



Scuttlebutt



General Smedley D. Butler Detachment

Incorporated 1991

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Dan Luty, editor
dan.luty@genbutlerdet.org

Commandant's Report February 2016

I would like to say that I am extremely honored to have been elected as the Commandant of the General Smedley D. Butler Detachment of the Marine Corps League. With the help of my fellow officers and chairmen, I will do my best to continue the excellent traditions of our Detachment. I would like to thank all the officers and chairmen of the Detachment who have "stepped up" to take on the responsibilities of their posts. I am sure that they will all do an excellent job.

My work as Commandant began immediately after I was sworn in as Commandant. I had the honor and privilege of swearing in our newest member, John Griffis. John informed me that he planned to be an active member of the Detachment. Welcome aboard, John.

Recently I had the pleasure of hearing that one of our newer members, Jim Flynn, has "stepped up" and will take over the position of chairman of the Adopt-a-Highway Program. Thank you, Jim, and I am sure that you will do a great job in your new position. Thanks go out to John Burfete for his great work as the Adopt-a-Highway chairman over the past several years.

Speaking of "stepping up," Ben Sides will be stepping down as the chairman of the Honor Guard. Our thanks go out to Ben for his diligent service over many, many years. Needless to say, we will need someone to "step up" and take over Ben's place as chairman of the Honor Guard program. This is a much needed program which honors our veterans as they are laid to rest. We need a dedicated member to "step up" and help our Detachment continue this very important program.

Every year the DELCO Detachment hosts a luncheon to honor the Iwo Jima veterans from all 3 of the Detachments in Delaware County. The date for this year's luncheon is 21 February and will start at 1300. There is no cost to attend and it is a great event, so please come on out.

Semper Fi,

Dominic D'Alessandro
Commandant

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"SCUTTLEBUTT" BOOSTER CLUB



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

Any monetary contribution helps offset the cost of publication and mailing. We wish to thank our current boosters. With their assistance, we are able to continue our **award-winning** newsletter!

FEBRUARY BOOSTERS

- Bud Davis
- Joe Direso
- Rosemarie & Tony Fusto
- Jack Kelly
- Florence & Bob Spano
- Hank Velardi

Thank you boosters!

Bob Spano
Paymaster

If you are interested in being a "Scuttlebutt" Booster, please see Bob Spano.

Birthday Greetings for February

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

- Joseph Beal
- James Clark
- James Constien
- Harry Deaner
- James Dunlap
- Jeffrey Elliot
- Roger Godfrey
- R. Stewart Hughes
- John Keevill
- John Kelly
- William McCoy
- Robert McLaughlin
- Bob Spano
- H. Weston Tomlinson



Happy Birthday...and many, many more!

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Officers

Commandant	Dominic D'Alessandro
Sr. Vice Commandant	Dominick Mattioni
Jr. Vice Commandant	Jack McLeod
Adjutant	Jack Kelly
Paymaster	Bob Spano
Judge Advocate	Bernie McGinley
Sergeant-At-Arms	Charles (Bud) Davis
Chaplain	Christopher Bush
Service Officer	Jim Herbst
Director	Bill Kinney
Director	Roger Godfrey
Director	Paul Donohue
Jr. Past Commandant	Paul Ferguson

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Committee Chairmen

Adopt-A-Highway	Jim Flynn
Americanism Team	J.Mulhern, E. Drake, D. Fitzpatrick
Auxiliary Liaison	Tony Fusto
Awards	James Herbst
Ceremonies	Charles (Bud) Davis
Color Guard	Wayne Williams
Flag Collection	Dominic D'Alessandro
Historian	Jack Gallagher
Home Association	Tom Kerrigan
Honor Guard	OPEN
Honor Guard Assistant	Mike Milliken
Locker Box	Paul Ferguson
Marksmanship	Gene Kern
Membership	James Herbst
Newsletter (Scuttlebutt)	Dan Luty
Newtown Twp Vets Park	Bill Kinney
Nominations	Paul Ferguson
Property	Bob Spano
Communications	John Burfete
Scholarships	Wayne Williams
Scouting	John Gingras/Ed Seidl
Toys-For-Tots	Dan Luty
V.A.V.S.	Con McGinley
Young Marines	GySgt Melendrez and Dan Luty
Web Master	Dan Luty

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

General & Healthcare Benefits

VA Hotline	800-827-1000
Veterans' Healthcare	877-222-8387
Education	888-442-4551
Grave Markers	800-697-6947
Life Insurance	800-669-8477
Website	www.va.gov

Looking Ahead

DETACHMENT EVENTS

February

- 2 General Meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall, start time 1930.
- 11 VAVS Bingo @ Coatesville, VA Center. Contact Jim Herbst for information.
- 13 VAVS Valentines Party @ Coatesville, VA Center, 1300. Contact Jim Herbst for information.
- 21 Luncheon to honor our IWO JIMA Vets. DELCO Det home in Upland. Starts at 1300.
- 23 Staff Meeting at Broomall American Legion Post 805, start time 1930.

March

- 1 General Meeting, Knights of Columbus Hall, 1930.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS

OTHER VETERANS' & FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS' REGULAR EVENTS

AmVets: Harold P. Saks Post #118, 211 N. Morton Ave., Morton, PA 19070. Meetings the first Wednesday of every month at 1930.

American Legion: Broomall Post #805, 2340 West Chester Pike, Broomall, PA. Meetings the second Wednesday of every month, at 1930.

American Legion Nunan-Slook Post #338, Meets the second Tuesday at 7:00 PM of every month at the corner of Ralston & Graslynn Avenues, Havertown, PA.

Upper Darby Detachment #884 MCL, 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2000, 1026 Providence Rd. Secane, Pa. 19018

Disabled American Veterans, Delaware County Chapter 113, meets the second Monday of the month at 7:30PM. Meetings are held at the Nunan-Slook American Legion Post #338. The Post is located at the corner of Ralston & Graslynn Avenues in Havertown, PA.

Other Organizations' Events (Cont'd.)

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 67, AmVets, Harold P. Saks Post #118, 211 N. Morton Ave. in Morton, PA meeting is 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 PM - no meetings July or August.

Delaware County Detachment MCL, Third Sunday of the month: Breakfast: 0800-1130, \$10.00/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. and Sutton Avenue, Folsom, PA.

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.

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Herbert W. Best Post # 928, Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month except in September, it will be the day after Labor Day, the 2nd (Tuesday and the 3rd Monday) Meetings are held at Herbert W. Best Post # 928, VFW, MacDade Blvd. and Sutton Avenue, Folsom, 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.

SICK CALL

Frank Grieser
Joe Mensack

Wes Tomlinson

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

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment #741

Marine Corps League

General Meeting Minutes – 5 January 2015

Commandant: Commandant Paul Ferguson opened the meeting at 1930 and the regular opening ceremonies were conducted. Officers present were Commandant Paul Ferguson, Sr. Vice Commandant Dominic D'Alessandro, Jr. Vice Commandant Jack McLeod, Adjutant Jack Kelly, Chaplain Chris Bush, Sergeant-at-Arms Charles (Bud) Davis, Service Officer Con McGinley, Director Paul Donohue, Director Bill Kinney, Director Ed Seidl, and Jr. Past Commandant Jim Herbst.

Minutes: Jim Herbst made a motion to accept the minutes of the 1 December 2015 general meeting as published in the *Scuttlebutt*. Bud Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Commandant: Paul Ferguson thanked the officers, committee chairmen, and the general membership for their assistance to him during his time as Commandant. He indicated that it had been a pleasure to serve and he thanked all who contributed to the Detachment. Paul Ferguson also mentioned that the Liberty USO at the Philadelphia International Airport, where he and some other members volunteer, had more than 80,000 troops served there during 2015. He mentioned how our Detachment's monthly contributions of \$2,000.00 are used, and he also thanked the Detachment membership for an extra donation of \$2,400.00 before the Christmas season for providing \$200.00 each to twelve families in need.

Jr. Vice Commandant: Jack McLeod provided a complete report of his activity during 2015. In the "Help Our Heroes" Campaign, members share information with potential contributors regarding the financial challenges faced by wounded troops, needy veterans, and their families. We received contributions of \$15,841.00 versus a budget of \$10,000.00. In the Birthday Ball Program Ad Solicitation campaign, a total of \$5,665.00 has been collected against an anticipated budget amount of \$5,000.00. In the "Help Us Help Others" (HUHO) Campaign, a rounded official total of \$157,000.00 was received from area shoppers, versus an earlier estimate of \$172,000.00. This total was received from activity at sixteen store sites, and two Wawa stores, during thirty-four weekends. Thirty-eight members, Auxiliary members, and some Detachment friends were among those soliciting funds from area shoppers. Jack McLeod read the names of those who participated in this activity. He mentioned that starting with a total of \$13,000.00 collected in the year 2006, our successful campaigns over the years have resulted in a grand total of \$970,000.00 collected in the Help Us Help Others Campaign. Jack McLeod mentioned how these funds are used and how important the effort is to those organizations and individual families who receive these funds. Jack McLeod received a round of applause for his report, and he closed his report with a prayer of thanks to God for the bounty received and the wisdom in using it wisely.

Chaplain: Chris Bush reported that Bill Mullen and Frank Reiser were in the hospital. Chris Bush mentioned that members could visit them if they desired to do so.

Service Officer: Con McGinley mentioned that he had no report, other than he was retiring from his position. His years of service as the Service Officer are appreciated.

Adjutant: Jack Kelly reported that letters of thanks for donations made by the Detachment had been received from a number of organizations. Letters of thanks had been received from the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in Lakehurst, NJ, from the Homes for Our Troops in Taunton, MA, from the Fisher House Foundation in Rockville, MD, from the Liberty USO in Philadelphia, PA, and from the Semper Fi Fund, in Oceanside, CA. In addition, the Detachment received two letters of appreciation from the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association for the Detachment's support and contributions to the Association's Second Annual Freedom Medal Award Dinner held in November 2015. In addition, a letter of thanks for a donation was received from the Marple Newtown Recreation Center. Finally, a card of thanks was received from Eagle Scout Barton Tucker, from Woodlyn Troop #43, thanking the Detachment for the recognition bestowed upon him during his recent Eagle Scout ceremony. The card was shared with Ed Seidl, Eagle Scout Co-chair.

Director Seidl: Ed Seidl did not have a report as a Director, but in his role as Eagle Scout Co-Chairman, he reported that there were four Eagle Scout ceremonies during the month of December 2015. He will be preparing a final report for the year.

Director Kinney: Bill Kinney mentioned that the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association's Second Annual Freedom Medal Award Dinner was a successful evening, with total receipts of over \$105,000.00, with a net of around \$70,000.00. In addition, Bill Kinney mentioned that he has taken on the responsibility of lowering the flags at the Memorial site on certain occasions but he asked for several volunteers to assist him. Bill Kinney indicated that he would continue to be the main contact person, but he asked for several other volunteers to be available in case he was not available on a given day. Anyone interested in serving in this capacity should contact Bill Kinney.

Junior Past Commandant: Jim Herbst mentioned that if any committee chairmen had not submitted a list of names of members to be recognized, to please do so right away. Members should be recognized for their contributions to the Detachment during 2015, and the necessary certificates need to be prepared before the February general meeting. Jim Herbst also mentioned that a new member would be joining the Detachment later in the meeting, and Jim Herbst emphasized the importance of getting new members into the Detachment.

Paymaster: Since Bob Spano was in Florida, Jack Kelly reviewed Bob Spano's paymaster report as of 31 December 2015. Income and expenses were briefly noted, and the suggested organizations for donations were mentioned. These organizations were to be considered for donations later in the meeting. George Boyajian made a motion to accept the paymaster's report as received. Bud Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Marine of the Year for 2015: The three most recent men elected as the Detachment's Marines of the Year were called on to present the Marine of the Year award for 2015. Jack Kelly, Ben Sides, and Jim Herbst awarded the 2015 Marine of the Year award, as elected by the membership at the December general meeting, to Dominic D'Alessandro. A round of applause followed the announcement. A plaque prepared by Con McGinley was awarded to Dominic D'Alessandro, and several other items will be presented later.

Committee Reports:

Honor Guard: Ben Sides mentioned that the total number of military funerals for deceased veterans serviced by the Honor Guard in 2015

was one hundred sixty (160). Two more were scheduled for the current week. Ben Sides also mentioned that as off the end on the month of January, he would be stepping down as the Honor Guard chairman. A volunteer needs to step up and take over this responsibility. This includes making the contact of Honor Guard members, storing rifles, and storing equipment for the Honor Guard. Commandant Paul Ferguson thanked Ben Sides for his years of service as the Honor Guard chairman.

Color Guard: Wayne Williams reported that the Color Guard had participated in two events recently. The first was the annual Christmas party for the National Realty Corporation of Claude de Bottone, where the Color Guard presented the Colors and assisted with the toys that the company contributed to the Toys for Tots program. The second event was the presentation of the Colors and the recognition of the POW/MIA chair at Cardinal O'Hara High School before a school basketball game. Three O'Hara alumni who were killed in action were also remembered.

Scholarships: Wayne Williams mentioned that he has the application forms available for the Detachment's scholarship program. Those individuals who have eligible relatives for the scholarship program could see Wayne Williams after the meeting to obtain the application form. Application forms for the Department (state) and National scholarship programs will be available at a later date.

Young Marines: Dan Luty mentioned that he had had a discussion with Gunnery Sergeant Jesus Melendrez at the Folsom Reserve Center, and it was mentioned that the Young Marines program is in danger of not being able to continue. A person who had been actively involved in the program is no longer involved, and a replacement has not been found. Dan Luty mentioned that a need is there for a volunteer to step up and assist with this program.

New Business:

Charitable Contributions: Paul Ferguson reviewed the list of organizations being suggested for donations this month. These organizations had been reviewed by the Detachment officers at a recent officers' staff meeting and were being suggested to the membership for consideration. George Boyajian made a motion to donate the funds as outlined on the back of the meeting agenda. The organizations and the amounts to be donated in parentheses are: (1) Fisher House Foundation, Rockville, MD (\$2,000.00); (2) The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, Oceanside, CA (\$2,000.00); (3) Operation First Response, Culpeper, VA (\$2,000.00); (4) The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service and Education Center, Philadelphia, PA (\$2,000.00); and (5) The USO, Philadelphia International Airport, Philadelphia, PA (\$2,000.00). Jack Gallagher seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Installation of Officers for 2016: Paul Ferguson introduced Dan Murray, District One Vice Commandant, to conduct the installation of the Detachment's officers for the 2016 year. He was assisted by George Souder, Commandant of the Upper Darby Detachment, and by Earle Drake, who served as Chaplain for the installation ceremony. The officers who were sworn in as officers for 2016 were Commandant Dominic D'Alessandro, Sr. Vice Commandant Dominick Mattioni, Jr. Vice Commandant Jack McLeod, Adjutant Jack Kelly, Chaplain Chris Bush, Sergeant-at-Arms Charles (Bud) Davis, Service Officer Jim Herbst, Director Paul Donohue, Director Roger Godfrey, and Director Bill Kinney. Since Judge Advocate-elect Bernie McGinley and Paymaster-elect Bob Spano were not present, they will be sworn in at a later date.

After the officers were sworn in, District One Vice Commandant Dan Murray then had a separate challenge for Commandant Dominic D'Alessandro. The officers were declared "duly sworn into office" and Dan Murray congratulated the officers.

District One Vice Commandant Dan Murray provided some additional information to the Detachment members. He mentioned that National Headquarters is still in the process of getting some internal problems cleared up, but they have come a long way from where things had been. He mentioned that ninety-nine per cent of the problems have been cleaned up and the ship's store is now open once again. He also mentioned that National Headquarters has set a goal to get 8,000 new members in the Marine Corps League this year. Dan Murray also asked the Detachment to send at least two or three members to the District and Department meetings that are held throughout the year. He thanked the Detachment for the invitation to be part of the installation ceremony this year.

New Member Installation: Since Dominic D'Alessandro had been installed as the new commandant, his first order of business was the installation of a new member. Jim Herbst introduced a potential new member as John Griffis of Media, PA. He had served in the Marine Corps as a helicopter mechanic. Dan Luty made a motion to accept John Griffis as a regular member of the Detachment. Tom Kerrigan seconded the motion and the motion passed. Commandant Dominic D'Alessandro then administered the oath of membership to John Griffis, and he was accepted into membership as a regular member of the Detachment.

Good of the League: No items were brought up in the Good of the League category.

George Boyajian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Ferguson seconded the motion and the motion passed. After the regular closing ceremonies, the meeting was adjourned at 2040. Paul Donohue won the 50/50. Thirty-five members signed the logbook.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Kelly
Adjutant



Trove of Marine Corps films from 1930s-1970s to be preserved

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Never-before-seen films of Marines ramming artillery shells into large guns on the beaches of Iwo Jima in 1945 and standing amid sandbags during the 1968 siege of Khe Sanh in Vietnam are part of a vast collection of silent, color footage being repaired, preserved and eventually placed online for all to see.

The Marine Corps is sending the rare stockpile of films to specialists in South Carolina. Some of the images have been in storage for 70 years and offer viewers a gritty "you-were-there" view of military life. Most films were not even seen by the combat photographers who shot them with hand-held cameras from the late 1930s through World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Marine Corps historian Thomas Baughn, who manages the film repository at the Marine Corps University at Quantico, Virginia, said it's important the unique "Leatherneck legacy" not crumble away. Understanding the history and tradition of the Marine Corps is an important part of each Marine's ethos, the historian said.

"It's some pretty powerful footage," Baughn said in a telephone interview.

The films depict storied events such as Marines wading through the tide at Guadalcanal, the wounded being evacuated from Iwo Jima and Marines tramping single-file through the hillsides after the Chinese tried to wipe out the 1st Marine Division at the Chosin Reservoir.

It is a large stockpile, about the 16,000 reels of 16 mm and 35 mm films, which amounts to about 2,000 hours.

The historian said the Marines had to look outside the government to preserve the old films because they didn't have the capability - or money - to do it on their own. Copies of a small portion of the films have been sent to the National Archives for historical purposes, he said.

"We want to turn this into an all-digital archive, that's the end game," Baughn said.

Baughn said he knew specialists at the University of South Carolina had years of experience in film restoration. Also, South Carolina's Moving Image Research Collection is part of the school's library system, so its specialists know how to organize, catalog and digitize films, and prepare them for researchers to study.

In late December, the first large cache of 300 reels of the films arrived at the offices of Greg Wilsbacher, director of the film unit at the university.

It may take years to achieve the preservation goal because the process can be lengthy and labor-intensive, said Wilsbacher.

"It's a big mission, but South Carolina is eager to take it on because there is such strong support for the Marine Corps here in the state," the movie specialist said.

Half of all new male Marines — and all female Marines — undergo basic training at the Marine Corps Recruit Training Depot at Parris Island in the southern tip of the state. And the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort is home to several squadrons of Marine fighter squadrons.

The films will be transformed into high-definition, which offers a depth of color and detail that was unable to be seen years ago, Wilsbacher said.

The average person could find some scenes jarring.

"Seeing men in amphibious assault vehicles, moving forward and knowing in the context that some of the Marines you see will not live to come home, can be a difficult viewing experience," Wilsbacher said.

Much work needs to be done to bring the archive to the public.

For example, a special cold-storage vault must be constructed to store the film at 45 degrees Fahrenheit and 35 percent humidity, because the older film can be harmed by high temperatures and damp conditions, Wilsbacher said. The vault should be about 2,100 square feet, or about half a basketball court.

Fielding Freed, who served in the Corps from 1983 to 1987 and was given a preview of some of the films, said he realized the impact they might have after he read a name on the uniform of a Marine shown directing traffic in Vietnam.

"How great is that going to be for his family, his great-grandchildren and grandchildren, to identify that man there on that beach?" Freed said.

Source: Stars and Stripes

By: Susanne M. Schafer

Associated Press





Marine of the Year Awarded to Dominic D'alessandro



Swearing in new Member John Griffis



Installation of new Officers



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Smedley D. Butler Detachment

P.O. Box 184

Newtown Square, PA19073-0184



Honor-Courage-Commitment



Next Meeting

2 February, 2016 @ 1930

Knights of Columbus

327 N. Newtown Street Rd.

(Route 252)

Newtown Square, PA 19073