

# CHESTER COUNTY MARINE

Chester County Detachment, MCL  
P.O. Box 828  
Downingtown, Pa 19335-0828



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage

PAID

West Chester, Pa  
Permit No. 121

**"Once a Marine, Always a Marine"**

Recruit a New member for the League today?

February 2011

First to fight for right and freedom



"ONCE A MARINE - ALWAYS A MARINE"



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHESTER COUNTY DETACHMENT • MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

February 2011

1

## Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Website: [www.pamcleague.org](http://www.pamcleague.org)

### Excerpts:

It was noticed that members of the Marine Corps League have not been wearing the prescribed uniform properly.

The white duty belt is not authorized to wear at any time.

White gloves are authorized for Memorial Services only, not parades.

The black tie is worn with the long-sleeve shirt with collar emblems or with the red blazer and no collar emblems.

I know you are proud to be a Marine and like to show your pride so let's do it right.

The National POW/MIA Chair is interested in hearing about any of your activities on behalf of the POW/MIA cause. If any of your members attends or supports a function that raises awareness of the cause or pays tribute to the men and women who answered the call and have not come home. Please forward all information to me so it can be forwarded to the National Chair.

As of 1 October Chester County Detachment had 130 members. The goal is to get 160 members.

The Marine Corps League National Northeast Division Conference is to be held 25 – 26 March 2011 in Woodbridge, NJ.

Deadline for registration is 1 March.

Leanna L. Dietrich,  
Commandant

\*

I am very happy with the progress of Youth and Veterans ticket sales so far this year; many thanks to all detachments that are selling the tickets. I hope that you can sell all the tickets before the June 2011 convention.

Be sure to keep all your pictures that you take of Detachment and Department activities; we will need them for next year's calendars. Please submit any pictures for the 2012 Calendar to me by the Spring Staff Meeting, March 2011. Thanks for your help.

Gordon Sheriff  
Jr. Vice Commandant

## Beirut Memorial Ceremony

A four man Color Guard from CCD consisting of:

Al Harper, Fred LeClair, Dave Mundy, and Tom Tanner participated in the Annual Beirut Memorial Ceremony in Philadelphia on Sunday 24 October. Lillian Harper was there representing the Department Auxiliary.

A Marine Color Guard and Firing team from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 14<sup>th</sup> Marines in dress blues did a great job in presenting the Colors and the Rifle Salute. A Bugler, also from 3/14, rendered Taps.

This annual memorial service is to Honor the 242 service members including 220 Marines that lost their lives in the Marine Barracks bombing, Beirut Lebanon on 23 October 1983.

A special service to honor the Philadelphia area Marines that were killed in the blast was also held at the base of the monument.

The President of the *Department of Pennsylvania Auxiliary* and member of the *CCD Auxiliary*, Lillian Harper, and Linda Chamberlain, Sr. Vice of the *Department of Pennsylvania* and Paymaster for *All Divisions*, assisted in placing flowers at the base of the monument.

Two Trumpeters from *Smedley Butler DET* played a duet of the Marines Hymn.

At least seven other detachments were represented at the service

Once again the *Leatherneck Motor Cycle Club* provided coffee and donuts prior to the service.

**Next Chester County Det.  
Membership Meeting Is  
28 January!**

A girl becomes a woman when she stops looking for the ideal man and starts looking for a husband.

## Chester County Detachment Home

610 518 5375 [www.chescomcl.us](http://www.chescomcl.us)

Staff meeting:

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 1930.

General Membership meeting:

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 7:30 PM.

Directions: From Boot Rd. go north on Chestnut St in Downingtown first building on the right after the bridge;

from Rt 30 turn South on Chestnut St;

the last Building on the left just before the railroad bridge. Parking on side or back.

Entrance is on Chestnut St.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Detachment Officers

Commandant Dan Condron	610 458 0797
Senior Vice Bill Shields	610 458 5748
Junior Vice Pat Vollmer	610 383 1416
Judge Adv William Tapper	610 696 4025
Jr. Past Com Pat Powell	610 952 5045
Adjutant	
Paymaster Phil Murray	610 918 1335
Chaplain Fred Le Claire	
Sgt.of Arms	
Serv Officer Kathy VanGorder	610 489 3756
Directors Tom Fisher	610 273 9498
	Tom Tanner 610 933 0957
	Dennis Brown 610 692 4782
Publisher Dan Condron	610 458 0797
Editor David Mundy	717 442 0788 <a href="mailto:debmundy@aol.com">debmundy@aol.com</a>
Aux. Pres. Victoria Cloud	610 383 7729

\*\*\*\*\*

### NEWSLETTER POLICY

Chester County Marine, the only publication paid for by Chester County Detachment MCL #286, is published monthly as a service to the membership and other interested organizations. We will reprint any article deemed to be newsworthy and not political. The editor reserves the right to modify any items selected for printing.

The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of National MCL, Inc., Pennsylvania MCL, Inc. or the Chester County Detachment. All members and other interested parties are invited to submit articles for publication.

## Highlights Of The Corps' Story

1 February 1941 –

The 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Brigade is re-designated the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Brigade is re-designated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division.

1 February 1944 – The 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Marines landed on Kwajalein Atoll.

2 February 1968 – Operation ‘Hue City’, Tet offensive began in Vietnam.

3 February 1868 – Marines landed at Buenos Aires, Argentina, to protect American lives.

4 February 1868 – Marines landed on Osaka, Japan to protect foreign nationals.

5 February 1918 - The 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Replacement Battalion sailed for France in WW I.

7 February 1832 – 250 Marines defeated Malay pirates in Sumatra, Indonesia.

11 February 1904 – Marines landed at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

12 February 1918 – Why in the hell can't the Army do it if the Marines can? They are the same kind of men; why can't they be like Marines? Gen John H. Pershing US Army.

13 February 1943 – The US Marine Corps Women's Reserve was formed.

15 February 1898 – 28 Marines lost when the US Maine sank in Havana, Cuba.

17 February 1988 – Marine LtCol William Higgins, assigned to the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization, was abducted by pro-Iranian terrorists.

18 February 1944 – 22 Marines assaulted Engebi Island, Eniwetok Atoll.

19 February 1944 - The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Marines Divisions stormed ashore at Iwo Jima.

22 February 1944 – The 22<sup>nd</sup> Marines landed on Parry Island, Eniwetok Atoll.

23 February 1944 - Five Marines and a Navy corpsman raised the American flag on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima.

24 February 1944 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division joined the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Divisions in the capture of Iwo Jima.

24 February 1991 - The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Divisions breached Iraqi minefields and spearheaded the Desert Storm ground offensive.

25 February 1861 – The Confederate Marine Corps was organized in Richmond, VA.

26 February 1991 – A Marine recon unit was the first U.S. force to enter Kuwait City and retake the American embassy.

28 February 1991 – Desert Storm offensive operations ceased. 23 Marines were killed in action or died of wounds.

### Community Mission

Chicken Dinners were provided to *City Gate Mission* in Coatesville on 9 October for their evening meal and the people they served there were very appreciative.

The mission received 75 BBQ chicken halves and BBQ new potatoes.

### Flag Raising

On 10 November (Marine Corps Birthday) our Detachment along with *Delaware County Det* had the honor of raising a 13-star flag over *Independence Hall* in Philadelphia. Present were Dan Condron, and Fred LeClair

T :::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::;T

**Korea**

The Forgotten War

**Just A Common Mud Marine**

He was getting old and paunchy  
and his hair was falling fast,  
and he sat around the reunion  
telling stories of his past.

Of a war he had fought in and  
the deeds that he had done,  
in his exploits with his buddies  
- they were heroes, every one.

And though sometimes  
to his family  
his tales become a joke,  
all his Marine buddies listened,  
for they knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,  
for he has passed away,  
and the world's a little poorer,  
for a Marine died today.

He was just a  
common mud Marine,  
and the ranks are growing thin,  
but his presence should remind us  
we may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,  
then we find the Marines' part  
is to clean up all the troubles  
that others often start.

If we cannot give him honor,  
while he's here to hear the praise,  
then at least let's give him homage  
at the ending of his days.

Perhaps a simple notice  
in a paper would say  
"Our country is mourning, cause  
a mud Marine passed away."

**Murphy's Laws of  
Combat Operations**

109. Never tell  
the Platoon Sergeant  
you have nothing to do.

**The 1700's**

Declaration of Independence Signers

Who were they and what happened  
to them?

**Richard Stockton:**

From Princeton, New Jersey, was a  
lawyer and a member of congress.  
While inspecting troops in New York  
the British invaded New Jersey and  
he went to relocate his family.

While there Loyalists notified the  
British who captured and harshly  
imprisoned him in Perth Amboy and  
later New York. He was released in  
1777 in poor condition. His home  
was pillaged and burned.

1781, he died a pauper at age 50.

**George Taylor:**

From Easton, Pennsylvania had come  
to America from Northern Ireland as  
an indentured servant and worked at  
the Warwick Furnace, Chester  
County and Coventry Furnace as a  
bookkeeper.

He was appointed captain in the  
Chester County militia and became  
ironmaster producing grape shot  
ordnance for the Continental Army in  
the Durham Furnace that was owned  
by a loyalist. The Congress never  
compensated him for his product so  
he lost his lease of the furnace.

**Newsletter Update**

The mailing list has been condensed by  
eliminating names of members who are  
delinquent in their dues or may have  
moved without leaving a forwarding  
address.

We are also sending the newsletter via  
first-class mail so members are aware of  
all upcoming events. Our attempts to  
save money include mailings using the  
Internet.

Please send to us your name current  
mailing address, phone number, email  
address, and service events that you  
would like mentioned in our *Chester  
Marine* histories.

**Toys for Tots**

On Thursday, 2 December, our  
Detachment participated in the Toys for  
Tots program organized by Jamie  
Goncharoff, a member of the Chester  
County Bar Association, to help the  
Folsom Reserves.

Jamie has an arrangement with K-Mart  
who provides toys at a discount and our  
Detachment members pick them up and  
have the toys available for 'Bar'  
members to purchase prior to their  
December meeting. (Lawyers don't have  
time to go toy shopping.)

Major Goncharoff was there in his dress  
blues doing the main announcing of the  
purpose of the toys.

All the toys were purchased in record  
time and placed in Toys for Tots boxes.  
The toy collection was then taken to our  
Home for further distribution.

Members representing our Detachment  
were Jamie Goncharoff, Al Harper, Dave  
Mundy, and Phil Murray.

**Gift of Life Donor Program**

Dear All,

Well, it is a new year, and another  
opportunity to support me as I walk in  
the 2011 *Dash for Organ & Tissue  
Donor Awareness*. As many of you are  
already aware, my life has been impacted  
in many ways by organ donation, the  
greatest of which was that my dear  
brother, David, died in 1993 while  
waiting for the life saving gift of a lung  
transplant.

So now, I ask if you would care to  
support me at the upcoming *DASH*  
On Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> in Philadel-phia,  
either by sponsoring me or maybe even  
by joining Team Pfizer.

Thank you for your support!

Debby Mundy

T.....;T

VIETNAM CONNECTIONS



1966

February - **Hank Detering** entered flight school as a Marine Aviation Cadet and was trained on A4 and A6 aircraft.

1 March - The 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division is revived.

8 March - HMM-164 arrived in country with the first CH-46 helicopters.

16 March - 38 U.S. state governors accept the policy being followed in Vietnam.

**Dennis Brown**

arrived June '69 departed

1 April- After a little over a year in Vietnam, U.S. Marines received almost 5,000 purple hearts and Marine flyers almost 10,000 air medals.

The III MAF consisted of two Marine divisions and a reinforced aircraft wing.

April- **Robert G. Stone** arrived and attached to 1<sup>st</sup> MAW, MAG 16, VMO2. "What am I doing here?" It was hot!

The Detachment is a non-profit organization and as such relies on donations to pay its bills.

Without donations and without a budget it was unethical to continue to create the newsletter when our electric bills were more important.

*POW/MIA Remembered*



**RICHARD ANDREW ALM**

Date of Birth: 07 September 1931 (Olympia, WA)  
Home : Payallup, WA  
Rank Major  
Branch: US Marine Corps  
Unit: VMGR 152, 1st Marine Air Wing DaNang Airfield, South Vietnam  
Date of Loss: 01 February 1966  
Country: North Vietnam/ Over Water  
Body Not Recovered  
Aircraft: **KC130F "Hercules"**

Other Personnel in Incident:

Peter Vlahakos; Albert M. Prevost; Russell B. Luker; Galen F. Humphrey; Donald L. Coates : (missing)

Since late 1973, the remains of 878 Americans killed in the Vietnam War have been accounted for and returned to their families. 1,705 POW/MIAs are still unaccounted for as of December.

In September a U.S. military team returned from the remote Pacific atoll of Tarawa with the remains of what are believed to be two U.S. servicemen who died in a fierce World War II battle there.

997 U.S. Marines and 30 sailors died as the U.S. wrested control of the atoll from Japan during the three-day Battle of Tarawa in 1943. It was one of the first major amphibious assaults in the war, and one of the most brutal.

About 78,000 Americans are still missing from World War II.

**Memorial Service**

On Friday 1 September several members of CCD MCL took part in a memorial service for deceased Marine Capt. Ronald A. Stewart, USMC retired. Capt. Stewart was born in Coatesville, Pa. and graduated from Coatesville High School in 1960 when he enlisted in the Marines. Capt. Stewart retired in 1984 after 25 years in the Marine Corps.

Detachment members taking part in the service were: Dan Condron, Al Harper, Dave Mundy, Tom Tanner.

Also in attendance was Bill Searles.

**Downingtown Homecoming**

CCD was asked to participate in a Downingtown parade on 7 October and our Color Guard was to lead the way. The parade was to be the start of the Downingtown High School Homecoming events. This is an honor for the Detachment since our Home is located there.

Part of their celebration was in preparation for the High School Band's going to the Pasadena Rose Bowl Parade to be held on 1 January 2011. This band is one of only three invited to participate.

Our four-member Color Guard of John Ceschan, Dan Condron, Dave Mundy, and Fred LeClair stepped off promptly at 1830 to start the parade.

**Wegmans**

has a . . .

**Bakery**

**Business hours 24/7**

**Catering Department**

**Delicatessen**

**Grocery Store**

**Market**

**Pharmacy**

**Pizza Shop**

**Restaurant**

**Support for the MCL**

1056 E. Lancaster Ave

Downingtown

610 518 7890

T .....:T

## C C D Committees

Americanism	D. Mundy
Auxiliary Liaison	F. LeClair
Bingo	P. Vollmer
Building Cleanup	
Finance	F. LeClair
Highway Cleanup	D. Brown
Home Liaison	E. Dymek
Locker Box	A. Harper
Marine Corps Ball	R. Spina
	A. Harper
Membership	B. Shields
MOY	D. Condron
Newsletter	D. Mundy
Parades	B. Tapper
Marksmanship Team	D. Brown
Scholarships	B. White
Special Events	
Ticket Sales	R. Spina
VAVS	D. Condron
West Chester	
Vets Council	P Powell

The CCD Home is available  
for private parties  
to CCD MCL members.  
Contact Dan Condron for details.

## VA Information

VA Benefits booklet & Information	<a href="http://www.vw.gov">http://www.vw.gov</a>
VA Benefits	800 827 1000
VA Health Benefits	877 222 8387
VA Education Benefits	888 442 4551
VA Life Insurance	800 669 8477
VA Debt Management	800 827 0648
Health Eligibility Center 1644 Tullie Circle Atlanta, GA 30329-2303	404 235 1257 800 929 8387
CHAMPVA	800 733 8387
Gulf War / Agent Orange Help Line	800 749 8387
Headstones & Markers	800 697 6947
Mammography Hotline	888 492 7844
MCL Hdqts Indiantown Gap	717 861 9629
Military Medical records, DD214 <a href="http://vetrecs.archive.gov">http://vetrecs.archive.gov</a>	
Parkinson's	
PADRECC	888 959 2323
Parkinson Support Grp	610 431 1852
Telecommunication Device (Hearing Impaired/TTD)	800 829 4833

## Coatesville VA Medical Center

The CVAMC is an integrated health care system dedicated to providing the best in care and services to our Veterans. CVAMC offers mental health care, primary care, geriatrics and extended care, specialty and women's health care, and pharmacy and social work services to both inpatients and outpatients. CVAMC operates community based outpatient clinics in Springfield and Spring City, PA. The medical center serves Veterans in 53 counties in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

### Christmas Stockings

The CCD participated in the annual VA Coatesville Hospital Stocking Stuffing for the patients on the 10 December with Dave Mundy, Bill Shields, and Tom Tanner joining other veterans from the Marine Corps League and other veteran organizations to provide a Christmas feeling for the patients and assure them that they are not forgotten. Cookies, candy, and fruit were poured into the stockings for the patients.

On 11 December a large group of volunteers distributed the stockings, a present, a card, and drink to every patient. About 500 residents are there. The volunteers were invited to share a meal at the hall prior to setting it up for the patients scheduled entertainment.

The patients were pleased to be remembered but pictures are not allowed on the premises.

## World War II

### 1942

18 April – The *USS Enterprise* and *USS Hornet* launched 16 B-25 bombers to attack Tokyo and major cities of Japan. Japan being vulnerable, the Japanese had to find and destroy all the U.S. carriers.

28 April – The 1<sup>st</sup> Raider Battalion reinforced the Samoan Garrison.

6 May – Corregidor is surrendered. The 4<sup>th</sup> Marines are ordered to burn their national and regimental colors to prevent them from falling into Japanese hands.

1-8 May – The Navy was involved in history's first carrier-against-carrier battle that was ever fought, in the Coral Sea (between Australia and Guadalcanal). Royal Navy cruisers and destroyers were also present. It was a battle where the ships fighting never were in sight of each other. The *USS Lexington* was sunk without a single crewman being lost but the *USS Yorktown's* flight deck was damaged.

Tactically the battle was a draw, strategically an American victory. The Japanese plan to invade Port Morsby was canceled having lost a carrier (*Shoho*), many experienced pilots, and one damaged carrier (*Shokaku*).

The Imperial Navy's next venture to get the U.S. Navy in 1942 was an attack on Midway Island. The island is 1,100 miles northwest of Hawaii: six miles in diameter, two square miles of dry land and 39 feet above sea level at its highest point.

The Japanese sent 5,000 ground troops and four carriers under Vice Adm. Nagumo. The carriers were *Akagi*, *Kaga*, *Hiryu*, and *Soryu*. They didn't know their code was being decoded and three U.S. carriers would be in the area only 300 miles away.

**State Farm®**  
Providing Insurance and Financial Services  
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710




**Ryan K Tyler, Agent**  
5581 West Lincoln Highway, Parkesburg, PA 19365-1787  
Bus 610 857 0111 Bus 717 442 5004  
Fax 717 442 0909  
ryan.tyler.qvmdl@statefarm.com  
www.ryanptyler.com

The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.

It doesn't matter.

Set Up for Fund Raising

On Friday and Saturday, 3,4 September, members of Chester County Detachment set up a table at Wal-Mart, Exton, Pa, to sell Dept. of Pa. Scholarship Raffle Tickets and accept donations.

It turned out to be very productive and could well be a very lucrative addition to Bingo if continued on a regular basis and more CCD members volunteer to help.

Some of the Detachment members participating were:



Jim McIlhenney, Al Harper, Jim Copeland, Tom Tanner, Gene Girard, Dan Condron, and Fred LeClair (not shown).

Hospital Drivers Needed

The Coatesville VA Medical Center is in need of Volunteer drivers to take patients to their medical appointments off the hospital campus. The clinics are located in Philadelphia PA, Wilmington Del, or Lebanon PA.

The DAV Transportation Network provides the vehicles and each round trip can take up to seven hours.

If you wish to help in this important endeavor please contact Lynn Jamison at 610 384 7711 ext 3368.

Message from Auxiliary President

Most importantly I want to thank all the volunteers from the Detachment and Auxiliary for pulling together for the events that we have participated in over the past few months! I feel by using email to communicate that it is the most up to date, quickest and thorough way to bond together to make these events happen. If any of you reading this newsletter has email and wants to be placed on our group email, please contact myself or the Commandant of the Detachment so that you can be notified quickly to participate. You must read your emails often to be "in the loop".

Below are a few events that we all recently participated in with the help of emailing.

August 28th "welcome home celebration" at the VA. Thank you ladies for being there.

September 4th Color Guard for the arrival of fellow Marine Thomas Mitchell of Downingtown.

September 11 VA Hospital Picnic. Thanks to the Detachment and Auxiliary, another job well done for the Vets.

September 12 Memorial Service at the VA for those who have departed. There were 7 volunteers on that rainy day.

Fall Activities: Check page #7.

The Auxiliary has an attractive MCL chair with a carry strap that we are still selling chances for. \$2 ea/3 for \$5. Drawing will be later in the fall. Please help the Auxiliary by purchasing a few chances.

Members reading this newsletter, reminder that the General Meeting is the 4th Monday of the month at 7:30pm. Please visit us and hang out with your fellow Marines.

Tori Cloud, Auxiliary President

The Cold War

1962

January - Jim Bradford was separated from the U.S. Marine Corps.

6 January - A1C Dave Mundy reenlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Either that or go to the Arctic Circle radar defense line, the DEW Line. (For big bucks).

10 February - American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers was exchanged by the Soviet Union for Rudolph Ivanovich Abel, a Soviet spy held by the U.S.

17 May - The 3rd MEU landed in Thailand, easing Communist pressure.

21 June - Dale Snyder was discharged by the U.S. Navy from Camp Lejeune and sent home to Coatesville, Pa.

1 July - The entire Marine Corps Reserve was restructured to form a complete 4th Marine Division and 4th MAW.

6 October - Five Marines and two Navy medical personnel died in an accidental crash of a helicopter. They were the first Marines to die in the Vietnam War.

14 October - A 'U-2' aircraft flew over Cuban airspace and detected what appeared to be missile sites being created.

October - A1C Dave Mundy was assigned to AEWACS EC-121H aircraft, part of the United States Air Defense system to preserve the peace by preventing sneak attacks across the Atlantic, round the clock.

Man nag their wives for what they do, Women nag their husbands for what they don't do

.....T

**The Annual VA Hospital Picnic**

was held at the Coatesville VA Medical Center on Saturday 11 September.

The Medical Center is happy with the Marine Corps League's Annual effort to brighten the lives of the patients and they showed it by creating a special *Welcome* sign for us.

CCD and Gen. SD Butler DET team up to provide plenty of food, sodas, and desserts for the patients at this event.

CCD provided the hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, condiments, and sodas while SBD provided the salads, deviled eggs, desserts, etc.

Jim McIlhenney was the Head Chef and directed all the grilling for the event. Over 200 patients were there to enjoy the picnic.

Thanks must be extended to our local Wegmans Market for their continuing generosity in donating so much to make this event so successful.

CCD members present were:

Bob Concordia, Dan Condron,  
Tom Fisher, Al Harper,  
Tom Logan, Jim McIlhenney,  
Dave Mundy, and Tom Tanner.

There to represent the detachment auxiliary and to help were:

Lillian Harper, Barb Logan,  
Kathy Snyder, and Rose Tanner.

**Coatesville Medical Center Veterans Parade**

On Friday 5 November the CCD Color Guard led the Veterans Day Parade at the Coatesville Medical Center.

Coatesville Area High School Band played the National Anthem prior to playing some tunes for patients on the side lines.

CCD members participating were: Dan Condron, Kay Croll, Al Harper, Dave Mundy, And Tom Tanner.

**Annual Department of Pennsylvania Rifle Match – Fort Indiantown Gap 25-26 September 2010**

Beautiful weekend weather was the order of the day for the Rifle Match. Over 200 shooters from throughout the state participated in the two day event. First time shooter for the CCD, Trevor Markle was also top dog for the team.

Dennis Brown, team captain, will announce the scores as soon as they are available.

Eleven detachment members made up this year's team:

Dennis Brown, Lee Beyer, Al B. Harper, A. Ryan Harper, Ted Huyser, Trevor Markle, Pat Powell, Bob Stone, Tom Tanner, Tim Waterhouse, and Ted Wertz.

\*\*\*

**Marine Corps League Specialty License Plates**

A new application form - FORM MV-904SO (09-04) can be used. Do not use the old form.

Send your check of \$30.00, payable to "MCL of PA, Inc", and application to:

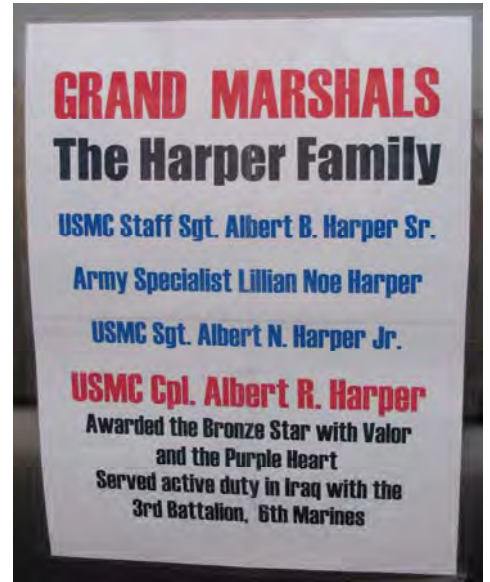
Paul F. Hastings, PNC  
1631 Bridge St.  
New Cumberland, PA 17070-1174

Application form - FORM MV-904SO (09-04) can be downloaded from the Dept. of Pa website.

Applications sent directly to the Commonwealth will be returned to the sender and not processed. Checks made payable to the PA Dept of Transportation will also be returned and not processed.

Processing to the DEPT of TRANS and then to Bureau of Corrections to manufacture the plate takes approximately six weeks from date of mailing to the DEPT of TRANS. The forms are mailed in batches of at least 3.

**Downingtown's Christmas Parade**



The *Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade* was held on Saturday 11 December starting at 3:00 p.m.

To make this event truly memorable, Al Harper and family were asked to lead the parade by being honored as the Grand Marshalls.

The immediate family was also invited to participate.

- Sgt Al B. Harper USMC Nov 1953 - Nov '62
- Spec-5 Lillian N. Harper Army 10 Oct '56 - 9 Oct '59
- Sgt Al N. Harper USMC 9 Jul '80 - 8 Jul '83
- LCpl Tony Harper USMC 9 Jul '83 - Jul '86
- Cpl Al R. Harper USMC Jan '06- Jul '09

are all members of the CCD, MCL.

**Albert B. Harper**  
Sgt 1953-1962  
610-857-2378  
harpernoe@aol.com

**Chicken Dinner**

The Annual Chicken BBQ was held on Saturday 9 October with a different *Grill Man* to provide our needs. The dinner was provided by Jonathan Stoltzfus and his brother Daniel from the Christiana area.

Jonathan arrived at our Home at 0645 with his grill and had the charcoal going in 30 minutes after ensuring it was going to stay level and not roll away.

We had plenty of help, and the first meals were ready by 0915 though they were not to be delivered until 1130. They were delicious.

CCD helpers included:

Dan Condron, Tom Fisher, Fred LeClair, Jim McIlhenney, Trevor Markle, Dave Mundy, Rudy Spina, Tom Tanner, and Pat Vollmer.

We did not have as good a turnout as previous years because someone forgot to pass out our flyer advertisements to the surrounding community.

Members of the Auxiliary helping were Joanne Brown, Tori Cloud, Ellie Dunn, Debby Mundy, Cathy Snyder, Rose Tanner, Barb Vollmer, and Jodi Markle.

**Marine Fact**

I like the fact that Marines do not consider it a coincidence that there are 24 hours in a day and 24 beers in a case; because Marines know there is a reason for everything that happens.



**Freedom Foundation Medal of Honor Grove**

State Senator, Andy Dinniman, D-19<sup>th</sup> of West Whiteland had been organizing volunteers for the three day project (October 8, 10 and 11) to clear brush and clean up the 52 acre site established to honor Medal of Honor recipients.

The 52-acre memorial grove is divided into one-acre plots for each state, as well as Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. Each plot features an obelisk and metal plaque set in the ground, honoring every Medal of Honor recipient since the Civil War. The grove was dedicated in 1984 to forever recognize the recipients of our nation's highest military honor, but it has been allowed to fall into disrepair: signs, markers and benches have collapsed.

The Senator became interested in the project after speaking with Mr. Dave Dolby, a Medal of Honor recipient.

On Friday 8 October Al Harper and Dave Mundy joined hundreds of other volunteers, including students from various high schools from Philadelphia and Phoenixville, Pa., at the Medal of Honor Grove, Valley Forge to assist in a cleanup of the long neglected area.

On the 8<sup>th</sup>, Medal of Honor recipient Sammy L. Davis, a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran from Indiana, was on hand to speak to the volunteers. In attendance was Maj. Gen. Steve Sischo, Dep. Adj. Gen of the Pa. National Guard, Senator Dinniman, Cal Books, Cmdt Pron-Seton DET, Cory Etchberger, the son of a man who recently received the Medal of Honor posthumously from President Obama.

On Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>, Lee Beyer, Jim Doedderlein, and Dave Mundy joined hundreds of other volunteers at the Medal of Honor Grove, to assist in the cleanup and Medal of Honor recipient retired Army Col. Walter J. Marm was on hand and spoke to the volunteers. Mr. Marm is a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran whose exploits included the battle made famous in the movie *We Were Soldiers Once and Young*.

On Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> and Dave Mundy, Jay Patton, and Tom Tanner joined the other volunteers at the Medal of Honor Grove, Valley Forge to finish the cleanup of the long neglected area. Medal of Honor recipient, retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. James E. Livingstone, was on hand to speak to the volunteers including students from Downingtown Area High School.

Later, Sen. Dinniman and Mr. Livingstone spoke to Jay Patton with Jay receiving a salute from Mr. Livingstone.

Lots have been overgrown by weeds and memorial trees lie where they have fallen. It appears like someone wanted to make this place unsightly to let land developers take it over cheaply.

It is our duty to see that the beauty and reverence of this natural area is restored to a manner fitting for all of our Medal of Honor heroes.

The weather was ideal for such a project and the enthusiasm shown by the various organizations was uplifting to say the least.

It is indeed an honor to be able to participate in such a worthy community project. If you are interested in volunteering contact Sen. Dinniman's office at 610 692 2112 or at

[dwoolson@pasenate.com](mailto:dwoolson@pasenate.com)

Or register online at

[www.senatordinniman.com](http://www.senatordinniman.com)

## Volunteer Transportation Network Program

On 29 June the Coatesville VA Medical Center received two 12-passenger vans donated by the DAV, the Commonwealth's General Assembly and the Governor. The vans are to be used to support the medical center's DAV-operated Volunteer Transportation Network program.

The VTN is a partnership between the VA and the DAV, a very active veterans' service organization. The program is overseen by a volunteer hospital service coordinator who manages volunteer drivers who operate the vans.

The program's primary purpose is to transport Veterans to nearby VAMCs including those in Lebanon, Philadelphia, and Wilmington, DE.

The VTN is an excellent example of a veterans' service organization and volunteers stepping in to help Veterans who are in need. This year, 22 volunteers have transported 867 Veterans to and from appointments, logging some 17,571 miles and nearly 3,000 volunteer hours. The medical center and Veterans it serves are fortunate to have such valuable support.

Anyone who is interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer driver should contact Mr. Lynn Jamison, hospital service coordinator at 610 383 7711.

## A Community Welcomes Home a Marine

L/Cpl Thomas A. Mitchell returned home from Afghanistan on Saturday 4 September to a surprise reception from his community of Downingtown, Pa.



Accompanied by his wife, Suzanne, his mother, Stephanie, and three younger brothers, L/Cpl Mitchell assembled at the pavilion to socialize with the welcoming friends and relatives for plenty of food and drink.



A procession, led by the *Warrior Watch Riders Motorcycle Club* and about nine fire trucks, horns blaring and sirens wailing, pulled into Shady Side Park escorting the Marine.

There he was met by a CCD MCL Color Guard, family members, and friends.

Chester County Detachment members participating in the event were:



**Tom Tanner, Tom Logan, Jim McIlhenney, Phil Murray, Dave Mundy, Dan Condron, and Al Harper.**



Many dignitaries were also on hand to greet Marine Mitchell including State Representative Curt Schroeder, *Heroes Welcome* Committee member Charlie Becker, and the Mayor of Downingtown, Josh Maxwell.

There to represent the Detachment Auxiliary Unit were



Lillian Harper and Debby Mundy

We could learn a lot from crayons:  
 some are sharp,  
 some are pretty,  
 some are dull,  
 some have weird names,  
 and all are different colors...  
 but they all exist very nicely  
 in the same box.

## Memorial Service

On 18 September a Memorial Service in honor of deceased Medal of Honor recipient, David Charles Dolby, was held at the VFW Post 1564, Phoenixville, Pa.

Many people were there to witness the service including family members and friends of Mr. Dolby.

Among the dignitaries present were State Senator Andrew Dinniman, Borough Councilman Michael Speck, and Medal of Honor Recipient Brian Thacker, who explained his friendship with Mr. David Dolby.

CCD had the honor of providing the Rifle Salute and Bugler for the service. The Rifle Squad consisted of Tom Logan, Dave Mundy, and Tom Tanner assisted by Fred Bieler of the Phoenixville VFW Post.

Taps was rendered by CCD Bugler Al Harper with the Echo Taps rendered by Bill Miller of the Spring City American Legion.

Other members in attendance were: Bob Concordia, Kay Croll, Tom Fisher, and

Kathy and Van VanGorder.

---

## Halloween Parade

On 28 October West Chester held its Annual Halloween Parade for the children of the area. For many years the CCD has been invited to lead their event that started at 1900. This is the one parade where citizens actually come out to support the participants.

CCD members participating were: Dan Condrón, Fred LeClair, Dave Mundy, Phil Murray, and Tom Tanner.

---

If everything is coming your way,  
you're in the wrong lane or  
you're in England.

## General Smedley D. Butler Exhibit

On Wednesday 10 November over 75 Marine Corps League members from various local detachments and other guests attended the exhibit of memorabilia honoring Major General Smedley D. Butler USMC at the Delaware County Historical Society in Chester, Pa.

The event was hosted by the *Smedley Butler Detachment* of Newtown Square, Pa. and was organized by Earl Drake, Public Relations Officer of that detachment.

Tom Tanner of CCD was the keynote speaker and gave a very interesting rendition of various tidbits of the life and service of General Butler.

Some of the attendees included Col Marchioro, USMC Cmnd Officer of the Villanova NROTC, Lt Col John C. Church, USMC (ret) president of the Valley Forge Military Academy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Craig M. Bald, admissions counselor, Neil B. Corley, Sr. Vice Cmnd. of the Depart. of Pa. MCL, Lillian Harper, President of the Depart of Pa. Auxiliary, Joe Sestak, Congressman from Delaware County.

*Chester County, Delaware County, Northampton, Smedley Butler, Tun Tavern, and Upper Darby* DETs representatives were on hand for the opening ceremony. Tom Tanner and Al Harper were there to represent *Chester County*.

It was very appropriate that Major General Smedley D. Butler be honored on the Marine Corps' Birthday.

---

A bill (S.119) was introduced in early 2007 that made war-profiteering a special crime and would extend extra-territorial jurisdiction to reach contracting fraud in Iraq.

Did that bill accomplish anything?

## 235<sup>th</sup> Marine Birthday Ball

The 2010 Marine Ball celebration was held on 13 November at the West Chester VFW starting at 1800 with cocktails.

At 1900, the officers and side boys, marched out, followed by the Color Guard consisting of Joe Springer, Jim Yusko, and two Marine Recruiters located in Downingtown.

The traditional Marine Birthday Ceremony was next.

Cake Escort Dan Bullock presented the birthday cake. Adj. Dave Mundy followed by reading Commandant John A. Lejeune's Birthday message of 1 November 1921.

Commandant Condrón cut the cake and presented the first piece to Col Detering, the second piece went to the oldest Marine, Rudy Spina, a World War II veteran, and the third piece went to the youngest Marine, SSgt Hastings, member of the Color Guard, and a Downingtown recruiter.

The tribute at the POW / MIA table was presented by Jim McIlhenney prior to our guest speaker, Lt.Col Henry Detering, who gave a great presentation on the experiences of the Marines who had been fighting in the Korean War especially the Chosin Reservoir breakout.

Table arrangements were provided by Tom Fisher and Jim McIlhenney

We had about 89 attendees who had their choice of roast beef or flounder and they were ready to eat by now.

After dinner our outgoing *Marine of the Year*, Dan Condrón, was now rejuvenated when he prepared to introduce this coming year's 'Marine of the Year.'

In a novel presentation, and with all previous MOYs in attendance, Dan had Phil Murray's two children present the recognition to the new

*Marine of the Year*, Phil Murray

## Marine Memorial Sunday

On Sunday 7 November 2010, at least 15 members of the *CCD* and *Auxiliary Unit* took part in the annual ceremony at the *Oaklands Cemetery* known as *Marine Memorial Sunday*.

This fine annual service consists of *Chester County Detachment* members and of *General Smedley D. Butler Detachment* to honor Marines:

E. Riley Aikman, Charles Swope, and Gen. Smedley D. Butler.

Officials for the E. Riley Aikman and the Charles Swope services were:

OIC was Col Henry Detering,

Jr. OIC was Dick Yoder,

(former West Chester Mayor)

Chaplin was Fred LeClair.

Officials for the Gen Smedley D.

Butler service were:

OIC was Col Henry Detering,

Jr. OIC was Kay Croll,

Chaplin was Chris Bush.

Each detachment provided a Color Guard while Gen SD Butler DET also provided the field music.

The Firing Squad was provided by Gen SD Butler DET with help from Tom Tanner.

*CCD* members participating or in attendance were:

Dennis Brown, Dan Condron,

Kay Croll, Col. Detering,

Tom Fisher, Al Harper,

Fred LeClair, Jim Miller,

Dave Mundy, Phil Murray,

Patrick Powell, Tom Tanner,

and Dick Yoder.

From the *CCD Auxiliary Unit* were:

Joann Brown, Tori Cloud,

Lillian Harper, Debby Mundy.

Visiting was April Singleton.

*Chester County Detachment*

sincerely thanks all the Marine Corps League members who participated in this service.

Semper Fi

## Letter of Appreciation

Mr. Phil Murray MCL  
Re: Toys for Tots

Dear Phil

On behalf of the Chester County Bar Association, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Marine Corps League for volunteering your time in support of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program at the Bar Association's annual meeting at the Justice Center. On short notice - real short notice - the Marines accomplished the mission!

Since K-Mart has participated for many, many years, if you have access to certificates of appreciation, I would sure appreciate if you could send one to K-Mart.

Finally, please note that an article will appear in the Bar Association, *New Matter*, which will recognize the Marine Corps League's participation. Thanks again and we hope that you will participate again next year!

Semper Fi

Jamie W. Goncharoff

Earl and Bubba are quietly sitting in a boat, fishing, chewing tobacco, and drinking beer when suddenly Bubba says,

"Think I'm gonna divorce the wife - she ain't spoke to me in over two months."

Earl spits overboard, takes a long, slow sip of beer and says,

"Better think it over...  
...women like that are hard to find."

\*\*\*\*\*

Old Farmer's Advice:

Most of the stuff  
people worry about  
ain't never gonna happen, anyway.

## Veterans' Day Parade

The *CCD MCL* participated in the Annual West Chester Veterans' Council Veteran's Day Parade on 7 November.

The West Chester State University has added an Army ROTC program to its curriculum and their Color Guard was given the privilege of leading the parade.

Kay Croll was the Parade Marshall and worked the parade while taking the role of Traffic Controller was Tom Chambers on his 'Harley'.

Our Color Guard consisted of Dan Condron, Fred LeClair, Phil Murray, Pat Powell, Dave Mundy, and Tom Tanner. A Marine asked to join us and he fell right in.

Following in a bright, shiny pickup truck, decorated with *CCD* stickers was Dennis Brown.

Hundreds of people gathered in and around the borough's *Garden of Honor* to honor the service of military veterans. A short ceremony that recognized all participants followed the parade with some music selections being played by local high school bands.

Other *CCD* members present were Lee Beyer, Ernie Irons, Tom Logan, Jim Miller, former Mayor of West Chester Dick Yoder, and present Mayor Carolyn Comitta.

Assistant District Attorney Norman Pine, a former naval officer, said he hoped his own service could be instructive to young people who would remember that military service to the country helped protect the rights of being a United States citizen.

West Chester University President Greg R. Weisenstein reiterated the university's commitment to help train young people for service through the *Reserve Officers' Training Corps* and afterward through the *Troops to Teachers* program.

Never say to a Cop:

I can't reach my license  
unless you hold by beer.

**West Chester  
Salvation Army Food Drive**

The Annual West Chester area Food Drive was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October this year and flyers were distributed a week ahead of time to inform the residents of the event.

The flyers were picked up by Dave Mundy given to Al Harper who coordinated the distribution on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October.

The area in West Chester was between *Five Points Road* and *East High School* and from *Fern Hill Road* to *Chester Pike*.

It took Al and Dave five and a half hours of walking to go through all the flyers provided.

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October the CCD took part in the annual Salvation Army Food Drive for the West Chester Area joining many other groups in the effort. Approximately eight tons of food was collected by all the organizations and other volunteers who were involved.

CCD members that took part in the pickup operation: Dennis Brown, Joann Brown, Dan Condron, Jim Copeland, Tom Logan Barbara Logan, Phil Murray, and family, Dave Mundy, Bill Shields

**Barkings From the Doghouse**

*Albert E. Smith Pound #179*

Woof-Woof!

The Growl of 19 December 2010 was abbreviated to accommodate the Annual Christmas Party. It was well attended with 35 Dogs and guests attending. Plenty of food was provided by the Dogs of #179 with sodas and drinks available. Two members of the Smith Family were in attendance, both grandsons of Albert E. Smith.

At the Growl, it was voted to donate \$100.00 to the *Chester County Det.* for the use of their facilities and \$100.00 to our chosen charity, *St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter*. It was also announced that various food and cleaning items were delivered thanks to Pup Fred LeClair who donated a case of spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, soda and other items. Food items and cleaning supplies were also chipped in by Al Harper and Dave Mundy. Many bags of crushed aluminum cans are available and will soon be delivered to the shelter.

The highlight of the Growl was the presentation of the *Dog of the Year Award* to PDD James Powell. It is indeed an Honor to receive such an Award and it is certainly well deserved for Jim to be the recipient.

The following Pack Growl at Grantville, Pa. on 7 January was also fairly well attended with thirty one Dogs representing twelve Pounds and one stray. Pound #179 had six Dogs in attendance, PDD's Dan Condron, Al Harper, Bill Mickelson, Bill Miller, Jim Powell, and Tom Tanner.

Don't forget that the Annual St. Valentine's Day Breakfast at *St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter* will be on Sunday 13 February.

The address is:

St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter  
Grant and South Sts.  
Phoenixville, Pa.

The cost per adult: \$9.00

Children 6 to 12: \$4.50

Children under 6 Free

The time will be from  
0900 to 1230.

Let's come out and support our chosen charity. It is best to pay in advance so the caterer can prepare the proper amount of food.

There will be a Kennel Growl on 11 February in Falls Church, Va. at the NE National Conference.

The next Pound Growl will be on Sunday 20 February at the CCD Home in Downingtown at 1430.

The next Pack Growl will be on 18 March at Fort Indiantown Gap at the Dept. Headquarters.

The next Division Growl (Mini Growl) will be on 25 March in Woodbridge, NJ.

Membership should be our main focus for 2011. We have to keep growing to remain viable. This is the best little pound in the Penna. Pack. Let us strive to make it the best Big Pound.

Way to go Pound #179  
Remember, it is an Honor  
to be a member of the  
*Military Order of the Devil Dogs*  
Woof-Woof & Semper Fi



Eagles may soar,  
but weasels  
don't get sucked into jet engines.

How many of you  
believe in psycho kinesis?  
Raise my hand!

**Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.**

Website: [www.pamcleague.org](http://www.pamcleague.org)

*Excerpts:*

Congratulations!!! Overall, the *Toys for Tots* programs and other holiday programs were a success. The winter is here but we still have a lot of work to do in our communities.

We are all anxiously waiting to hear Gov. Tom Corbett's announcement for the position of Adj. General of Pa and the Dep. Adj. General for Veterans Affairs.

We are asking all Veterans Service Organizations to help us educate our legislators on the need for the following bills.

*Act 66* – Full funding for maintaining current programs and expand outreach.

*DAV Transportation Network* – Full funding to maintain current services.

*Small Games of Chance* – Support a bill similar to former HB 169 for "not for Profit" organizations only.

*Real Estate Tax Exemption* – Change the existing legislation to calculate the income level on "household income" instead of only the "veteran" income and to include the spouses of DICs and KIAs.

To include Armed Forces distinction on Commonwealth issued photo identification on licenses, etc.

As you all know "Don't Ask; Don't Tell" has been repealed. Please remember that everyone is entitled to their personal opinions and they are "personal". While we might not agree with what our legislators did in Washington, we must

abide by the rules set in place. The Commandant of the Marine Corps has stated on various occasions that the Marine Corps will abide by the law.

The President of the United States has signed into law improvements to the Post 9-11 GI Bill. Improvements: Paying for "on the job" training, some flight training, apprenticeship programs, correspondence courses.

Adjustment to housing allowances  
Stipends for books and supplies for active duty personnel.

Reimbursements for National admissions testing such as SAT.

The Dept. attended the VA Healthcare VISN 4 Assistance Council meeting and one of the topics was *Suicide Prevention* especially Iraq/Afghanistan veterans. Warning signs are increased risk factors or stressors, thinking or talking about harming or killing self, appearance of hopelessness and withdrawal, self-destructive behavior. If you know of anyone who needs assistance please encourage them to call 1 800 273 8255.

We received some good news from National Headquarters. The Department showed an increase in paid membership in the last quarter. There are still a lot of members who have not paid their dues. We MUST personally contact our members who have not renewed.

Leanna L. Dietrich,  
Commandant  
Semper Fi

**Warning to Veterans**

An organization called **Veterans Affairs Services (VAS)** is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is NOT affiliated with VA in any way.

Websites with the name "vaservices" immediately after the "www" are NOT part of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the US Government agency.

Do not go to them or if approached or called, do not offer them any information concerning yourself or data on other veterans.

The VA does not randomly call veterans, nor does it ask veterans for information which it does not already have, like social security numbers.

The General Council requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate Chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any information to Michael G. Daugherty  
Staff Attorney  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of General Counsel (022G2)  
810 Vermont Av, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

**Scholarships**

**2011 Scholarship Eligibility Requirements:**

1. An applicant must be a qualified high school graduate with the intention of attending an institution of higher learning on a full-time basis.
2. The applicant or sponsor must be a member in good standing within the *Dept of PA MCL* or *Auxiliary* for at least one year.
3. A letter of acceptance is required for first year applicants.
4. The application form must be submitted between 1 February and 31 May.
5. A renewing applicant must successfully maintain academic standards for continued higher education.

**Marine Facts**

I like the fact that people think Marines are cocky; yet Marines know that they are confident in everything they do, a confidence people confuse for arrogance.

Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.

**Letter to the Honorable  
Tom Corbett**

Dear Governor-elect Corbett

Thank you for your service to our country in the United States Military

The purpose of this letter is to reiterate the need for the placement of a veteran on the State Civil Service Commission, as recommended in our audit report of the Veterans' Preference Program dated November 2008. As you are aware, Gov. Rendell did recently nominate a veteran to serve on the commission; however, he subsequently had to withdraw the nomination. Consequently, no veteran sits on the commission to be an advocate for veterans. Therefore, I hope you will join me in advancing the cause of our veterans, who unemployed at a rate almost double the general population.

Because our audit report disclosed significant deficiencies in the way that the commission administrates the Veterans Preference Program, I believe that it is imperative that the makeup of the commission reflects a broad range of experience. The placement of a veteran on the commission would ensure that the commission considers the unique set of skills and training that job applicants acquire while serving in our armed forces.

Regrettably, the aforementioned audit report found that the commission was lax in requiring state agencies to give preference to veterans when filling job vacancies. The audit report also recommended that the commission take steps to require state agencies to consider veterans when filling all job vacancies.

Jack Wagner  
Auditor General

**Iwo Jima**

The number of American casualties on Iwo Jima was greater than the total Allied casualties at the Battle of Normandy on D-Day.

The Marine invasion of Iwo Jima, the first U.S. attack on the Japanese Home Islands, began on February 19, 1945 and was known as *Operation Detachment*.

The Marines were charged with the mission of capturing the airfields on the island which up until that time had harried U.S. bombing missions to Tokyo. Once the bases were secured, they could then be used in the impending invasion of the Japanese mainland.

B-24 Liberators flying from the Mariannas bombed the island for 74 days prior to the invasion. Naval ships consisting of six battleships, five cruisers and many destroyers of Task Force 54 provided a three day pre-landing bombardment. Intelligence sources estimated that the island would fall in a week's time. Unfortunately, no one knew at the time that the island had been heavily fortified. There were vast bunkers, hidden artillery and 11 miles of interconnecting tunnels.

The battle produced some of the fiercest fighting in the Pacific Campaign of World War II. Besides the fortifications, the inhospitable terrain consisting of volcanic ash made walking difficult and building foxholes for protection impossible.

Night raids by the Japanese and hand-to-hand combat were common occurrences. The bunkers were connected to the tunnels in such a way that even after the use of flame-throwers and grenades, the Japanese

soldiers were able to return to the bunkers and resume their fighting. The Marines literally won the eight square mile island, inch by bloody inch.

Of the approximately 20,000 Japanese troops on the island, less than 1,000 were taken prisoner. Most Japanese fought to the death or chose ritual suicide instead of surrendering.

Of the 110,000 Marines and Navy Corpsman who took part in the battle, 6,821 were killed, including 300 Navy Corpsman, and 19,217 were wounded.

On 26 March 1945, the island of Iwo Jima was declared secure; 37 days after the battle began. Henceforth, Iwo Jima would appear on the list in Marine Corps history alongside such places as Belleau Woods, Guadalcanal, and the Chosin Reservoir.

Twenty-seven *Medal of Honor* medals were awarded for actions during the battle. Of these, 14 were awarded posthumously. Marines earned 22 of the medals, Navy Corpsman earned 4 and a naval officer from the *USS LCI* won the other. Of the total number of *Medal of Honor* medals awarded to Marines in World War II, 27% of those were awarded to the Marines who fought on Iwo Jima.

*By their victory, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Divisions and other units of the Fifth Amphibious Corps have made an accounting to their country which only history will be able to value fully. Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue.*

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz,  
U.S. Navy

Provided by  
Kathy Van Gorder

\*\*\*\*\*

# Chester County Marine

<b>February</b>						
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>(Membership Anniversaries)</b>		<b>1</b> Thomas Cummings	<b>2</b> Anthony Harper	<b>3</b> Stanley Przychdzien	<b>4</b> Charles Wertz	<b>5</b> Bingo 5:30
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Ron Janick	<b>8</b> Veterans Breakfast	<b>9</b> Staff Meeting 7:30	<b>10</b> Pat Rundle	<b>11</b> Ian Kohlepp	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> VALENTINES DAY	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Bingo 5:30
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> PRESIDENT'S DAY	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> General Meeting 7:30	<b>1</b> Veterans Breakfast	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Bingo 5:30

## Chester County Detachment Marine Corps League

John A. Lejeune founded the Marine Corps League in 1923. He said his first claim to fame was, "I am a Marine!" All his other attainments came further down the list. The U.S. Congress felt that the purposes of the Marine Corps League were so valid that in 1937 it granted the League a federal charter. There are detachments all across the country and each hold the slogan as a personal truth:

"Once a Marine, Always a Marine."

The Chester County Detachment was chartered on July 4, 1974. Our regular meetings are held the forth Monday of each month beginning at 7:30 PM unless it conflicts with a Holiday.

Our meetings are conducted in our "Home" which is located on Chestnut St. just off Boot Rd. in Downingtown. Membership dues are \$35.00 annually.

Some of our activities include:

- Participation at the Coatesville Veterans Hospital,
- Color Guard for parades and ceremonies,
- Honor Guard for our fallen brothers and sisters,
- Marine of the Year Banquet and Roast,
- Flag Retirement Ceremony,
- Salvation Army Canned Food Drive,
- Scholarship programs,
- Fund raising programs,
- Rifle and Pistol marksmanship programs,
- Cemetery site decoration for Memorial Day,
- Our own newsletter,

- Community Highway Cleanup
- Toys for Tots and
- A Marine Corps Birthday Ball with Ceremonies.

The Chester County Detachment has an Auxiliary Unit and their members carry out the purposes of the league and support our detachment.

We look forward to meeting you and hope you will join with your fellow Marines to continue the special camaraderie unique to those that have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor.

Semper Fidelis  
Chester County Detachment  
Department of Penna.  
Marine Corps League