,
315 NORTH ST, DOYLESTOWN, PA.

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

As those of you who attended the August meeting know, I was late. This was because I attended the "9/11" memorial ceremony at the Bucks County Courthouse as a member of the United Veterans Council of Doylestown. We also awarded prizes (\$25 Savings Bonds) to the winners of the essay contest spon-

sored by the United Veterans. I'd like to thank **Bob Cody** for jogging to the bank to get the Savings Bond. Also, thanks to **Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller** for conducting the Detachment meeting in my absence.

Sounds like we're making real progress

Jim Marcksten Dies at Age 75

Marine James F. Marckstein, Korean War veteran and a consistent supporter of Detachment activities and programs, died Aug. 20 at age 75.

A former Detachment Paymaster, he was born in Jersey City, NJ, the son of the late Francis J. and Margaret O'Mara Marckstein. Jim and his wife, Geraldine (Geri) Reynolds Marckstein, had been residents of Warrington for more than 40 years..

Prior to his retirement in 1987, Jim worked in the insurance industry for more than 37 years. Most recently, he was corporate secretary for Reliance Insurance Company for 15 years, managing the bond underwriting department.

He was an active parishoner of St. Robert Bellarmine Church where he had been an usher and a past president of the EPs.

Jim was a Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Council 4160. Hwe was awarded Knight of the Year in June 1981 and Family of the Year in 1983. He also was a 35-year member and a past president of the Warrington Lions Club.



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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.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, James D, of Franconia; a daughter, Carol A. Routier, of Doylestown; a brother, John J. of San Antonio, TX; and two grandsons.

He was buried with military honors provided by the Detachment on Aug. 24 in St. John Neumann Cemetery.

CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT UPDATE

A lawsuit filed in 1996 by retired Air Force Medal-of-Honor recipient, **Col. Bud Day**, alleges that the government reneged on a lifetime contract with a 1956 law that changed "hospital space shall be made available" to "may be made available."

The suit seeks to restore free health care for retirees 65 and older who were on active duty before the law was passed, and their dependents.

It also requests reimbursement of money (maximum of \$10,000) that has been withheld from Social Security pay over the years to finance Medicare Part B, as well as relief from future Medicare deductions.

The class has asserted that a case (Winstar) recently decided by the U.S. Supreme Court is a benchmark for contract law, and parallels the broken contract with military retirees.

The group says that the next goal is "to convince the court they have enough people interested."

Call 800-972-6275 or visit <http://www.classact-lawsuit.com/>.

on the Ball and it looks like **Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr.** is doing a good job. He must be running for re-election already!

I went to the Air Show at J.R.B., Willow Grove, on Friday night and again on Sunday. The Friday evening show was great because the glider and plane they used were both lit up and pyrotechnics were involved. The fireworks show was also very impressive. Sunday's show was good but shortened because the Federal Aviation Administration declared the weather ceiling minimums were too low for full aerobatics. It was shorter but still great!

See you at the October meeting!

Semper Fi,

Bob Sundling

2002 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DETACHMENT MEETING
OCTOBER 9**

**BIRTHDAY BALL
ORION CLUB,
NARTB, WILLOW GROVE
NOVEMBER 9**

**MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY
NOVEMBER 10**

**VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
NOVEMBER 13**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
DECEMBER 11**

**CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 25**

**NEW YEARS EVE
DECEMBER 31**

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held September 11, 2002, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 19 members present including all officers except the Commandant, the Chaplain, the Judge Advocate and the Public Relations Officer. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandant Don Parzanese Sr.** and **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**.

The Minutes of the August Meeting were unanimously approved.

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

Two new members were accepted-- **Jim Powell** and **Brent Quinterman**.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller read a salute to **Marine Jim Marekstein** who died on August 20.

OFFICER REPORTS

Senior Vice Commandant Miller reported the Detachment had received correspondence about the Department's Fall Staff & Member Meeting in Erie from 18-20 October. A Detachment in New Jersey is sponsoring a bus trip to Parris Island from 21 March - 4 April. Cost is \$200 per person and includes breakfast and dinner for two evenings. He also reported the Detachment strength at 59 members including 19 Life Members, 35 Regular Members, and 5 Associate Members. We still have five members delinquent.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. reported plans for the Birthday Ball are progressing. He explained to the members that because of security reasons, he will need the names of every one attending the Ball. He will provide more information at the October Meeting.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no correspondence other than that reported by the Senior Vice Commandant. In the absence of the **Judge Advocate Bob Momorella**, there was no report.

Sergeant-at-Arms Tim Neumann reported he had received no new requests for the Color Guard since the last meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POW/MIA--POW/MIA Coordinator Ray Krout read an article he had received to members.

Adopt-A-Highway--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce, PC, set Saturday, October 12, as the next highway clean-up. Members will meet at Tilley's Restaurant at 8 a.m. for a free breakfast.

Market Receipts--Redners Coordinator Gary Smith reported he had recently submitted \$9,183.56 in Redner's receipts.

Marine Bill Rosenberger informed the members that Genuardi's Markets is changing to an electronic system on Oct. 1. Members will have to register with the store and designate the Marine Corps League as the organization to receive funds.

OLD BUSINESS

Commandant Bob Sundling (who arrived after participating in a "9/11 Memorial" ceremony at the Courthouse) reported he had the title for the Detachment Trailer transferred from **Herb Krout** to the Detachment. **Marines Ray Krout** and **Chuck Flanagan** have painted the trailer. They reported it needs another coat of paint.

NEW BUSINESS

Marine Mike Waldron presented the Detachment a "Certificate of Participation" from the Celtic Festival, Green Lane, PA. He also reported the Detachment was NOT accepted as a sponsor for the Marine Band and had copies of the Band's schedule available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Vice Commandant Miller passed around a letter asking for veterans to volunteer to be interviewed for a Senior Project. He also showed an article about **Past Commandant Bill Plant's** wood carving.

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



MARINE BARRACKS BUS TRIP--Detachment members, their family members and guests who took part in Wil Haas' recent bus trip to the Marine Barracks at 8th & Eye Sts., Washington, DC, gathered for a group photo with the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense.

New Veterans Benefits Booklet Now Available from GPO

WASHINGTON--A new edition of the Department of Veterans Affairs' popular handbook "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" updates the rates for certain federal payments and outlines a variety of programs and benefits for American veterans.

Most of the nation's 25 million veterans qualify for some VA benefits, which range from health-care program enrollment to burial in a national cemetery. In addition to describing benefits provided by VA, the 2002 edition of the 100-page booklet provides an overview of programs and services for veterans provided by other federal agencies.

"Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" includes resources to help veterans access their benefits, comprising a listing of various toll-free phone numbers, World Wide Web locations and a directory of VA facilities throughout the country. The handbook can be downloaded free from VA's Web site at: <http://www.va.gov/opa/feature/>

The handbook is one of the U. S.

Government Printing Office's (GPO) top selling consumer publications. GPO accepts credit card orders for the publication at (866) 512-1800 (toll-free) for a cost of \$5 each to U.S. addresses, \$6.25 for international customers. It can be ordered by mail from the Government Printing Office at Superintendent of Documents, P. O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954 (Stock #051-000-00225-3).

In addition to health-care and burial benefits, veterans may be eligible for programs providing home loan guarantees, educational assistance, training and vocational rehabilitation, income assistance pensions, life insurance and compensation for service-connected illnesses or disabilities. In some cases, survivors of veterans who received benefits may also be entitled to continuing benefits.

The handbook describes programs for veterans with specific service experiences, such as prisoners of war of those concerned about environmental exposures in Vietnam or in the Gulf War, as

well as special benefits for veterans with severe disabilities.

Marines on the Net

Hoth, Ed
EdHothusmc@aol.com

Krout, Ray
fuzzyrhines@juno.com

Miller, Bill
BILLJAE@cs.com

Parzanese, Don Sr.
parzanese@quigleyco.com

Pearce, Budd
buddpearce@comcast.net

Plant, Bill
Bpchainsawart@aol.com

Sundling, Bob
sundling@vrinter.net

Check Out the
CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT WEB SITE
www.mclcb.tripod.com



1775 - 2002

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

227TH BIRTHDAY BALL

OF THE

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

DATE: Saturday, November 9, 2002

PLACE: Pitcairn Club (former E-Club)
JRB, Willow Grove Naval Air Station

TIME: 1800 (6 p.m.)

DINNER: Buffet Style (Details to follow)

DETAILS: Cocktail Hour... Dinner... Ceremony & Awards...
Door Prizes... Dancing... Camaraderie...
and much more...

PRICE: All Central Bucks Detachment members... FREE
All Guests..... \$37.50

RSVP: With Payment **No Later Than October 31, 2002** to:

Donald D. Parzanese Jr.
Junior Vice Commandant
263 Belmont Avenue
Doylestown, PA 18901-4458

For additional information, please call: (215) 348-0919

For security reasons and gate entry upon the Base, include ALL names of persons attending with your party (including your name).

Make checks payable to: **Central Bucks Detachment, MCL**

Names: _____

Additional Marine Corps Ball forms and tickets will be available at the next Detachment Meeting on Wednesday, October 9.

We hope to have reservations and money collected as soon as possible so we may have an accurate count of attendance and prepare a most enjoyable event for everyone.

Semper Fidelis,

Donald D. Parzanese, Jr.

Junior Vice Commandant
Central Bucks Detachment
Marine Corps League

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Knowledge and experience acquired while serving in the Marine Corps and the Central Intelligence Agency helped Detachment member **Ron Wootters** write this fictional novel.



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The Few, The Proud...

In the beginning was The Word, and The Word was God: In the beginning was God and all else was darkness and void and without form. So God created the Heavens and the Earth. He created the sun and the moon and the stars, so that light might pierce the darkness. The Earth God divided between the land and the sea and these He filled with many assorted creatures.

And the dark salty, slimy creatures that inhabited the murky oceans God called sailors. And He dressed them accordingly, with little trousers that looked like bells at the bottom and with cute little flaps on their shirts to hide hickies on their necks. He also gave them long sideburns and shabby looking beards. God nicknamed them "squids" and banished them to a lifetime at sea so that normal folks would not have to associate with them. To further identify these unloved creatures, He called them petty and commodore instead of titles worthy of red-blooded men.

And the flighty creatures of the land, God called soldiers. And with a twinkle in His eye, and a sense of humor that only He could have, God made their trousers too short and covers too large, and pockets to warm their hands. And to adorn their uniforms, God gave them badges in quantities that only a dime store owner could appreciate. And He gave them emblems and crests and all sorts of shiny things that glittered and devices that dangled. (When you are God, you tend to get carried away in a big way)

On the 5th day, He thought about creating some air creatures for

which He designed a Greyhound bus driver's uniform especially for flyboys, but He discarded the idea during the first week and it was not until years later that some apostles "resurrected this theme and established what we now know as the wild blue yonder wonders.

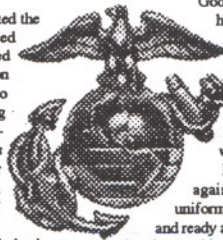
And on the 7th day, as you know, God rested. And, on the 8th day, at 0730, God looked down upon the earth and was not happy. God was not happy!

So He thought about His labors, and in his infinite wisdom, God created a divine creature and this He called "Marine" and these Marines, who God had created in His own image were to be of the air and of the land and of the sea. And these He gave many wonderful uniforms. Some were green, some were blue with red trim, and in the early days, some were even a beautiful tan.

He gave them practical uniforms, so that they could wage war against the sources of Satan and evil. He gave them service uniforms for their daily work and training, that they might be sharp and ready and He gave them evening and dress uniforms. Sharp, stylish, handsome things, so they might promenade with their ladies on Saturday night and impress the crap out of everyone! He gave them swords so people who were not impressed could be dealt with.

And, at the end of the 8th day, God looked down upon the earth and saw that it was good. But, was God happy?

No! God was still not happy! Because in the course of His labors, He had forgotten one thing. He did not have a Marine uniform himself! But, He thought about it and thought about it. Finally He satisfied Himself in knowing that not everyone can be a Marine.





Application for Membership Marine Corps League

(Date)

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning _____

Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement _____ SSN _____

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

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.

(Sponsor - where applicable)

(Applicant's Signature)

Remit this form with check or money order (made payable to **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MCL**)
to: **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, P. O. Box 1372, Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, Inc.
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"