



Scuttlebutt



General Smedley D. Butler Detachment

1914 1915



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Volume XIV, Issue 12
December 2004

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Commandant's Message December 2004

The 7 December 1941 Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor was one of the great defining moments in history. A single carefully planned and well-executed stroke removed the United States Navy's battleship force as a possible threat to the Japanese Empire's southward expansion. America, unprepared and now considerably weakened, was abruptly brought into the Second World War as a full combatant.

The U.S. Fleet's Pearl Harbor base was reachable by an aircraft carrier force, and the Japanese Navy secretly sent one across the Pacific with greater aerial

Photo # 80-G-19942 USS Arizona burning at Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941



striking power than had ever been seen on the World's oceans. Its planes hit just before 8AM on 7 December. Within a short time five of eight battleships at Pearl Harbor were sunk or sinking, with the rest damaged. Several other ships and most Hawaii-based combat planes were also knocked out and over 2400 Americans were dead. Soon after, Japanese planes eliminated much of the American air force in the Philippines, and a Japanese Army was ashore in Malaya.

These great Japanese successes, achieved without prior diplomatic formalities, shocked and enraged the previously divided American people into a level of purposeful unity hardly seen before or since. For the next five months, until the Battle of the Coral Sea in early May, Japan's far-reaching offensives proceeded untroubled by fruitful opposition. American and Allied morale suffered accordingly.

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On the 16th of December on a winter day in 1944, three powerful German armies plunged into the semi-mountainous, heavily forested Ardennes region of eastern Belgium and northern Luxembourg. Their goal was to reach the sea, trap four allied armies, and impel a negotiated peace on the Western front.

Thinking the Ardennes was the least likely spot for a German offensive, American Staff Commanders chose to keep the line thin, so that the manpower might concentrate on offensives north and south of the Ardennes.

Three divisions and a part of a fourth thinly held the American line, while the fifth was making a local attack and a sixth was in reserve. Division sectors were more than double the width of normal, defensive fronts.

Even though the German Offensive achieved total surprise, nowhere did the American troops give ground without a fight. Within three days, the determined American stand and the arrival of powerful reinforcements insured that the ambitious German goal was far beyond reach.

In snow and sub-freezing temperatures the Germans fell short of their interim objective - that of reaching the sprawling Meuse River on the fringe of the Ardennes. All the Germans accomplished was to create a Bulge in the American line. In the process they expended irreplaceable men, tanks and material. Four weeks later, after grim fighting, with heavy losses on both the American and German sides, the Bulge ceased to exist.

These two great events in American military history are just a few examples of American determination and what can be accomplished with the right motivation and resources. Hopefully, we will succeed in today's battles.

God Bless & Semper Fi,
Bob Spano



image from christmaspast.info

Sr. Vice Report

BALL:

Our ball is in the history book and from what was told to me from our members they all had a good time. It was truly a combined effort in the preparation of the ball. There are so many to thank for an outstanding job. Our guest speaker was wonderful and so were the food and of course the ceremony. Again a hearty Semper Fi to all who helped.

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

At our December meeting we will have our annual Christmas party. Our meeting will start at 1900 sharp!

The party will begin after the meeting. I have some ideas and plans for our party and I am always trying to find the best for less. I am sure we will have many to help with the set up just like we did for the ball. If you are interested in helping, please contact me.



REMEMBER TO BRING A TOY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Tom Kerrigan will be posted at the front door fully armed to make sure that everyone has a toy!

MEMBERSHIP:

As we all know our Detachment lost another great Marine. his active participation will be missed. Semper Fi AL! But let us not forget what an outstanding year it has been for new members, and many have jumped right in. I can't say enough about the very aggressive recruitment by some of our members. Thank you! PLEASE see me at the meeting to get your special instruction form to be put in your record book when your final muster comes. I know most don't want to talk about it, but it comes sooner or later and the best way to help your family is to be prepared. Also please see Tom Bishop and or Tom Lynch about getting your uniform together.

This year went so fast and I did learn many things. I am grateful to all for allowing me to serve as your Sr.Vice. I have always had the Detachment in my best interest and if re-elected I will continue to do as such. It was an honor and a privilege. THANK YOU!

Semper Fi!

Jim Alleva

COMMANDANT'S REPORT

December 2004

Thursday, October 21st, the first meeting of the Toys for Tots program took place at the USMC Folsom Reserve Center. Tom Kerrigan as Chairman was ready to start another season of toy collection.

Members of the Detachment formed a Color Guard to join in a ceremony with other MCL detachments for the 21st anniversary of the bombing of the Beirut Marine Barracks on Sunday, the 24th in Philadelphia off Delaware Avenue.

Detachment staff meeting was held on Tuesday, the 26th.

The Marple Newtown Combined Veterans Alliance (American Legion, Marine Corps League, and VFW) had our monthly meeting on the 28th.

The MCLA had their bake sale in Newtown Square shopping center on Saturday, the 30th.

On November 2nd, we conducted our general meeting.

Friday, November 5th, members of the detachment Color Guard marched in the Coatesville Hospital Parade. Lunch was included in their cafeteria.

The highlight of the year was the semi-formal Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Paxon Hollow Country Club on the 6th.

On Sunday, the 7th, we participated in Marine Sunday memorial services in West Chester and paid tribute at the gravesite of General Smedley Darlington Butler.

November 10th was the 229th Marine Corps Birthday.

Veterans Day, on the 11th, kept us busy at the Marple Memorial Post #805 for a 1100 ceremony and a 1200 ceremony at Veterans Park with the VFW, then off to Media where we arrived late to join the parade.

Saturday, the 13th, was the rededication of the 155 MM artillery piece from the Chester American Legion that was placed in the Marple Township Memorial Park.

Highway cleanup was on the 14th; being in Boston is not an excuse.

God Bless & Semper Fi

Bob Spano

Jr. Vice Report

Leaguers,

Just 4 more dates remain to sell tickets for our Jr Troop Handler wagon. By the time this message reaches you it will almost be over. It's hard to believe that six months of Saturdays have past. We expect to meet our budgeted goals again this year.

The following members have given of themselves for the good of the League: Gerry Powlus, Bob Bunce, Joe Hudson, Bill Nolan, Bob Spano, Steve Neri, Tony Fusto, Mike Horne, Craig Allen, Harry Kaufman, Mike Bodel, Gerry Zell, Dan Luty, Pete Petrucci, Chris Bush, Lou DiSantis, Dave Brimble, George VanDusen, Stan Short, Stan Samsel, Tom McGovern, Tom Kerrigan, Bernie McGlinchey, Jim Ross, Paul Donohue, Tony Medaglia, Jim Alleva, George Boyajian and Dennis Morsa.

Citizenship is much more than being a member of a nation or an organization. Along with the privileges that accrue to a citizen are the duties that one must fulfill in order to make the organization succeed. These men have faithfully done their duty and they should be congratulated.

All that remains is picking the winner of the JTH on December 7th. See you all there.

Earle E. Drake

Junior Vice



ADJUTANT'S REPORT

I think it's great that for the relatively short time these people have been members, they have rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to help this detachment. Thanks to Kim Babcock, Tom McGovern, and Ben Sides. Keep up the good work. I also would like to thank our Commandant Bob Spano for his attention to detail in noticing and correcting the misspelled name plates on our deceased members' memorial plaque.

Looking Ahead

DETACHMENT EVENTS

NOVEMBER

30 Detachment Staff Meeting 1930

DECEMBER

04 Wagon Sales – Super Fresh, Manoa –
0930 - 1600
07 General Membership Meeting – K of C – 1900
Elections & Christmas Party – bring
unwrapped toy
13 Coatesville Hospital Bingo
28 Detachment Staff Meeting Dinner – 1930

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS

OTHER VETERANS' & FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS' MEETING SCHEDULES

Regular Events

AmVets: Harold P. Saks Post # 118

211 N. Morton Ave., Morton, PA 19070

Meetings the first Wednesday of every month at 2000.

American Legion: Broomall Post # 805

2340 West Chester Pike, Broomall, PA

Meetings the second Wednesday of every month, at 1930.

Disabled American Veterans: Delaware County Chapter # 113

Meetings are held at the AmVets Post in Morton, PA on the second Monday of every month at 2000.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 67,

2nd Thursday every month-1930-Catholic War Veterans Post 731, 920 West Chester Pike, Havertown, PA.

Delaware County Detachment

Third Sunday of the month: Breakfast: 0800-1130, \$5.00/person. Delaware County Detachment at detachment home, Upland, PA. Every Month except: June-July-August.

M.O.D.D. "Devil Dogs" Triboro Pound # 19, Pack of Penna.

Growls (meetings) are the second Wednesday of the month at 1930. Growls are held at the Herbert W. Best Post # 928, VFW. Located at MacDade Blvd & Kendron Avenue, Folsom, PA.

Other Organizations' Events (Cont'd.)

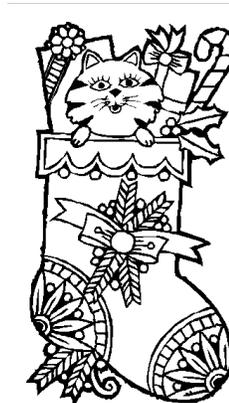
Veterans of Foreign Wars: Broomall Post # 7390

Meetings the second Thursday of the month at 1930. Meetings are held at the Marple Twp. Municipal Building., Sproul & Springfield Roads, Broomall, PA.

Knights Of Columbus: Mater Dei Council # 4129

327 N. Newtown Street Rd., Newtown Square, PA. Meetings the first Thursday of the month at 2000.

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE VAVS CHAIRMAN:



December 9,
2004, 9:00 AM –
3:30 PM –
Stocking stuffing
and sock
wrapping.

Saturday,
December 11,
2004 – Distribution
and Party -
9:00 AM –
volunteers should
report to the Great
Hall, Building #5 to

prepare for party and escort patients.

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM – volunteers will be assigned to distribute slipper socks and stockings to all wards.

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM – Mistletoe party for all patients in the Great Hall, Building #5.

Only through your support are we able to provide a meaningful holiday program for our hospital veterans. We look forward to seeing you!!!

If interested in attending any of the above events, please contact VAVS Chairman Captain Bob Matthews at 610-543-1336.



Many thanks

to Chaplain Chris Bush and all the members of the detachment who signed the card for Frank. Receiving it meant a lot to him and it is permanently displayed in his room. He is doing well at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Veterans' Home in Spring City. I, as well as our children, visit regularly, so sometimes he even has different visitors coming at different times during the same day. On November 10th the Marine Corps League detachment from Carlisle came and had a Marine Corps birthday party for the Marines at the Veterans' Home. They had a red and yellow sheet cake, cut by the oldest and the youngest Marines, which they served with cake, soda and coffee. Each Marine was presented with a gift, a lap robe, (in USMC colors) which had been knitted by one of the wives. Maybe the best part was when they went through the group, shaking hands and thanking each man for their service. I joined the group for the party, as did a couple of the other wives.

I am grateful to the Commonwealth for making such an excellent facility available to veterans and I am grateful to you for your continuing support.

Semper Fi,

Mary E. DiBonaventuro

SICK CALL



Members:

Jim Alleva,
Phil Baglivo,
Bud Bruce,
Lou Di Santis,
Tony Medaglia

Friends & Family Of Detachment:

Emma Mummah
John Moyse

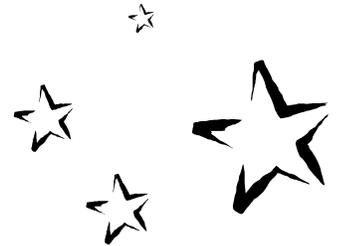
Please keep these members and family members in your prayers and make an effort to contact them and let them know you care.

Please remember to notify Chaplain Chris Bush (610.353.5569) of an illness, or of a member or family member passing away.

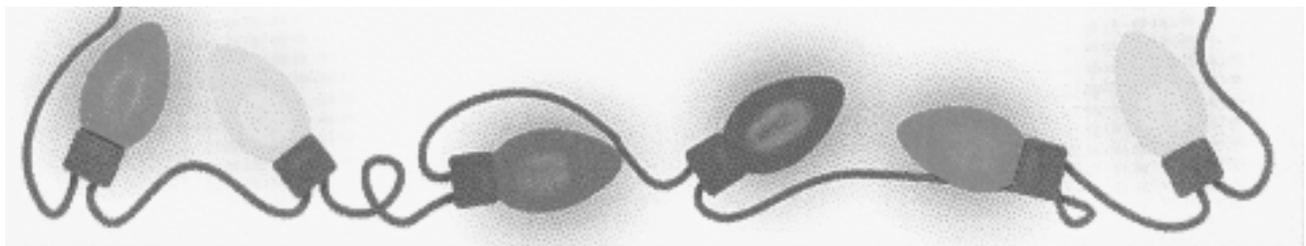
The officers and members of the Detachment say,
“Welcome to our new members!”

Charles R. Butler
610 W. Burk Ave
Wildwood NJ. 08260
609-523-1889

Matthew E. Balfrey
6347 Theodore St.
Philadelphia, PA. 19142
215-729-0399



Please add their names to your membership list.



Delaware County Young Marines, reporting as ordered, SIR!



Here is the
scuttlebutt of
what the Delco.
Young Marines
are up to.

November 21 - Folsom VFW Post 928 Holiday
Cleanup

December 12 - Upper Darby Marine Corps
League Christmas Party.

December 19 - Folsom VFW Post 928 Christmas
Party

We will also be assisting the Folsom Marines
every Saturday in December with Toys for Tots.

Semper Fi,

YMS Sgt. Timothy Dunton

Delco. Young Marines



Quotes in History

"We defend and we build a way of life, not for
America alone....but for all mankind."

--Franklin D.

Roosevelt

"Honor to the Soldier and Sailor everywhere,
who bravely bears his country's cause."

--Abraham Lincoln

~~~~submitted by Mike Horne

## VETERANS DAY PRAYER

11 November 2004, Veteran's Day Parade, Media, PA

Our Father in Heaven,  
You have called us to live in your loving care. We ask that our  
lives may be one continuing experience of Your divine  
presence and love.

We give you thanks and praise for the United States of  
America. Thank you for the blessing of peaceful transitions  
of power, for abundance, for the great heart of this American  
people who always are the first to respond to need and  
tragedy around the world. Thank you for Your sustaining  
power in the past and we ask for continued blessing in the  
future.

We give You thanksgiving for the bravery and selfless service  
of millions of Veterans who answered the nation's call to  
arms. Our Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast  
Guard protected the peace, liberated the oppressed, and  
daily make our peaceful and prosperous lives possible.  
Countless thousands gave life and limb for our freedoms, and  
far too many returned to us wounded in spirit. Lord thank  
you for their heritage and sacrifice, may we prove worth to  
receive the blessings they won. Bless our Veterans, and  
continually bring to our remembrance and understanding the  
great gift they have given this nation.

Today we are engaged in a Global War on Terror. Many  
who have fought in its campaigns are present with us today.  
More than a million men and women are now serving this  
nation around the world. We ask for You these blessings  
upon our military: honor, duty, integrity, selfless service,  
compassion, and courage. We ask for Your divine presence  
and protection for each one, especially those in harm's way.

Today, Lord, our military is invested in a great battle in the  
city of Falujah, Iraq. I ask you on behalf of the loved ones of  
this nation that You grant victory and divine protection. I ask  
that our military acquit themselves with honor and courage in  
the day of battle. That our military respect our enemies, and  
have compassion for the dignity of life as they serve in the  
profession of arms.

Lord consider their families who bear the burden of sacrifice  
while their loved one responds to the nation's call. Give  
each parent, spouse, child, loved one strength for each day  
and a knowledge of Your divine presence and protection with  
their service member. Bless them for their sacrifice, and  
grant each family success.

Finally, I pray for the unity of this nation. For the gift of  
wisdom and righteousness for our national leaders, and that  
we might enjoy the fruits of peace in our generation, bought  
with the blood of patriots.

We give You all the praise, honor and glory.

AMEN

~~~~submitted by Steve Neri

SPECIAL NOTICE

With the passing of Al Yerger on November 11th, Veterans Day, the Detachment lost a devoted member and a true Marine. He will be missed. Please remember Al in your prayers.

Bob Spano, Commandant.

For Sale

A large piece of stained glass made by Al Yerger is for sale by Betty Yerger. The price is \$125.00, which will be donated to the Detachment. If interested, see John J. V. Cook.



Lost & Found

FOUND: 1 USMC Brass Tie Clasp at the USMC Birthday Ball, Paxon Hollow Country Club - (left on the Detachment Flag & USA Flag used as backdrop for pictures) - see Bob Spano.



"Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made it the small ones."
.....Phillips Brooks

God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it."
.....Daniel Webster

"That government is best which governs least."...Henry David Thoreau

----submitted by Steve Neri

"SCUTTLEBUTT" BOOSTER CLUB



Help support our newsletter and become a member of the Booster Club!

Your \$10.00 contribution helps offset the cost of publication and postage.

We wish to thank our current boosters. With their assistance, we are able to continue our award-winning newsletter!

NOVEMBER BOOSTERS

Dot and Tom Flack, Pat and Joe Mensack, Dottie and Craig Allen, Joyce and Jim Dunlay, Carmella and Frank Turse, Paul and Carol Lutton and Joe Mealey. **Thank you boosters!**

Semper Fi

Harry Kaufman

Paymaster

If you are interested in being a "Scuttlebutt" Booster, please see Harry Kaufman.

Birthday Greetings for December

The Detachment staff sends best wishes to the following members who are celebrating a birthday this month:

John Artz,
Shannon Cassidy,
Frank D'Amico,
Thomas Doyle
Joseph Hudson,
Charles Kerrigan
Steve Neri,
William Nolan,
John Schaffhauser,
Walter Scott and
John Mahon



Happy Birthday...and many, many more!

**General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Marine
Corps League
2 November 2004
Regular Meeting**

Commandant Bob Spano called the meeting to order at 1930.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the opening prayer was read.

Commandant Bob Spano passed out copies of the meeting agenda to the membership. Copies are available.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Present were: Commandant Spano, Sr. Vice Alleva, Jr. Vice Drake, Acting Adjutant Tom Bishop, Paymaster Kaufman, Acting Judge Advocate Bob Bunce, Chaplain Bush, Sgt-At-Arms Ross, Service Officer McGinley, Director Bishop, Jr. Past Commandant Neri.

Commandant Bob Spano recognized all past commandants who were present at the meeting as well as State Commandant Tom Tanner and Dennis Morsa, Commander of the American Legion Post #805.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Joe Mensack and seconded by Earle Drake to approve the minutes as published in the Scuttlebutt. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Acting Adjutant Tom Bishop stated that a thank you was received from the Zimmerman family for honor ceremonies performed for their loved one. The Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Coatesville Medical Center, acknowledged our \$100.00 donation for five patient tickets to Veterans Week banquet. Letters of thanks were also received from the USO of PA for the \$100.00 donation from our detachment to support their activities and from All Divisions of the MCL thanking our detachment for participating in the Beirut Memorial ceremony. We received a request from the Veterans Legacy Project in Media that our detachment attend their 45th annual Veterans Day Parade. On November 7th, the Department Birthday Ball will be held at the Holiday Inn in Grantville, PA. Also, there will be a new PA MCL license plate available in the near future. More information will be sent at a later date. The Chester County Detachment has requested that the Smedley D. Butler detachment attend Marine Memorial Sunday on November 7th to honor Smedley D. Butler and other marines.

OFFICER REPORTS:

SR. VICE COMMANDANT: Jim Alleva noted that

there are still some seats available at the MCL Ball this Saturday, November 6. A photographer will be present to take pictures. Guest speaker is Capt. Sam Bakion from the Folsom Reserve Center. Also, the Christmas dinner will be held after the December meeting. All members are asked to bring an unwrapped toy. Jim reminded members that life membership dues are going up in January. He also stated that our membership is growing and he also asked that all new members see either Tom Lynch or Tom Bishop for help in assembling a uniform.

JR. VICE COMMANDANT: Earle Drake thanked all those who continually come out and volunteer their time with the Jr. troop handler wagon ticket sales. He noted that only five more dates remain to sell chances. Earle also thanked all those who obtained ads for the MCL ad book, making it a success this year. He also thanked Bob, Harry, and Steve who worked tirelessly editing the ads for the ad book. He noted that if we do not get more volunteers selling chances, getting ads, and selling tickets for the June PA lottery sales, we may have to lower our sights and our commitment. We cannot do it without more members contributing their time.

JUDGE ADVOCATE: No report.

PAYMASTER: Harry Kaufman read the monthly financial report. Copies can be obtained. A motion was made by George Boyajian and seconded by Joe Mensack to approve the monthly report. Motion passed.

CHAPLAIN: Chris Bush announced that Frank Ambrosini passed away in April, and Frank DiBonaventuro is in the hospital.

SGT-AT-ARMS: Jim Ross - no report.

SERVICE OFFICER: Connie McGinley - no report.

DIRECTOR: Tom Bishop – no report.

JR. PAST COMMANDANT: Steve Neri – no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Adopt-A-Highway: Dave Brimble stated that the next cleanup is on November 14 at 0900. Those helping will meet at Bishop Hollow Road.

Americanism: In October, four schools were visited. The program reached approximately over 345 children.

Ceremonies: George VanDusen stated that there have been 204 Honor Guard ceremonies to date. The Color Guard participated in the Beirut Memorial ceremony at Penn's Landing. The Color Guard has

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also been requested to attend the Veterans Day Parade at Coatesville on November 5th.

Quartermaster (Locker Box): Tom Lynch stated that Ben Sides is assisting him with the locker box, and there are consignment items for sale.

V.A.V.S.: No bingo will be held in the month of November.

Home Association and Meetings: Tom Kerrigan stated that there is no smoking allowed inside the Knights of Columbus facility.

Toys for Tots: Tom Kerrigan reported that the Toys for Tots barrels will be available next week for placement in sponsoring facilities. Volunteers are always needed to help with this program, e.g., placement of barrels, pick up toys, etc.

Historian: John Cook asked for old photos from members for the history book.

Scouting: Two events for Eagle Scout presentations were held.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: State Commandant Tom Tanner stated that new MCL license plates are in the works. Also, Marines Helping Marines - the state of Maryland seeks donations to help the families of wounded marines in the hospital at Bethesda. Motion was made by Harry Kaufman that the detachment donate \$100.00 to the Marines Helping Marines program in Maryland. Motion was seconded by Bernie McGinley. Motion passed.

Jr. Past Steve Neri held second nominations for officers for the year 2005: Commandant – Bob Spano; Sr. Vice – Jim Alleva; Jr. Vice – Earle Drake; Adjutant – Mike Horne; Paymaster – Harry Kaufman; Judge Advocate – Dan Luty; Sgt.-at-Arms – Jim Ross; Chaplain – Chris Bush; Service Officer – Connie McGinley; Directors – Rick VanLuvender, Tom Bishop, Bob Stanton, and Paul Donohue Motion was made by Harry Kaufman to close nominations until the next meeting; motion was passed by membership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Montgomery County MCL is helping with donations of clothing and supplies to be given to Ramstein AFB and needs assistance. Bob Stanton thanked our detachment for our donation to the Folsom Marines Welcome Home Party. There will be a playground dedication in the future. More information to follow. On December 8th, there will be a coffee/cake party at IHS nursing home at 7:00 PM.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: Hallmark Channel will be airing a documentary on Four Chaplains on Wednesday November 10.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Bishop for Mike Horne, Adjutant.

~~~~~  
The 50/50 winner was Dennis Morsa.  
45 members signed in the log book on 11/2/04.



**Guidelines for Submission of Articles & Photos for inclusion in "Scuttlebutt"**

- All submissions must be received by the editor no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for the upcoming issue.
- The preferred format for written articles is a computer file (such as MS Word, or an email). Non-computer files will be considered and included in Scuttlebutt only if the editor is able to transcribe the article in a timely matter for publication.
- The preferred format for photos is digital in a high resolution JPG file (other file formats will also be considered). Traditional photos may be submitted as well, and will be included only if the editor is able to scan the photo in a timely matter for publication.
- All submissions must be the original work of the person submitting the piece. If the submitter is not the author of the work, the submitter should obtain permission from the author and submit that as well. No copyrighted materials can be used without permission from the appropriate parties.
- The editor reserves the right to include or exclude submissions as necessary according to these guidelines and as space in the publication dictates.
- Items may be submitted to the editor via email to sandi@lancasterpa.net

Next Regular Meeting is:  
December 7, 2004  
1900 hrs.  
Knights of Columbus  
327 N. Newtown Street Rd.  
(Route 252)  
Newtown Square, PA

# Season's Greetings



## **Marine Corps League**

Smedley D. Butler Detachment  
P.O. Box 184  
Newtown Square, PA 19073-0184

*"I Pledge Allegiance"*