



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: ROBERT A. SUNDLING

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XIV, Number 9

SEPTEMBER 2002



**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
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**MARINE OF THE YEAR:
FRANK YOHE, PC**

New Marine Corps Museum Planned

A Marine Corps museum scheduled to break ground in a year will feature a 210-foot tilted spire meant to evoke the flag-raising at Iwo Jima during World War II.

The mast, inclined at a 45-degree angle, is the most striking feature of the museum's glass atrium design.

"When people see the sketches of the atrium, about a third pick up on it immediately - that's a stylized rendition of the flag-raising," said **Col. Joe Long**, the Marines' project manager for the museum, which will be on the Marine base at Quantico.

Workers will break ground on the \$50 million Marine Corps Museum in April 2003. It is expected to be finished in 2005. Long said he expects the museum to draw 250,000 to 400,000 visitors a year.

A smaller museum on the base now draws about 30,000 visitors a year and displays only a fraction of the artifacts that will be exhibited at the new institution.

Curtis Fentress, whose firm, Fentress Bradburn Architects, won a design competition for the project last year, said the architects immersed themselves in Marine Corps history. He said the famous Associated Press photo of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima, the angle of howitzers, and the way the fighting men hold their rifles all suggested the 45-degree angle.

"We really tried to absorb what it was to be a Marine," Fentress said.

The museum will also be designed to give people a taste of what it was like to be a Marine in different eras. The Vietnam room, for instance, will be hot and humid, like the jungle. The Korea room will be cold, just as it was in the months after the Marine landing at Inchon in 1950.

The mast will emerge from a 160-foot-high glass atrium. The building must be designed to handle a terrorist attack.

"It's a challenge for the engineers. It's going to be a challenge for the contractor to build," said Jerry Rasgus, project manager for Weidlinger Associates, the engineering firm on the contract.

A new Army museum nearby at Fort Belvoir is slated for completion in 2009. It is expected to draw up to 1 million visitors a year.

Jeb Bennett, director of Army museums, said the two institutions will complement each other and anchor a corridor of historical sites along Interstate 95 and U.S. 1, including Mount Vernon, home of **George Washington**, and Gunston Hall, home of founding father **George Mason**.

"I think we see a nice historical trail developing," Bennett said.

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT 1930 ON 11
SEPTEMBER 2002 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST,
315 NORTH ST, DOYLESTOWN, PA.

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

While on vacation, the family took a coal mine tour the day before the miners in Somerset were trapped. Maybe that doesn't give you a strange feeling. We were about 60 feet deeper than those lucky guys. We also tried to visit the Marine Corps League Museum. It's at the Scranton Detachment Home. They were closed. But it was worth the trip since the coal mine was nearby. Their building is an old Catholic school on the side of a mountain. What a view! They have an old tank and a deck gun outside. With all the stonework of the building and walls it looks like a fort. Really impressive. I left a card in the door but haven't heard anything from them. I'll bring pictures of my vacation to the next meeting – only kidding!!

The color guard led the parade to the Moland House on the 10th. I'd like to thank **Budd Pearce, Mike Waldron** and **Don Parzanese** for being there. I'd also like to thank **Bob Momorella** for his offer to march if we needed him even though he had plans for the day. Bill Jerrod also attended and marched behind us. He looked sharp as ever and it was nice to see his interest. There were very few spectators along the parade route and we in the color guard were disappointed that as the colors passed **no one stood up in respect**. What happened to all the patriotism of the past year? We have work to do!

We had a good turnout for the August Detachment meeting with two potential

new members present. We missed a few officers and the Sgt. at Arms. I'd like to thank **Sr. Vice Bill Miller** for calling me all the way from Boston to let me know he wouldn't be there.

Everyone at the meeting heard that **Herb Krout** is transferring his membership to Florida for medical reasons. He'll be sorely missed. Herb is a charter member of our detachment and has always been there when needed. Using his equipment for our parades over the years

COULD THIS REALLY HAPPEN? HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT IT?

Guess the warnings were true.

Federal Bill 602P 5-cents per E-mail sent. It figures! No more free E-mail! We knew this was coming!! Bill 602P will permit the Federal Government to charge a 5-cent charge on every delivered E-mail.

Please read the following carefully if you intend to stay online and continue using E-mail. The last few months have revealed an alarming trend in the Government of the United States attempting to quietly push through legislation that will affect our use of the Internet.

Under proposed legislation, the US Postal Service will be attempting to bill E-mail users out of "alternative postage fees."

Bill 602P will permit the Federal Government to charge a 5-cent surcharge on every e-mail delivered, by billing Internet Service Providers at source. The consumer would then be billed in turn by the ISP.

Washington DC lawyer Richard Step is working without pay to prevent this legislation from becoming law.

The US Postal Service is claiming lost revenue, due to the proliferation of E-mail, is costing nearly \$230,000,000 in revenue per year. You may have noticed their recent ad campaign: "There is nothing like a letter."

Since the average person received
(See e-mail, Page 4)

is what always made us look good. He did 99% of the work and deserves our thanks. At the last meeting, Herb told us that he is donating his trailer/float to the detachment and that we can store it at his place. Now, that's a Marine! Thanks Herb for everything and best wishes in Florida. They're lucky to have you and we will miss you and Sarah very much.

The Ball plans are progressing so make sure you reserve that date and attend. Remember: Members attend for free. You'll have a ball – sorry...

That's enough for now. See you at the next meeting.

Semper Fi

Bob Sundling

2002 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DETACHMENT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
OCTOBER 9**

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

**MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY
NOVEMBER 10**

**VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
NOVEMBER 13**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
DECEMBER 11**



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.

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held August 14, 2002, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 20 members and 2 guests present including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant, the Adjutant, the Judge Advocate, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the Mess Sergeant. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee, Don Parzanese Sr. and Budd Pearce, Past Commandant and Marine of the Year Frank Yohe; and Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth**.

The Minutes of the July Meeting were unanimously approved.

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

Sick Call: Marine Jim Marckstein is undergoing a chemotherapy regime and Marine Bruce Sergeant is experiencing serious leg pains.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Bob Sundling reported on the parade at Moland House on Aug. 10. He expressed his concern that, as the Color Guard passed by, people did not stand to show respect for the National Colors. He pointed out the parade was a very small one but worth the effort since it afforded the Detachment opportunity to be seen by the public.

In the absence of Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller, Past Commandant Budd Pearce reported the Detachment strength at 60 members including 20 Life Members, 35 Regular Members and 5 Associate Members. There are five members delinquent in their dues.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. reported on the status of planning for the Birthday Ball. With a change in caterers at Willow Grove, we now have a chance to hold our Birthday Ball on Saturday, November 9, rather than Friday, November 8. He also reported the Ball would be held at the Pitcairn Club rather than the Orion Club.

In the absence of Adjutant Gary Smith there was no report.

In the absence of Judge Advocate Bob Momorella there was no report.

In the absence of the Sergeant-at-Arms, there was no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POW/MIA--Marine Ray Krout reported he had no new information to pass on to the Detachment.

Public Relations--The Public Relations Officer set August 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the September issue of *Listen Up!*

Rifle & Pistol Team--Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger reported the teams are still looking for members. Anyone interested in joining either or both teams should contact him at: (215) 348-7275.

Market Receipts--Commandant Sundling reminded the members to keep saving the receipts and turn them in at each meeting.

Marine of the Year Committee--Marine of the Year Frank Yohe, PC, reminded the Detachment that nominations for "Marine of the Year" must be submitted by the October Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made and accepted to change the date of the Birthday Ball to Saturday, November 9, if that date was still available from Willow Grove. If not, we would continue planning for the November 8 date.

Junior Vice Commandant Parzanese informed the Detachment about the Air Show at Willow Grove on Sept. 14 & 15. Volunteers to help man the booth at the Show are needed. Anyone who can spare the time to help out at our booth should contact him at: (215) 348-0919 as soon as possible.

Marine Herb Krout announced he was donating his trailer/float to the Detachment for its continued use in parades. The Detachment expressed its gratitude for his generous act.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11.

VA 'BENNY' BOOK AVAILABLE FREE ON-LINE

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.

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.



YOUNG MARINES TRIBUTE--The Young Marines of the Marine Corps League have this monument at the site of the Sept. 11, 2001, airplane crash in Pennsylvania.

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/>.

E-MAIL

(From Page 1)

about 10 pieces of E-mail per day in 1998, the cost of the typical individual would be an additional 50 cents a day - or over \$180 per year -- above and beyond their regular Internet costs.

Note that this would be money paid directly to the US Postal Service for a service they do not even provide.

The whole point of the Internet is democracy and noninterference. You are already paying an exorbitant price for snail mail because of bureaucratic inefficiency.

It currently takes up to 6 days for a letter to be delivered from coast to coast.

If the US Postal Service is allowed to tinker with E-mail, it will mark the end of the "free" Internet in the United States.

newspapers have ignored the story the only exception being the Washingtonian which called the idea of E-mail surcharge "a useful concept who's time has come" (March 6th, 1999 Editorial). Do not sit by and watch your freedom erode away!

Send this E-mail to EVERYONE on your list, and tell all your friends and relatives to write their congressional representative and say "NO" to Bill 602P.

It will only take a few moments of your time and could very well be instrumental in killing a bill we do not want.

Lee Ermev Promoted to Gunnery Sergeant--At Last

By Dennis Anderson

Valley Press Editor

SAN DIEGO - Hollywood and the U.S. Marine Corps have a long history ranging from John Wayne in "The Sands of Iwo Jima" to Jack Webb in "The D.I.," but the most famous Hollywood Marine of the times we live in is Palmdale's **R. Lee Ermev**, star of Stanley Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket."

Ermev, a former real-life Marine Corps D.I., earned a Golden Globe nomination and became the immortal Hollywood drill sergeant, Gunny Hartman, in Kubrick's classic, lacerating study of the Marine Corps and Vietnam.

Ermev never planned to "go Hollywood." His dream, he said, "was to retire as the sergeant major of the Marine Corps."

That dream ended for Ermev due to injury during a combat tour in Vietnam, cashiering him out of his beloved Corps after 11 years of duty, three of them as a hard-case, in-your-face drill instructor.

On Friday, at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, the Corps' oldest and most tradition-rich West Coast locale, Ermev marched a few strides closer to his dream.

By order of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, **Gen. James L. Jones**, Ermev was promoted to the rank of U.S. Marine Corps gunnery sergeant, honorary.

It's an unprecedented distinction that takes into account Ermev's efforts on behalf of recruiters and the Marine Reserve's Toys for Tots program, and his own personal, tireless promotion of the Corps.

With a Marine band playing, former Staff Sgt. Ermev marched forward to accept the promotion bestowed by **Maj. Gen. Jan C. Huly**, commanding general of the Western Recruiting Region and Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

Ermev wore the uniform of the day, camouflage fatigues topped by the Smokey Bear-style stiff headgear that hard-charging D.I.s prefer to call a campaign hat.

"I spent 32 years in grade as a staff sergeant," Ermev said. "At this rate, I figure I'll be 120 years old by the time I make sergeant major."

A TV crew from the History Channel filmed the event for a new series that features Ermev titled "Mail Call." The newly minted "Gunny" was mobbed by fellow Marines crowding for autographs and pictures with the movie star D.I. who uttered the phrase in Kubrick's film, "You will not like me, because I am hard. You will respect me because I am fair. ... You may die, but the Corps will live forever."

Ermev's legion of cammy and khaki-clad

admirers didn't like him Friday.

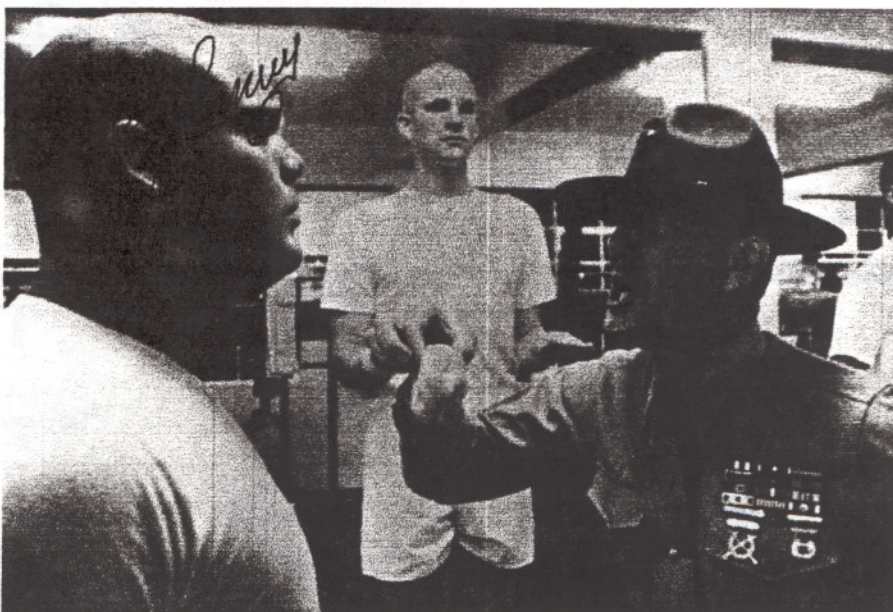
They loved him.

For Ermev, promotion to "Gunny" holds more than symbolic value. It represented the realization of a dream more than 30 years deferred.

"I am amazed. I am flattered," he said after saluting Maj. Gen. Huly, accompanied by MCRD Sgt. Maj. Bruce Mackamul. "Mar-

els of my drill instructors, I'd probably be doing a life stretch in prison at Walla Walla in Washington state," Ermev told Lance Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint, who was interviewing Ermev for the base newspaper, *The Chevron*.

D.I.s, unlike Hollywood actors or celebrity athletes, really do function as role models for the young lives they shape and



R. LEE ERMEV as D.I. "Gunny" Hartman in "Full Metal Jacket." (Photo from the Don Gee Collection)

ines take care of Marines," Ermev said.

About 200 current and Marines, and their family, and Ermev's daughter, Evonne, turned out for the ceremony, which preceded the weekly graduation ceremonies that send ranks of newly elevated boot camp graduates into the ranks of what the true believers modestly call "The world's greatest fighting force."

The promotion, Maj. Gen. Huly said, "represents a recognition of your efforts ... a recognition of those who have done well in the Corps, our family, the Marine Corps."

Other former Marine luminaries include other film stars, such as Lee Marvin, and author Leon Uris, and those who struck out into other areas of endeavor, such as former secretaries of state James Baker and George Shultz.

Ermev used his G.I. Bill benefits to study drama in Manila, and got picked up by director Francis Ford Coppola for a role in "Apocalypse Now."

That and other film work, such as "The Boys in Company C," got Ermev the attention of Kubrick.

"The truth is if I hadn't gone in the Marine Corps and been influenced by the role mod-

change, Ermev said. They continue to do so, he said.

"The D.I.s now are as good as we ever were back in the days of Vietnam when we lost four weeks from the 12-week training cycle and had to send young Marines to war. The D.I.s and the recruits they transform into Marines are just as hard-charging today."

As for Ermev, he may technically have been retired in 1971, but as he puts it, "I never left my beloved Corps."

He remembers back 41 years to his own arrival at Marine Corps Recruit Depot's "yellow footprints" and the "Grinder" parade ground. "I said to myself, 'What have I done?' Didn't look like anyone was wearing those great looking dress blue uniforms. ... But it all worked out great."

He went on to wear the coveted campaign hat as a D.I. for India Company. And he went on to more than the average measure of Hollywood fame.

"In Hollywood, I watch my back. You have to. ... But the three years I spent as a drill instructor were the most professionally rewarding of my life."

"Semper Fi," he told the gathering. "Hoo-rah!" the assembly roared back.

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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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One U. S. Marine

A long time friend of mine passed away last week.

Master Sergeant George A. Walsh, who was a Corporal, as I was, when we began our second enlistments on 13 July 1946, at USNS Minneapolis, Minnesota, died in the small town of Coarse Gold, California.

George left instructions that he wanted to be buried in his uniform.

But when the critical time arrived, no one could find his shirt.



One of his grand daughters is a woman Marine, and she tried, but was unable

to get one for the mortician. Finally, as a last resort, she went to a Marine Recruiting Office, and spoke to the senior NCO, a Master Sergeant.

He told George's grand daughter to wait a few minutes.

He went into the head, took off HIS OWN shirt, and brought it out for her.

George was buried in full uniform, yesterday.

Semper Fidelis,
Carl Strandberg



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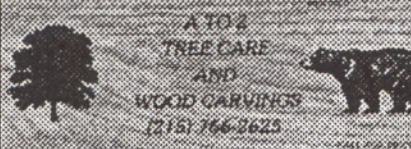
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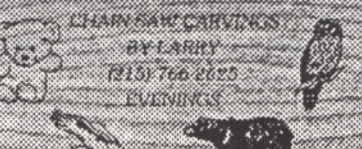
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(Date)

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



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"