

# Scuttlebutt



General Smedley D. Butler Detachment

1914 1915



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Website • www.gensdbutlerdet.org

Commandant Earle Drake • 610.325.9065

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Dan Luty, editor  
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## Commandant's Report February 2009

I want to thank the membership for giving me the honor to serve the Detachment once again as Commandant in 2009. Hopefully we will be able to concentrate on helping our active duty GIs, our veterans and the community at large. The Award Ceremonies honored all of our members and those others who have helped us in our efforts to serve the community.

We presented the **Distinguished Service Award** to **Nick Constantino**, Senior Advisor of Operation First Response for his work supporting wounded Heroes and their families. **Wayne Barner** was the recipient of the **Community Service Award**. **Bob Spano** was presented the **Commandant's Award** for his service, "above and beyond" those required, to the Detachment.

**Harry Kaufman** was awarded the **Distinguished Citizen Medal** for his outstanding body of work in the interest of the Detachment.

**Connie McGinley** was voted the **2008 Marine of the Year**. Congratulations Connie for a job well done! Connie received a beautiful Plaque, a Marine of the Year Medallion and the Marine of the year ribbon with the FMF device.

The Installation Ritual was performed by Department of Pennsylvania Senior Vice Commandant, Leanna Detrich and Southeast Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller, and our Tom McGovern, officiating as Chaplain.

I would like to ask that all current chairmen stay at their posts. If you would like to be considered for another post, or wish not to serve again, please let me know. I am appointing Jim Mulhern to be our Americanism Chairman. I am appointing Gene Kern to be our Marksmanship Chairman.

I would like to have a volunteer step forward to manage our Public Relations efforts. This would include making contacts with the Philadelphia and local press, sending articles and announcements to them. Please call me if you are interested.

Looking ahead to 2009, we have to complete our 2009 budget and present it to you, the membership. The locker box inventory and the annual audit also must be completed for your approval.

Semper Fidelis,  
*Earle Drake*  
Commandant

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## Jr. Vice Report

### “Help Us Help Others” Events

What has been known as our “**Junior Troop Handler Sales**” will be called, at least temporarily, “**Help Us Help Others**” events. These events we have been traditionally held at various stores within the Delaware Valley. Shoppers are asked to donate money in order that we can help members of the armed services, veterans and others facing financial emergencies. The above caption has been used on our billboard advertising at store events during 2008 and has been reasonable successful.

We suggest that our original caption, “JTH Sales” is no longer descriptive of what we do. Also, we no longer conduct ticket sales. We recommend that a new title for our activity be chosen. Member recommendations for a new title that we can use in our communications and in our financial accounting would be appreciated!

We will be submitting a proposed schedule of HUHO store events to ACME Market corporate management prior to our next Detachment Meeting. We hope to obtain corporate approval in February to be followed up by confirmation at individual stores.

### Fund Raising 2009

A proposed outline of fund raising sources and actions will be submitted to the Board of Trustees at our next Staff Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*John B. McLeod*  
Junior Vice Commandant



**Bob Spano receiving Commandant's Award**

## Sr. Vice Report

It is both an honor and pleasure to serve as your Sr. Vice Commandant for the coming year. JR has left some rather big shoes to fill and we should all thank him for his outstanding service in 2008.

Part of my duties will involve membership. We will make a concerted effort to increase our ranks, retain current members, stimulate meeting attendance and gain more active participation in our programs.

At our last meeting, Jack McLeod handed me a list of approximately sixty prospective members which he collected at several supermarket fund raising events. John Burfete, Bill Kinney, Paul Ferguson and I are in the process of calling these individuals to solicit their membership. If any of you know or meet any guys that might want to join our detachment, please let me know and I will send them a membership package.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve and have a healthy and happy 2009.

*Robert “Cozy” Cosgrove*  
Sr. Vice Commandant



**Connie McGinley, Marine of the Year Award**

**The Legend Continues ...**

The reoccurrence of previous "Jungle Fevers" forced him from active duty and to a medical leave ordered by a board of Navy doctors. He was advised to live in a high altitude and seek light employment in order to regain his health.

He was offered a position as a manager of a coal mine in West Virginia. He had no experience at mining but took the job that sent him and his family to Fire Creek, West Virginia, located 50 miles southeast of Charleston. He soon found himself in charge of Eastern European workers who cared little for authority. After he experienced two near fatal accidents via mining operations, he soon decided that it was safer on the battlefield during a war than it was at the mining job.

After nine months of sick leave, he reported to Washington D.C. for a medical examination. He was approved for full duty and although offered a top salary to continue mining, he chose to return to the CORPS.

Butler returned to duty in September, 1908 and was stationed in Philadelphia and was promoted to Major in October, 1908.

*John Cook*

Historian

Young Marines' Report

The Young Marines are planning a trip to the Phantoms game sometime in March. If we sell enough tickets, four of our Young Marines will be doing the Color Guard on the ice before the game.

We also are attempting to send two of our higher ranking Young Marines to Camp Pendelton for Junior Leadership School in the summer.

Again, the Young Marines thank you for your continued support!!!

*Jeffrey Gunning*

Delaware County Young Marines

**General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Officers**

Commandant	Earle E. Drake
Sr. Vice Commandant	Robert Cosgrove
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	James Herbst
Director	Paul Ferguson
Director	Bernie McGinley
Jr. Past Commandant	Jerry Leon

**General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Committee Chairmen**

Adopt-A-Highway	John Burfete
Americanism	Jim Mulhern
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	Gene Kern
Membership	Robert Cosgrove
Newsletter (Scuttlebutt)	Dan Luty
Newtown Twp Vets Park	Earle Drake
Nominations	Jerry Leon
Property	Bob Spano
Public Relations	
Scholarships	Wayne Williams
Scouting	John Gingras
Toys-For-Tots	Dan Luty
V.A.V.S.	Connie McGinley
Young Marines	Robert Stanton
Web Master	Dan Luty

*DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS*

**General & Healthcare Benefits**

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

# Looking Ahead

## DETACHMENT EVENTS

February

- 02 General Meeting, KOC @ 1930.
- 4-5 Marine Expo West. Staff NCO Club, Camp Pendelton, CA
- 09 VAVS Bingo at the Coatesville VA Medical Center.
- 12-14 The National Marine Corps League National Staff Conference will be held at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia. Make your reservations directly to the hotel at 703-849-9400. Rates are \$91.00 single or double.
- 24 Staff Meeting, American Legion Post 805 @ 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.

**American Legion Nunan-Slook Post #338**, Meets the second Tuesday at 7:30 PM of every month at the corner of Ralston & Graslynn Avenues, Havertown, PA.

**Upper Darby Detachment #884 MCL**, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**, Third Sunday of the month: Breakfast: 0800-1130, \$7.00/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.

### Special Event ...

**The Delaware County Detachment in Upland will again host an event to commemorate the 64th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima @ 1300 on Sunday February 15. All honorees and their families are invited. All others guests can help offset the costs with a donation.**

### SICK CALL

Bill Charlton, Jr. Jack Lister Craig Allen	Ralph LaMarra Bernice Kerrigan
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*Please remember to notify Chaplain Chris Bush (610.353.5569) of an illness, or of a member or family member passing away.*

## 2008 Honor Guard Report

The Marple Newtown Combined Veterans Alliance participated in 251 Graveside Honor Guard Ceremonies in 2008. We participated in many other ceremonies such as the POW/MISSING IN ACTION program at Veterans Park, and at the Delaware County Media Veterans Museum.

There were 43 different participants from the various groups of the Alliance, with 3,249 appearances. This equates to an average of 13 individuals per funeral. Sixteen individuals participated in over 100 funerals, and eight individuals were over 170 funerals.

We participated with 34 different funeral directors, and held ceremonies at 30 different cemeteries or churches.

I would like to personally thank all of the members who participated, regardless of how many ceremonies you attended. You are a great group to work with. Everyone is aware of the positions and duties to perform without any guidance and can set up quickly. We had to, because on several occasions, we had to perform 3 or 4 ceremonies in one day with little time to travel between cemeteries and to get set up.

Many of the summer days were blazing hot or well below freezing in the winter. At times the rain that fell was driven sideways with the gale winds that blew across the cemeteries.

As we always try to arrive ½ hour before the scheduled arrival time of the funerals (which are often late) coupled with the length of the service, it means standing out in the weather for an hour or more.

I would also like to thank some of the funeral homes for their contributions. Frank Videon Funeral Home purchased many sets of ear muffs. D'Anjolell and Sidale Funeral Homes purchased many sets of plastic rain gear. Kish Funeral Home provided us with a great picnic spread at the Veterans Park. O'Leary Funeral Home provided us with great quantities of hoagies and liquid refreshments. In addition, many of the other funeral homes contributed financial aid to the Alliance.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Wayne Barner**  
Honor Guard Chairman

### **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 [dan.luty@ricoh-usa.com](mailto:dan.luty@ricoh-usa.com)

## "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!

### FEBRUARY BOOSTERS

John Burfete, Jr.  
Tony & Carol Coladonato  
Bob (Coz) Cosgrove  
Joe Direso, Jr.  
Spencer Goldsborough  
Marple Memorial Post #805  
Jack McLeod  
Jerry Powlus  
Florence & Bob Spano  
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:

James Clark  
James Constien  
Harry Deaner, III  
Lawrence Doyle, Sr.  
James Dunlap  
Jeffrey Elliott  
R. Stewart Hughes  
John Keevill  
John Kelly  
William McCoy  
Robert McLaughlin  
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**

Commandant: Commandant Earle Drake opened the meeting at 1930. The normal opening ceremonies were conducted. Officers present were Commandant Earle Drake, Sr. Vice Jim Robinson, 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, Director Paul Ferguson, and Director Bernie McGinley.

Minutes: George Curran made a motion to accept the minutes of the 1 December 2008 meeting as published in the *Scuttlebutt*. George Boyajian seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Commandant: Earle Drake recognized guests in the audience, including Leanna Dietrich, Department Sr. Vice Commandant, Bill Miller, Southeast District Vice Commandant, Don Turner, Upper Darby Detachment Commandant, and George Souder, Upper Darby Detachment Sr. Vice Commandant.

Earle Drake commended Dan Luty for making a seamless transition as editor of the newsletter, the *Scuttlebutt*. He also commended those members who had contributed to the success of the Detachment in 2008. Awards would be distributed later in the evening.

Sr. Vice: Jim Robinson expressed his appreciation to the members for the opportunity to serve as Sr. Vice, and for the support he received during the year. He commented on the strength of the Board, and he reminded everyone to continue to look for new members.

Adjutant: Jack Kelly referred to several letters that had been received, in appreciation of donations made by the Detachment. Letters had been received from the Fisher House Foundation, Toys for Tots Foundation, the Wounded Warrior Fund, and from the Colonel Waterhouse Historical Museum. Jack Kelly also read a note of thanks from Dottie Allen, wife of Craig Allen, thanking Detachment members for their cards, calls, and prayers, after Craig's recent car accident. Craig is now recovering at home.

Jr. Vice: Jack McLeod reported on the final amounts collected during the various fundraising activities during 2008. The total amount collected far exceeded the amount from the prior year. He called on Paul Ferguson, who reported on a successful fundraising venture at a Wawa Market location on 19 December 2008.

Paymaster: Bob Spano provided the Paymaster's report as of the end of December 2008. George Boyajian made a motion to accept the Paymaster's report as received. Joe Conigliaro seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Service Officer: Connie McGinley referred to an article in which improvements were made to VA Group Life Benefits.

Recognition of Guests: Earle Drake introduced other guests in attendance, including Cpl. Matt Sondermann, USMC, who is recuperating after having been wounded in Afghanistan, his father Erich Sondermann, and Nick Bianco, all members of the Upper Darby Marine Corps League Detachment.

Committee Reports:

Auxiliary Liaison: Tony Fusto expressed his appreciation for the members' assistance to the Auxiliary during the year. Commandant Earle Drake read a letter from Evelyn Brimble, Auxiliary President, regarding her husband's Dave's contact with the Newtown Township township manager concerning torn and tattered flags at the Newtown Township Veterans Memorial. The Township manager had contacted them later that same day to report that the tattered flags had been removed. Earle Drake expressed his appreciation to Dave and Evelyn Brimble for working on this.

Color Guard: Joe Conigliaro reported on the activity during December, at the Christmas tree lighting at Rose Tree Park, and also at the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum in Media.

Flag Collection: Barry Reese reported that all the torn and tattered flags that had been collected would be destroyed this Saturday, 10 January 2009.

Home Association: Tom Kerrigan indicated that there is a possibility of a rate increase this year for the use of the Knights of Columbus facility.

Honor Guard: Wayne Barner reported that the Honor Guard, together with the Marple Newtown Combined Veterans Alliance, had participated in 251 funeral ceremonies during 2008. He expressed his appreciation to those who had participated during the year, in all types of weather. He also expressed his appreciation to several funeral homes for their contributions for a variety of supplies that assisted the members who had participated in the Honor Guard ceremonies.

Toys for Tots: Dan Luty expressed his appreciation to all those who had participated in the recent Toys for Tots drive. This included those who distributed the drop-off boxes, and then going back later to pick up the toys. Dan Luty mentioned that it would still be necessary to return and distribute certificates of appreciation to those sponsors who assisted with the drive. Approximately 15,000 toys were collected this year.

V.A.V.S.: Connie McGinley mentioned that the next bingo night at the Coatesville VA Hospital would be Monday, 12 January 2009.

New Business: Bob Spano made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 each to the following organizations: Semper Fi Fund, Marines Helping Marines, Operation First Response, Homes for Our Troops, and the Philadelphia VA Medical Center. Each of these organizations had been looked into before, and the Detachment has previously donated to them. Bernie McGinley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Announcements: Cpl. Matt Sondermann, USMC, expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome, and he thanked everyone for their prayers and support. He is home for 30 days of recuperation leave, and will then return to duty for additional therapy and possible surgeries for his injuries.

Awards:

Earle Drake presented a Distinguished Citizen Award to Nick Constantino, a non-member, for his valuable contributions to the Detachment. Harry Kaufman, Awards Chairman, presided over the evening's awards ceremonies.

Awards were presented to members who had contributed to the success of the Detachment during 2008. Certificates of Appreciation, Meritorious Commendation Certificates, and Distinguished Service Awards were distributed to the members who were recognized. In addition, Harry Kaufman presented a Meritorious Commendation Award to Earle Drake as Recruiter of the Year. In addition, Jr. Past Commandant Jerry Leon presented a Distinguished Service Award to Earle Drake for his many contributions while serving as Commandant during 2008.

Earle Drake presented a Community Service Award to Wayne Barner for his service in the past year as Honor Guard Chairman, and a Distinguished Service Award to John Burfete for his contributions to Detachment affairs during 2008.

The Commandant's Award was presented to Bob Spano. On behalf of the former Marine of the Year Award recipients and the membership, Jack McLeod presented the Marine of the Year award to Connie McGinley.

Installation of Officers for 2009: Leanna Dietrich, Department Sr. Vice Commandant, and Bill Miller, Southeast District Vice Commandant, presided over the installation of Detachment officers for 2009. Tom McGovern served as Chaplain during the installation. The officers for 2009 are Earle Drake, Commandant; Bob Cosgrove, Sr. Vice; Jack McLeod, Jr. Vice; Dan Luty, Judge Advocate; Jack Kelly, Adjutant; Bob Spano, Paymaster; Chris Bush, Chaplain; Jim Ross, Sergeant-at-Arms; Connie McGinley, Service Officer; and Paul Ferguson, Jim Herbst, and Bernie McGinley, Directors.

George Boyajian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bernie McGinley seconded the motion. After the normal closing ceremonies, the meeting was adjourned at 2105. Forty- six members signed the logbook. The 50/50 was won by Cpl. Matt Sondermann, USMC.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jack Kelly*

Adjutant

**Marines rapid expansion is years ahead of schedule**

Washington, Excerpted from the Associated Press  
Buoyed by more recruiters, bigger bonuses and an elite reputation, The Marine Corps has grown by nearly 27,000 members in a little over two years, half the time that military officials believed it would take. The rapid expansion of the Corps has eased the strain on Marine forces tapped for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Marine Corps originally planned to increase the size of the Corps by adding 5000 Marines a year for five years, and reaching a total of 202,000 by 2012. Commandant James Conway said they would reach their 202,000 goal in early 2009.

Enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses are up causing military service to be more attractive to young men and women. Retention rates may also be benefiting from the economic meltdown. Marines and their families might be deciding that now is a good times to stay on and wait out the plunging job market.

While bonuses may lure recruits, a more lucrative enticement for first time recruits may be the Marines' legacy and identity, Corps officials said. Kids join the Marines Corps because they want to join the Marines, not because they're tired of flipping hamburgers.



**Harry Kaufman receives Distinguished Citizen Award**



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

*Honor-Courage-  
Commitment*



Next Meeting  
**February 2, 2009**  
**1930 hours**  
Knights of Columbus  
327 N. Newtown Street Rd.  
(Route 252)  
Newtown Square, PA 19073