



Scuttlebutt



General Smedley D. Butler Detachment

1914 1915



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Commandant Earle Drake • 610.325.9065

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Commandant's Report February 2008

I want to thank all of our members who kept the Detachment moving forward during the last few months. It is a new day and I shall treat it as if it is the first day of the rest of our lives. Let's turn the page and move on. The book is closed.

Abraham Lincoln said, in a speech in 1858 while running for the Senate from Illinois, "A house divided against itself, cannot stand". Keeping that in mind, and that life seldom provides clean resolutions to our wishes and goals, let's go forward with a gung ho, can do attitude.

Thank you,

Earle E. Drake

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Sr. Vice Report

I have received the files for membership and have started to go through them in order to familiarize myself with its contents. A coordinated effort will exist with the Paymaster and me to keep the membership list up to date as well as any new members' information.

I am looking forward to a challenging year when I will be in a position to contribute to the efforts that makes this detachment a great veterans' organization.

Jim (JR) Robinson
Sr. Vice Commandant

Jr. Vice Report

We are in the process of considering various fund raising campaigns for 2008; **recommendations are welcome!** Please call me with your suggestions at 610-356-8893. Planned campaigns will be outlined at our next Detachment Meeting.

Please review the list of worthy organizations to whom we have made donations in the past. After careful investigation propose that we also consider the Salvation Army. It has distributed goods and services for years on a world wide basis. It receives the highest rating from a prominent "watch dog". The Eastern Section of the SA operates on an expense ratio of 10%. Should we elect to make a donation, we can designate the geographical area and the type of activity we wish to support.

After your review, please consider proposing a donation(s) to one or more of the following organizations at our Meeting

Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund provides financial assistance to Marines and Sailors injured in combat and in training and other service members injured while in direct support of Marine units and their families. This assistance is in the form of a grant with no expectation of repayment. Grants may help with immediate financial needs such as travel, childcare, lodging or problems resulting from lost family wages. Assistance is also given for long-term needs such as modified homes and vans;

Fisher House Foundation supports America's military in their time of need; we provide "a home away from home" that enables family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful time -- during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury;.

Homes for Our Troops provides specially adapted homes for our severely wounded service members. Monetary donations and contributions by building contractors, material suppliers and local volunteers allow it to provide assistance **at no cost** to the veterans it serves;

Marines Helping Marines provides support for injured Marine Corps personnel. Founded in 2005, our organization has grown to now include 4 participating hospitals that we have raised and contributed over \$250,000 in needed supplies, goods and services;

Operation First Response, Inc (OFR) supports our nation's wounded Heroes and their families with personal and financial needs. OFR financial aid varies as each case is based on individual needs ranging from rent/mortgage payments, payment of overdue utilities, vehicle payments and repairs, groceries, clothing, air transportation, ground transportation which includes taxi rides to and from DC area airports, dollars given to purchase gas for traveling by car to medical facilities and train tickets, and personal requested items by service members and their families;.

Philadelphia VA Medical Center has the distinction of being awarded several National Research Centers of Excellence including: Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and

Clinical Center (PADRECC); Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC); Center for Health Equity, Research and Promotion (CHERP); Center of Excellence for Substance Abuse Treatment and Education (CESATE) and Regional Sleep Center. Philadelphia VAMC is home to a Polytrauma Rehabilitation Network Site and provides a high level of expert care, and clinical and ancillary resources for the OIF/OEF veteran population;

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Inc. is a one of a kind non-profit Veteran Service Organization offering hope, healing, comfort and care to thousands of American armed forces families facing the death of a loved one each year. TAPS receives absolutely no government funding, but through the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, all families faced with a death of one serving in the Armed Forces receive information about TAPS and our military survivor programs;

Warrior Weekend provides weekends of rest and relaxation for soldiers and marines who have been wounded in combat in both Iraq and Afghanistan and are undergoing recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. The missions are funded by both individuals and organizations and are no cost to the soldiers and marines who participate.

Respectively Submitted,
John B. McLeod
Junior Vice Commandant

Young Marines' Report



The Young Marines would like to wish everyone a wonderful and healthy New Year. After a lull in activities due to the holidays, we are gearing up for a few exciting activities.

We plan to go to a Phantoms game some time in March. Also, we've planned our annual swim qualification in February which is always a lot of fun. Lastly, we're looking into a trip to visit the Marine Corps Museum some time in May.

We are all also looking forward to helping the MCL in any upcoming activities in 2008!

Jeffrey Gunning
Delaware County Young Marines

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Officers

Commandant	Earle E. Drake
Sr. Vice Commandant	Jim (JR) Robinson
Jr. Vice Commandant	Jack McLeod
Adjutant	Jack Kelly
Paymaster	Bob Spano
Judge Advocate	Dan Luty
Sergeant-At-Arms	James D. Ross
Chaplain	Christopher Bush
Service Officer	Connie McGinley
Director	Paul Donohue
Director	Paul Ferguson
Director	Bernie McGinley
Jr. Past Commandant	Jerry Leon

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Committee Chairmen

Adopt-A-Highway Americanism	John Burfete Bob Matthews Jack McLeod
Auxiliary Liaison	Tony Fusto
Awards	Harry Kaufman
Ceremonies	Jim Ross
Color Guard	Joe Conigliaro
Flag Collection	Barry Reese
Historian	Bob (Coz) Cosgrove
Home Association	Tom Kerrigan
Honor Guard	Wayne Barner
" Assistant	John J. V. Cook
Locker Box	Paul Ferguson
Marksmanship	John Williams
Membership	Jim Robinson
Newsletter (Scuttlebutt)	Sandi Mauer
Newtown Twp Vets Park	Stan Short
Nominations	Jerry Leon
Property	Bob Spano
Public Relations	Steve Neri
Scholarships	Wayne Williams
Scouting	John Gingras
Toys-For-Tots	Dan Luty
V.A.V.S.	Robert Matthews
Young Marines	Robert Stanton
Web Mistress	Sandi Mauer

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

General & Healthcare Benefits

VA Hotline	800-827-1000
Veterans' Healthcare	800-222-8387
Education	888-442-4511
Grave Markers	800-697-6947
Life Insurance	800-669-8477
Website	www.va.gov



Jack Kelly (left) recipient of the 2007 Commandant's Award and Jack McLeod (right) recipient of the 2007 Marine Of The Year Award with Dan Luty (background) Toys For Tots chairman.

Toys for Tots



I would again like to thank all of you folks who helped make this years Toys for Tots campaign an overwhelming success. I would also like to thank GySgt. Tonia Ayers for taking the time to attend our January meeting and recognizing those volunteers who dropped off boxes and picked up toys. Gunny Ayers reported that the total amount of toys collected and toys distributed this year was roughly three times that of the previous year and that our Detachment's efforts were responsible for about a third of the toys collected.

Dan Luty

Looking Ahead

DETACHMENT EVENTS

February

- 04 General Membership Meeting. Locker Box Audit
8 VAVS Bingo, Coatesville Hospital
26 Staff Meeting, American Legion

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.

American Legion Nunan-Slook Post #338, Meets the second Tuesday at 7:30 PM of every month at the corner of Ralston & Graslynn Avenue's, 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.

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, Third Sunday of the month: Breakfast: 0800-1130, \$6.00/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.



March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon

It's a good time to start dreaming of that Spring weather and with that brings the **March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon**. I know it seems too early to mention it but I've been motivated by one of our members who kick started the campaign already with a very, very generous donation.

This year's walk has been changed from the normal Sunday to a Saturday, April 26 at 0900. As always, the walk is in Ridley Creek State Park. Our Detachment has a team registered and if you go to www.marchforbabies.org/485654 it will take you to our team's page on the March of Dimes web site. From there you can make a donation and join our team if you would like to walk with us (currently the site has April 27 as the date, they are working to correct it to state April 26).

Dan Luty

"SCUTTLEBUTT" BOOSTER CLUB



*Help support our
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!

JANUARY BOOSTERS

Kathleen & Dave Cleary, Caroline & Tony Coladonato, Joe Direso, Joyce & Richard Guyer, Connie McGinley, Pat & Joe Mensack, Jerry Powlus, Rosemarie & Lloyd Spangler, Florence & Bob Spano

Thank you boosters!

Bob Spano
Paymaster

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

Southeast District Meeting

A Southeast District meeting will be held on 27 January 2008, 13:00. Hosting at their home is the Chester County Detachment Commandant, Bill Tapper. Detachment home is located - 430 Acorn Lane, Downingtown PA 19335. Bill's telephone is 610 696 4025. Detachment Commandants, Officers and members are encouraged to attend. District meetings are the time to discuss ideas, suggestions, problems and or complaints. League members with something to air, this is the place to do so.

Light refreshments will be served. Please contact Commandant Tapper with the number of members planning to attend.

Semper Fidelis,

Ray Devlin

Southeast District Vice Commandant

Please contact Bob Spano @ 610-541-4747 or 610-789-8369 if you intend to attend so he can advise Chester Co. Det of the number of attendees.

SICK CALL

- Stan Short
- Henry Mummah
- Anthony Delgripo
- Bob Bunce
- Dave Brimble

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

Judge Advocate Report

The Detachment Staff has decided to post a link to our By-Laws and Administrative Procedures to our website. This will allow those of you who have internet access to view or download the latest revision of both. Hard copies of both are still available upon request.

Birthday Greetings for February

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

James Clark
James Constien
Harry Deaner, III
Lawrence Doyle, Sr.
James Dunlap
Jeffrey Elliott
R. Stewart Hughes
John Keavill
John Kelly
Robert McLaughlin
Ronald Miller
Bob Spano
H. Weston Tomlinson
John Williams



Happy Birthday...and many, many more!

*If your birthday was omitted,
please contact Adjutant Jack Kelly.
We apologize for any omissions.*

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment #741
Marine Corps League
General Meeting Minutes
7 January 2008

Commandant: Since Acting Commandant Jerry Leon was away in Florida, Adjutant Jack Kelly acted as Commandant for the meeting. The meeting opened at 1730, and the normal opening ceremonies were conducted. Officers present were Jr. Vice Jack McLeod, Judge Advocate Dan Luty, Adjutant Jack Kelly, Paymaster Bob Spano, Chaplain Chris Bush, Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Ross, Service Officer Connie McGinley, and Director Stan Short. Guests who were recognized were Noel Haynes, Department of Pennsylvania Judge Advocate, Leanna Dietrich, Department Jr. Vice, Al Harper, Southeast District Assistant Vice Commandant, Chuck Krauthem, Upper Darby Detachment Commandant, and Dick Mansfield, Delaware County Detachment Commandant.

Before the formal meeting started, Dan Luty introduced Gunnery Sergeant Tonia Ayers, USMC, whom Dan Luty had worked with on the recent Toys for Tots Campaign. She stated her appreciation for the work of the Detachment for the Toys for Tots Campaign, especially the work of Dan Luty and Bob Spano. It was indicated that the Detachment was responsible for more than one third of the total number of toys collected. Gunnery Sergeant Tonia Ayers presented Dan Luty and Bob Spano with Certificates of Appreciation for their efforts, as well as with 60th anniversary coins in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Toy for Tots program. Awards were also presented to Steve Neri, Earle Drake, Nick Repino, John Williams, Jack McLeod, Connie McGinley, Bill Kinney, Bob Cosgrove and Kim Babcock. Dan Luty presented Gunnery Sergeant Tonia Ayers with a Marine Corps League shirt.

Minutes: Minutes of the December 2007 meeting were discussed. Ben Sides indicated that a correction was needed under the Ceremonies section. At the December meeting, he had read the names of members who had participated in 100 or more funeral services, and two names in the minutes were listed incorrectly. The names that should not have been listed were Joe Conigliaro and Bernie McGinley. The names that should have been listed are Tony Coladonato and Connie McGinley. Steve Neri made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Bernie McGinley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Paymaster: Bob Spano reviewed the Paymaster's report, with financial information through 31 December 2007. Harry Kaufman made a motion to accept the Paymaster's report as received. Steve Neri seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Jr. Vice: Jack McLeod reviewed fund raising activity for the 2007 year, indicating that the Detachment was very successful in funds collected, as well as in funds distributed to a number of charitable organizations throughout the year. In both instances, the Detachment exceeded its plans as outlined in the budget for 2007. Jack McLeod indicated that members should review his report in the *Scuttlebutt* for some additional information. Jack McLeod also requested that members contact him if they have any new ideas for fund raising activities for the 2008-year.

Judge Advocate: Dan Luty reported that it has been decided to place the Detachment's ByLaws and Administrative Procedures on the Detachment's web site in the near future. Once this has been completed, the ByLaws and Administrative procedures will be available for any member who is on line.

Chaplain: Chris Bush indicated that Bill Charlton is still in Presbyterian Hospital Home in Broomall and would appreciate visitors. He reported that Bob Matthews, Bob Bunce, Gerry Powlus, and Stan Short were back for this meeting, after being ill. Dave Brimble and Anthony Delgrippo were also reported as being ill.

Adjutant: Jack Kelly read cards of thanks that were received from Nancy Patrucci, wife of Pete Patrucci, and from Mel Delgrippo, wife of Anthony Delgrippo. Jack Kelly also indicated that letters of acknowledgement were received from several organizations to which the Detachment had contributed. The organizations were the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, Operation First Response, the Fisher House Foundation, and the Marple Newtown Recreation Center.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Jim Ross indicated that at the suggestion of the incoming Commandant, Earle Drake, the plaques that were formerly hung on the walls for each general meeting would now be displayed on a table in a central location at each meeting.

Committee Reports:

Ceremonies: Ben Sides recognized seven members who had gone beyond the call of duty in the participation of funeral services for veterans during 2007. Those recognized were Wayne Barner (157), Bob Matthews (159), John Cook (178), Tony Coladonato (187), Connie McGinley (198), Walt Tallmudge (201), and Ben Sides (220). Ben Sides indicated that he has recommended that these individuals should be considered for the Distinguished Service Award. Ben Sides also indicated that he will be stepping down as the Ceremonies chairman. Wayne Barner will be the new Ceremonies chairman. In addition, Ben is stepping down as the Detachment's historian, and Bob Cosgrove will be taking over that responsibility.

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Public Relations: Steve Neri mentioned that seven flagpoles have been installed at the Newtown Township Veterans Park, one for each of the services, and flags should be flying in the near future. In addition, he reported that through efforts of the Marple Veterans Committee, about 2,700 Christmas cards were sent to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Steve Neri reported that he received a telephone call from a colonel in Iraq last Saturday, expressing appreciation for the cards and the boost in morale for the troops.

V.A.V.S.: Bob Matthews indicated that the next bingo party for Coatesville is scheduled for 14 January 2008.

Scholarships: Wayne Williams indicated that he will have the information kits for the Detachment scholarships available at the February general meeting.

Announcements: Steve Neri mentioned that two films on World War II had been premiered at the Veterans Museum in Media, PA. One is "War in the Pacific" and it has four Detachment members, Anthony Delgripo, Walt Tallmadge, Henry Mummah, and Don Walz in the film. Another is "The War in Europe." If interested, a viewing date can be scheduled for these films for the Detachment membership.

Tony Evangelista, a former Detachment member and now a member of the Upper Darby Detachment, gave a short presentation on the Devil Dogs, the fun and honor society of the Marine Corps League. He invited interested members to the next Devil Dogs meeting at the Herbert W. Best VFW Post in Folsom on 9 January 2008.

Jack Kelly read a final message from Acting Commandant Jerry Leon in which he thanked Detachment members for their contributions to the Detachment in 2007, and in which he looked forward to a smooth transition for the 2008 administration.

Connie McGinley read two items of concern to members. One was an item warning that an organization called the Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) was not connected with the Veterans Administration in any way. This organization is not affiliated with or endorsed by the VA. A second item was concerned with the Department of Veterans, National Cemetery System. Copies of both of these items were available for the membership after the meeting.

New Business:

Awards Presentations: Earle Drake, Jack Kelly, and Bob Spano distributed awards based on activity during 2007. The awards included Meritorious Commendations and Distinguished Service Awards to

a number of different members. The Commandant's Award was awarded to Jack Kelly. The Detachment's highest individual award, the Marine of the Year award, as selected by the membership, was awarded to Jack McLeod.

Installation of Officers for 2008: Detachment officers for 2008 were sworn in by Al Harper, Assistant Vice Commandant of the Southeast District. He was assisted by Leanna Dietrich, Department Jr. Vice, and by Tom McGovern, who acted as Chaplain for the ceremony. Al Harper provided the charge to the new Commandant, Earle Drake. Earle Drake gave some brief remarks on his vision for the Detachment for 2008. Earle Drake also announced some changes in the list of committee chairs.

Bernie McGinley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Luty seconded the motion. After the normal closing ceremonies, the meeting was adjourned at 2100.

Paul Ferguson won the 50/50. 46 members and guests signed the logbook.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Kelly, Adjutant

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

- All submissions must be received by the editor no later than the 15th 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



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

Honor-Courage-Commitment

Next Meeting
February 4, 2008
1930 hours
Knights of Columbus
327 N. Newtown Street Rd.
(Route 252)
Newtown Square, PA 19073

