

# Scuttlebutt



**General Smedley D. Butler Detachment**

1914 1915



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Commandant Steve Neri • 610.853.8717

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Sandra Mauer, editor

February 2003

## Commandant's Message February 2003

One of the factors that sets our American way of life apart from so many others is the great tradition of volunteerism. We may not think of it as we go about our daily routines, but it contributes so much to the lives of so many. From those who volunteer at our local hospital and nursing homes to the emergency services personnel whose very presence can make the difference in life or death situations. Just think of all the meaningful charitable fundraising that could not exist without the efforts of these volunteers.

Volunteerism has been the subject of speeches by a number of our Presidents who recognize the need for and the rewards of this great American tradition. You

can see the results everywhere, from the discovery of cures for terrible disease to the appreciative smile of a senior citizen at a nursing home who has just had a visit from a volunteer.

Many of us in this Detachment have experienced the personal reward of seeing the results of our efforts - the grateful smile and thank you of a Vet in a VA Hospital for our VAVS team's visit, or the bright-eyed smile of a schoolchild for the presentation made by our Americanism team, and the appreciation and admiration of a Veteran's family for our Military Funerals Honor Guard. These are but a few of the many community services our volunteers provide. They are all equally important and deeply appreciated by the community, but, like all volunteer-based programs, if they are to continue to be successful they must have an ongoing influx of new people. I urge every member to volunteer your services to at least one of our many programs. You will be forever thankful that you did.

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**Semper Fi,  
Stephen D. Neri  
Commandant**



# Commandant's Report

As, we start our thirteenth year I would like to take a quick look back over our brief but colorful history.

This Detachment was born from a handful of Marines whose first meetings were held in a local restaurant and who had minimal knowledge of how to organize and finance a Marine Corps League detachment. Through dedication, perseverance and determination, this small band earned their charter. From this humble start and a questionable first year, those Marines developed a solid foundation and a brotherhood that would ensure the growth and success of this great detachment.

Over the last twelve years we have had consistent growth and retention in our membership and an ever expanding number of programs for both Veterans and Community. We have received more than our share of both State and National awards in a variety of categories, all of which is due to the support and dedication of you, the membership.

Let us pledge ourselves to continue those ideas of brotherhood and community service which have earned us the reputation of being one the premier detachments in the Marine Corps League.

Our staff, along with the President and Officers of the Home Association of the Knights of Columbus are working on a proposal to construct an addition to the rear of the building. This addition would give us the needed room to combine all of our real property in one central location. It would enable us to have all of possessions organized and properly stored. Also, we would have our many awards and trophies available for display at our meetings and socials. This will be a joint effort by the detachment and the Knights; the cost to us will be approximately \$ 3,000, which we can schedule into this upcoming budget. We have an architect/engineer drawing the blueprints, which will be available for everyone to review soon. The staff and I are unanimously behind this idea. I would urge the membership to give this your full support; the benefits to the detachment far outweigh the cost and the effort.

*SEMPER FI,*

## Stephen D. Neri

*HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS*



## *Facts in History*

### ***Ranks and Monthly Pay for the Marine Corps – 1798***

Major	\$50.00 and 4 rations
Captain -	\$40.00 and 3 rations
First Lieutenant	\$30.00 and 3 rations
Second Lieutenant	\$25.00 and 2 rations
Sgt. Major	\$10.00
Drum Major: fife major	\$9.00
Sergeant	\$9.00
Corporal	\$8.00
Fifers and Drummers	\$7.00
Private	\$6.00



# Looking Ahead

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## DETACHMENT EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

- 04 General Meeting-1930-Knights of Columbus Hall
- 14 Valentine's Day Party-1900-Coatesville VA Hospital
- 17 VAVS Bingo Party-1900-Coatesville VA Hospital
- 25 Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting-1930-AL Post 805

### MARCH

- 04 General Meeting-1930-Knights of Columbus Hall
- 10 VAVS Bingo Party-1900-Coatesville VA Hospital
- 17 St. Patrick's Day Party-1900-Coatesville VA Hospital
- 25 Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting-1930-AL Post 805

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## 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 W. 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 Pk. Havertown, PA.

##### Delaware County Detachment

Breakfast, 3rd Sunday every month

Det. Home, Upland, PA.

##### 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 in Folsom, PA.

## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' SCHEDULES (CONTINUED)

### Veterans of Foreign Wars: Broomall Post # 7390

Meetings the second Thursday of the month 1930. Meetings are held at the Marple Twp. Municipal Bldg. Sproul & Springfield Rds. 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.

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

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

- 14 Valentine's Day Dance & Dinner  
1900-2300 hrs., \$25.00 per person,  
Knights of Columbus  
Call: Warren Iredell at 610.356.6540
- 22 Yankee pot roast dinner  
1800-2000 hrs., Delaware County  
Detachment, Upland, PA  
\$8.00 per person, All you can eat!

### MARCH

- 15 St. Patrick's Day Irish stew dinner  
1800-2000 hrs. Delaware County  
Detachment, Upland, PA  
\$8.00 per person
- 15 St. Patrick's Day Dinner dance  
1930-2330 hrs.  
Knights of Columbus  
Call Armand Ruggeri at 610.449.8920



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GEN. SMEDLEY D. BUTLER DETACHMENT

MEETING SCHEDULE, 2003

JANUARY:

07: General Meeting-Installation of Officers - Awards Ceremony  
28: Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting

FEBRUARY:

04: General Meeting - Presentation & Approval of Annual Budget  
25: Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting

MARCH:

04: General Meeting - Daily Lottery Tickets Distributed  
25: Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting

APRIL:

01: General Meeting - Request for Detachment Scholarships  
29: Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting

MAY:

06: General Meeting - Collection of Daily Lottery Tickets & Monies  
27: Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting

JUNE:

03: General Meeting - Spring Dinner - Det. Scholarship Awards  
24: Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting

JULY:

01: General Meeting - Distribution of Program AD Book Solicitation Forms  
29: Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting

AUGUST:

05: General Meeting  
26: Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting

SEPTEMBER:

02: General Meeting - Sale of Marine Corps Ball Tickets  
30: Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting

OCTOBER:

07: General Meeting- Collection Program Book Ads & Monies  
1st Nomination's for Elections  
28: Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting

NOVEMBER:

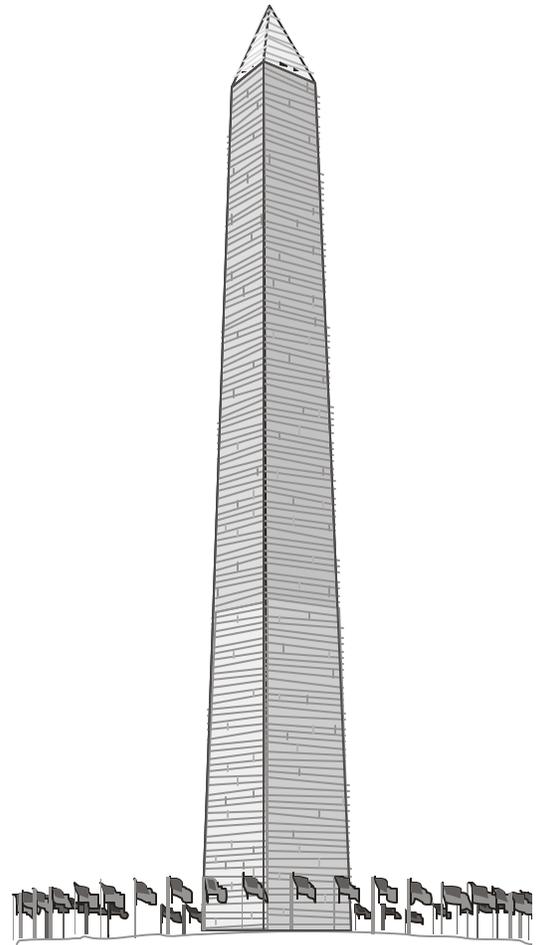
04: General Meeting - 2nd Nomination's for Elections  
25: Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting - Nomination's for MOY

DECEMBER:

02: General Meeting - Elections of Officers, MOY & Christmas Party  
Drawing for "Jr. Troop Handler" wagon.  
19: Staff Officers & Chairmen's Meeting - Annual Christmas Dinner

***NOTE: Request for Applications for Department Scholarships must be made between February, 1st & April, 30th & completed & returned by May, 31st.***

***NOTE: "Jr. Troop Handler" activities begin Saturday, June 28th, 2003.***



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## TRIVIA AND MORE

### WHAT YOU KNOW AND THINK YOU KNOW!

1. What was the only battleship to be present at both Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 and at the D-Day invasion, June 6, 1944?
2. Which of the U. S. service academies was the first to admit women?
3. What did the letters SHA-ZAM represent in the Captain Marvel comics?
4. What writer was expelled from West Point for showing up for public parade wearing only a white belt and gloves?
5. Who was the first American sports figure to earn one million dollars?
6. What car did TV's Archie Bunker recall fondly in "Those Were The Days", the theme song of "All in the Family"?
7. What is the meaning of Kemu Sabe - the words Tonto used to address the Lone Ranger?
8. What essential piece of office equipment did Johann Vaalar invent in 1900?
9. What did the first vending machines in the U. S. dispense?
10. What department store chain marketed its own car in 1952 and 1953?

### **ANSWERS NEXT ISSUE.**

*submitted by Harry Kaufman, PC*



## Delaware County Young Marines, reporting as ordered!



Here is an update of upcoming events, deployments and a soundoff from the unit.

On 22 Jan., 2003, we will have our next drill at Folsom Reserve Center at 18:30. If you know of any potential recruits, 8-18, send them out.

On 29 Jan., 2003, we will have our swim qualification where combat/survival swimming will be demonstrated and Young Marines will be evaluated on their skills in the water.

We may have upcoming cold weather deployments, pending scheduling of other events.

We would like to thank the Marine Corps League for their awards that were awarded to us on 8 Jan. at our drill. The Delaware County Young Marines are proud to be able to help, assist and be a part of the Marine Corps League in a way. OOH-RAH, MARINES!

That is all for now. Semper Fi, and carry on.

*Gunnery Sergeant Wayne Williams*  
**Delaware County Young Marines**  
**Semper Fidelis**

### **Answers to last month's trivia...**

1. Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe, published in 1852.
2. Ty Cobb
3. Baseball All-star Game, American League beat National League 4-2.
4. General John J. Persing
5. Richard M. Nixon served free hamburgers and Australian beer to flight crews.
6. Timekeeping at a football game.
7. A cold cream removed.
8. As an "esteemed brain tonic and intellectual beverage".
9. Thomas Paine
10. X is the Greek letter "chi", the first letter of Christ's name written in Greek. It has been a symbol for Christmas since the middle ages.

# SEMPER FIDELIS, MARINE

by *Oliver North*

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- One of the great blessings of my life is to have spent much of it hanging around with heroes. A good number of them have been close friends. Last week, one of those hero-friends, World War II Marine air ace Joe Foss, departed this veil of tears to be with his Maker. Those of us who knew and loved this remarkable man miss him dearly. But the parade through the "Pearly Gates" had to be a doozy.

Like all Marines, I'd learned about the heroic feats of Joe Foss during the battle for Guadalcanal -- the first U.S. offensive of World War II. But when I met him in 1989 -- we were both speakers at a business seminar -- I was prepared for the legend, not the man. In place of braggadocio, there was self-deprecating humor and modesty. Rather than claims of courage, he testified to his faith. Instead of crediting his own proficiency in knocking down 26 enemy planes in 44 days of aerial combat, he spoke of the skill of his fellow pilots -- and the hand of God in their victories.

He captivated the audience -- and when we finished, hard-nosed businessmen and women waited patiently for his autograph. At the time, he was also president of the National Rifle Association. I think most of the crowd became members that day. I did.

In the years afterward, I learned much more about and from this man who was never given to half-steps or uncertainty. Like many of his generation, the Great Depression had not treated him kindly. After his dad died, he dropped out of college to help his mom make ends meet on their South Dakota farm. When he finally graduated in 1940, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve as an aviation cadet.

After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, he persevered over the bureaucrats who had told him that he was too old -- at 27 -- to be a fighter pilot. Ten months later, on Oct. 9, 1942, as executive officer of Marine Fighting Squadron VMF-121, he landed his F4F Wildcat on the dirt strip called Henderson Field on embattled Guadalcanal. By Nov. 19, he had downed 23 enemy aircraft.

After recuperating from malaria and wounds in New Caledonia and Australia, Joe returned to the "Cactus Air Force" on Guadalcanal on New Year's Day 1943. On Jan. 15, he shot down three more Japanese planes -- bringing his total to 26 -- matching Eddie Rickenbacker's record in World War I. Together, the pilots in his flight -- calling themselves "Foss's Flying Circus" -- bagged 72 enemy aircraft in the skies over and around Guadalcanal.

With the Japanese in retreat, Joe was ordered back to the United States, awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor (he had already received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star and the Purple Heart) and dispatched on a cross-country war bond tour. His photo on the cover of Life magazine was captioned, "America's No. 1 Ace." All this

adulation might have been an ego trip for some, but when I asked him about it, he chuckled and called it a "dancing bear act."

Had he done nothing more in life, Joe Foss would already have been a legend. But he was just getting started. After the war, he helped organize the South Dakota Air National Guard and returned to active duty during the Korean War. He was elected to the South Dakota state legislature and two terms as governor. Never one to shy away from controversy, Joe was elected the first commissioner of the American Football League, advocated a "Super Bowl" and went on to become the president of the National Rifle Association.

I once asked Joe what motivated him in this remarkable career. His answer: "The good Lord gave me certain gifts and talents -- just like He does for all of us. He gave me good eyes. That's why I was a good pilot. It would have been wrong for me not to use those gifts. The challenge is to use them for good. I hope I have."

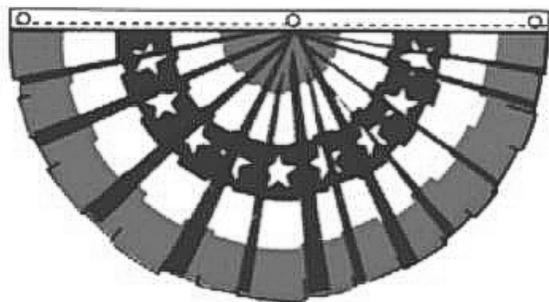
Joe Foss also had the ability to discern what wasn't so good. In 1956, he turned down \$750,000 for the screen rights to his story (he was to have been played by his friend John Wayne) because the movie script added a fictional romantic subplot. Joe wouldn't have anything to do with it. He was the real thing: unadorned, unaffected and unequivocal -- a man who loved his country and answered her call, simply because it was the right thing to do.

A few weeks before the stroke that claimed him, I interviewed Joe for my Fox News Channel show, "War Stories." En route to New York for the taping, a young airport security guard tried to seize Joe's Medal of Honor because he thought it could be used as a weapon. "And that wasn't the worst of it," Joe objected. "The kid didn't even know what it was!"

Well, if Joe Foss has his way, there won't be many more youngsters in America who don't know what a Medal of Honor is. Last year, Joe, his lovely wife Donna (Didi) and a handful of friends established the Joe Foss Institute to help veterans take the message of America's heroic history, patriotism and defense of freedom to our nation's schoolchildren. The Institute will officially launch on Jan. 22, the day after Joe Foss is laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

It's a fitting legacy. He "fought the good fight." He "finished the race." He "kept the faith." But then, he would. That's the way Joe Foss lived.





## 32nd Commandant relinquishes Corps to new leadership

ANNAPOLIS, Md.-Gen. James L. Jones turned over command of the Marine Corps to Gen. Michael W. Hagee during a ceremony Jan. 13 at the U.S. Naval Academy here.

Gen. Hagee, formerly commanding general for I Marine Expeditionary Force in Camp Pendleton, Calif., assumes duties as the 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps. Gen. Jones, the first commandant not to retire from the position, will become the first Marine to assume duties as the commander, U.S. European Command and NATO's supreme allied commander, Europe.



Photo by: Sgt. Brandon P. O'Brien  
Source: [www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil)

## SICK CALL

Larry Hart will be in the hospital for surgery on January 21st at Lankenau Hospital.

Paul Hathaway is convalescing at home and would appreciate calls.

Joe Knapp is recuperating from bronchitis at home.

Frank Ambrosini is in Harlee Nursing Home in Springfield.

Please keep all of the above people in your thoughts and prayers.

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*If you know of a Detachment member who is sick or in the hospital, please let me know as soon as possible.*

*Note: The Chaplain's phone number is 610.353.5569.*

**Chris Bush**

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

### JANUARY BOOSTERS

Jim Donahue, Dot & Craig Allen, Jim Alleva, Larry Doyle, Sr., and Pat & Joe Mensack.

### Thank you boosters!

Semper Fi

**Bob Spano**, Paymaster

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**General Smedley D. Butler Detachment**  
**7 January 2003**  
Regular Meeting

Commandant Steve Neri called the meeting to order at 1945.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** present were: Commandant Neri, Sr. Vice Brimble, Jr. Vice Alleva, Adjutant Horne, Paymaster Spano, Chaplain Bush, Sgt-At-Arms Stanton/Ross, Service Officer McGinley, Director Tallmadge, Director Repino, Director Powlus, Jr. Past Commandant Kaufman.

Commandant Neri acknowledged honorary guests Dick Philips, Commander of the American Legion Broomall, and George Curley from the Upland Detachment.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Adjutant Mike Horne read a letter from A&S Printing stating that in the true spirit of the holidays, they will be making a small donation in our detachment's name to the Variety Club of Philadelphia, which helps children with disabilities. Mike also read letters of thanks from the two individuals that our detachment helped during the holiday season.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**SR. VICE COMMANDANT:** David Brimble stated that for the month of December, there was one new member, 158 regular members and 19 associate members, with the death of one member, Bill Vickers, for a total of 177.

**JR. VICE COMMANDANT:** Jim Alleva informed members that the Jr. Troop Handler wagon ticket sales had its best year ever, and he stated that he is always looking for new help for next year's sales. Pictures of the winner of the wagon will be in the News of Delaware County the week of January 8<sup>th</sup>. Jim also declared that he is looking forward to surpassing next year's wagon ticket sales.

**JUDGE ADVOCATE:** Commandant Neri asked George Curley to stand in for Frank Mayer (excused absence) as Judge Advocate.

**PAYMASTER:** Bob Spano disclosed a detailed financial report. Copies can be obtained. A motion was made by Paul Donohue and seconded by Joe Mensack to approve the monthly report. Motion passed.

**CHAPLAIN:** Chris Bush notified the membership of the death of member Bill Vickers as well as the death of Frank D'Amico's wife. Please keep these individuals in your prayers. Also, Chaplain Bush distributed copies of the Marine's Prayer to membership.

**SGT-AT-ARMS:** Bob Stanton asked all members to please sign the log book as they enter so that everyone will have a chance to win the lockerbox gift certificate.

**SERVICE OFFICER:** Connie McGinley - no report.

**DIRECTOR:** Walt Tallmadge-no report.

**DIRECTOR:** Jerry Powlus-no report.

**DIRECTOR:** Nick Repino-no report.

**JR. PAST COMMANDANT:** Harry Kaufman – no report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Property:** Dave Brimble stated that all items are accounted for and report is up-to-date.

**Americanism:** Bill Lessig reported that, for the month of December, the program was scheduled for four schools, but one canceled due to weather. This program touched 250 students for the month, and also there are four schools scheduled for January.

**Auxiliary Liaison:** Tony Fusto notified membership that Kay Greiser has the new code for Genuardi's Club Card, which will automatically contribute a percentage to the detachment. The ID number will be disclosed in the upcoming newsletter. Please keep turning in your Acme receipts.

**Awards:** Harry Kaufman asked all officers and committee chairmen to come up to the podium to present their awards to the many deserving recipients. Receiving the annual award for Marine of the Year was Jerry Powlus; the Commandant's Award was given to Harry Kaufman; and a Special Distinguished Service Award was given to Bob Bunce. Congratulations were given to all recipients.

**Ceremonies:** George VanDusen announced that for the year 2002, the funeral detail performed 212 funerals along with the American Legion and the VFW. George also asked any member who would like to help out with the funeral detail, please see him after the meeting.

**Quartermaster (Locker Box):** Tom Lynch notified members that there will be increases in the cost for most merchandise, so please purchase items out of

*continued on page 9*

current stock. Also, there are two red blazers on consignment that can be purchased. Please see Tom if interested. Also, Tom will be ordering new golf shirts for the detachment and he asked members for suggestions as far as design logo or colors.

V.A.V.S.: Bob Matthews thanked all members who came out to help at the Christmas functions at the Veterans Hospital in Coatesville. He reminded members that bingo is held the second Monday of every month at the Veterans Hospital in Coatesville. Please meet at K of C by 6:30 if attending.

Young Marines: Bob Stanton announced that there have been no meetings for the last four weeks. All members are welcome to attend upcoming meetings on January 8 and January 22 at the Gen. Smedley D. Butler Reserve Center in Folsom.

Home Association and Meetings: Tom Kerrigan stated that, in the near future, there will be blueprints to review and more information given on the planned addition to the K of C building that will give the detachment more storage space.

Toys for Tots: Tom Kerrigan stated that this was another successful year for the program, and he thanked all who helped with it.

Historian: Ray Green stated that he would like members to give him military pictures with a small description for the history book. All pictures will be returned.

**COMMANDANT'S REPORT:** Commandant Neri passed out copies of the meeting agenda and the Commandant's report to the membership. Copies are available. Steve commended the membership for the success and growth of this great detachment. He stated that this detachment was born from a handful of marines held at a local restaurant with minimal knowledge and finances, and over the past 12 years, it has had continual growth. He stated that we have received more than our share of both state and national awards in a variety of categories due to the dedication of our membership. He also revealed a proposal, which has the full support of the detachment's staff as well as the Knights of Columbus, to construct an addition to the rear of the Knights of Columbus building. Cost will be approximately \$3000.00, which will be scheduled into our upcoming budget. The addition will allow much-needed space for all our awards and trophies as well as storage of property. The Commandant strongly urges full support from membership for this proposal because the benefits to the detachment far outweigh the cost and effort. More information will be upcoming.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jr. Past Commandant Harry Kaufman, along with Sgt.-at-Arms George Van Dusen and Chaplain Bob Bunce, swore in the newly elected officers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Phil Baglivo thanked Chaplain Chris Bush for all his help and caring during his time of need. H. Chalmers McDaniel stated that he has for sale a book called "Unforgettable Men in Unforgettable Times." These books are signed by the author and cost is \$10.00. Please see Mr. McDaniel if interested. George Curley reminded members that the Upland Detachment has their monthly breakfast on the third Sunday of every month. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

**GOOD OF THE LEAGUE:** John Cook announced that the detachment will have the Battle of Iwo Jima display at the Broomall library. He asked all members to please stop by and take a look.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:45.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Horne, Adjutant.

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The 50/50 winner was Bob Stanton.  
Locker Box certificate winner was Frank Greiser.  
45 members signed in the log book on January 7, 2003.

**Birthday Greetings  
for February**

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

- Nicholas Bianco, James A. Constien,  
Lawrence R. Doyle, Sr., Harold Walter Gray,  
Joe Knapp, Douglas F. Leake, John Keevill,  
Steven M. Lestrangle, William J. McCoy,  
Robert Miller, Robert M. Spano

**Happy Birthday...and many, many more!**



**Goodnight Chesty,  
wherever you are.**

**Next Regular Meeting is:  
February 4, 2003  
1930 hrs.  
Knights of Columbus  
327 N. Newtown Street Rd.  
(Route 252)  
Newtown Square, PA**



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

