



# Scuttlebutt



General Smedley D. Butler Detachment

P.O. Box 184 • Newtown Square, PA 19073  
Website • [www.gensdbutlerdet.org](http://www.gensdbutlerdet.org)

Commandant Earle Drake • 610.325.9065

1914 1915



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Dan Luty, editor  
[Dan.luty@ricoh-usa.com](mailto:Dan.luty@ricoh-usa.com)

## Commandant's Report January 2009

Just a little reminder that the January meeting is both Officer's Installation and our Annual Awards Meeting. We will have two officers present from the Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps League, Leanna Detrich and Bill Miller, who with our Tom McGovern will be the Installation Team. The meeting will start at 1930 as usual.

There doesn't seem to be a month that isn't filled with important community activities that need our help. Our volunteers are second to none. This month, the Honor guard performed approximately 18 funerals in good as well as inclement weather. Wayne Barner tells me that we will reach approximately 250 funerals this year.

Our Toys for Tots volunteers spread out over the county and placed 85 Toys for Tots boxes. The count isn't in yet but we think we will have come near to the record amount of toys collected last year. Our Color Guard attended the Tree Lighting Ceremonies at Rose Tree Park, and the Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony at the Veterans Museum in Media. We attended another Tree Lighting Ceremony sponsored by the Newtown Business association and collected a box full of toys. We attended the Young Marines graduation at the VFW, Herbert Best Post, and presented a check to Bob Stanton, the Young Marines Commander. We attended the Marple Newtown Business Persons luncheon and collected another box of Toys. The Auxiliary and Connie McGinley presented Christmas gifts to our Veterans at the Coatesville Veterans Hospital. All this and a VA Bingo party too.

Looking ahead to 2009, we as a Detachment will continue to provide assistance to our wounded GIs, needy families, and Veteran Affairs throughout the local area and on the National scene. So far this year, The Detachment has provided almost \$23,000.00 in charitable and special contributions, almost \$4,000.00 to needy families, and \$9,000.00 in scholarships to local outstanding students. With the economy in the state it is in, our contributions from our fundraising may not be as great in 2009. If contributions falter, we may have to make some sacrifices to continue our good works. We will always put our wounded GIs, veterans and the needy first in our spending plans.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year.  
Semper Fidelis,  
*Earle Drake*  
Commandant

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## Jr. Vice Report

Our Drawing-for- Dollars Campaign has been an unqualified success; our results were almost 250 percent of those achieved during 2007! In addition, the recipients of our cash prizes were most appreciative of their good fortune!

Commencing in May, one or more of our Members sold tickets and solicited donations on 31 dates at 54 locations. We were blessed with decent weather, cooperative hosts particularly ACME Markets, and generous shoppers. In addition, a number of Members provided ideas and effort over the years that made this Campaign a success:

Joe Hudson, who urged the use of Certificates of Appreciation to solidify relationships with store management hosts and their associates;

Jerry Leon, who provided valuable ideas for using signs to improve our communication with our Shopper/Donors;

Louie DiSantis, who helped us develop connections with ACME Market management who provided us with ideas and assistance that improved our results;

Steve Neri, who recommended that we consider Wal-Mart stores as fundraising sites that have become important sources of revenue;

Paul Ferguson, who recommended Wawa as a store site and conducted an event that was one of our most productive days;

Stan Samsel, who was successful in regaining permission from the American Helicopter Museum Mgt to conduct fund raising events at their shows;

Our Young Marine Detachment, that provided significant support at the Helicopter Air Show which was our most productive weekend in 2008;

Denis Morsa, who single-handedly conducted 12 fundraising events of several hours each at Gentile and ACME Markets resulting in almost \$3000 of revenue;

Bill Kinney, who opened many of our sales sites and tirelessly spent long shifts making those events a success;

George Boyajian, who long maintained that we should seek donations exclusively and not burden ourselves with the expense and effort of selling ticket chances. Adopting his ideas allowed us to double the number of store sites during the last half of our Campaign;

Finally, all of the above factors would have been of no account without our participating Members, backed by their supportive spouses, who spent long hours in the heat and cold engaged in soliciting donations: Bob Balantine, George Boyajian, Bob Bunce, John Burfete, Jr., Jim Constien, Coz Cosgrove, Paul Donohue, Earle Drake, Paul Ferguson, Tony Fusto, Spence Goldsborough, Dick Guyer, Jim Herbst, Joe Hudson, Jack Kelly, Bill Kinney, Jerry Leon, Bernie McGinley, Tom McGovern, Dennis Morsa, Bill Nolan, Jerry Powlul, Stan Samsel, Bob Spano; and Bob Wells. Our appreciation should also be given to the spouse

On behalf of our Detachment Members, we thank all of the above for their outstanding efforts and results!

The following prayer is also offered:

"Dear God, in the name of our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit,

Thank you for blessing the events and the efforts of those who contributed to the success of our Campaign;

While many factors and persons contributed to this success, we know that it is only by your grace that this result occurred;

We promise that the bounty received from your blessing and grace will be used wisely to maintain our efforts as an organization and to assist our heroes, their families and others facing financial crises.

**Amen**

Respectfully Submitted,

*John B. McLeod*

Junior Vice Commandant

## Sr. Vice Report

All reports regarding our December Christmas Party were positive. The tables were beautifully decorated by our Auxiliary. They also held a raffle for two Christmas Decorations. Thanks to the Auxiliary. The food was by all reports, delicious. Thanks to Justine.

Sorry I couldn't be present for the party but the call of the wild was just too strong. I was deer hunting and got two deer, a buck and a doe.

It has truly been a pleasure to have served the Detachment this year. My business requirements are causing me to leave the staff next year. I will continue to volunteer where I am able.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!

Semper FI!

*Jim (JR) Robinson*

Sr. Vice Commandant



**Commandant Drake presenting check to Folsom Marines Sgt. Stoner & Sgt. Akroyd**

**Thank You**, to all those Toys for Tots volunteers who helped make the 2008 campaign another success. Distributing the boxes and collecting the toys would be impossible without your help.

**Santa's Helpers:**

Kim Babcock, John Burfete, Bob (Coz) Cosgrove, Earle Drake, Paul Ferguson, Harry Kaufman, Bill Kinney, Connie McGinley, Jack McLeod, Nick Repino, Bob Spano, Paul Vergalla and Bob Wells.

**Dan Luty**

**Toys for Tots Chairman**

**Young Marines' Report**

We had our annual graduation on Friday, December 5th. This year we graduated eight recruits. We'd like to congratulate Sean Michael, David Guglielmi, Matthew Stellfox, Wyndell Johnson, Nick Spevak, Brandon Tinnis, Joshua Taylor, and Michael Wright on become Young Marines!

We would like to thank the Marine Corp League for their generous donation. With the 50th anniversary of the Young Marines coming up in 2009, we plan to use this money to take all the Young Marines to Washington DC.

Again, thank you and Happy Holidays!!!

**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	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	
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><a href="http://www.va.gov">www.va.gov</a></b>

# Looking Ahead

## DETACHMENT EVENTS

### January

- 05 General Meeting, KOC @ 1930. Installations and Awards.
- 09 Department Winter Staff Meeting, Holiday Inn Grantville, PA @ 0800.
- 10 Flag Retirement with VFW, American Legion and Upper Darby Detachment.
- 12 Budget Meeting, American Legion Post 805 @ 1930.
- 12 VAVS Bingo at the Coatsville VA Medical Center.
- 27 Staff Meeting, American Legion Post 805 @ 1930.

## Other Organizations' Events (Cont'd.)

**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. 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.

## 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.

**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.

### SICK CALL

Bill Charlton, Jr.	Ralph LaMarra
Jack Lister	Jack McHenry
Craig Allen	Dave Brimble

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

### Other Notices

Five Eagle Scout Presentations were made recently. Many Thanks and Kudos to Harry Kaufman who presented 3 and Earle Drake who presented 2. Without their assist, these would not have been possible. I believe we also showed our Congressman why the Marines seem to be everywhere because we were everywhere he went this past Saturday.

**SF**  
**Jack Gingras**  
**Scouting Chairman**

### Attention on Deck

**Members:** We are trying to update our membership list with **current e-mail** addresses so that we can more easily alert you to upcoming events and news in a timely manner. If you have changed your email address in the past year or so **OR** didn't list one with us to begin with; please send me an e-mail with your name and current e-mail address.

I have recently sent e-mails to all of those that I have addresses for and referring them to a web site to view Picture Albums of Detachment activities, <http://gallery.me.com/bigcozz>.

If you did not receive this e-mail, I suspect I don't have your correct address. Please reply at your earliest convenience to: **bigcozz@comcast.net**

**SF**  
**Bob Cosgrove**  
**Historian, Sr. Vice Elect**

### 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**



**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

John Burfete, Jr.  
Joe Direso Jr.  
Pat & Joe Mensack  
Marple Memorial Post #805  
Stan Samsel  
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 November

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

David Brimble  
George Curran  
Paul Drinkard  
Anthony Fusto  
Richard Hudak  
Vincent Mangelli  
Frank McGovern  
Edward Moore  
Barry Reese  
Nicholas Repino  
Walter Tallmadge  
Norman Weiner  
Robert Wells  
Michael West



**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 1830. The normal opening ceremonies were conducted. Officers present were Commandant Earle Drake, Jr. Vice Jack McLeod, Adjutant Jack Kelly, Paymaster Bob Spano, Chaplain Chris Bush, Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Ross, Service Officer Connie McGinley, Director Paul Ferguson, Director Bernie McGinley, and Junior Past Commandant Jerry Leon. Jerry Leon served as the Sr. Vice for the meeting in the absence of Jim Robinson, and Wayne Barner served as the Judge Advocate in the absence of Dan Luty.

**Minutes:** Tony Fusto made a motion to accept the minutes of the 3 November 2008 meeting as published in the *Scuttlebutt*. Joe Hudson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**New Member:** Earle Drake introduced Jim Cecchini as a possible new member. He had served as a Marine captain, and he had also served in the U.S. Army. After being introduced, he was accepted into membership as a regular member. He was sworn in as a member by Earle Drake.

**Officer Reports:**

**Commandant:** Earle Drake reported on the Detachment's activities during the past year. Much has been accomplished, and membership has increased by twice the rate of 2007. Through Jack McLeod's efforts and those assisting him, the Detachment received record amounts in donations, and as a result, the Detachment was able to distribute record amounts in donations to veterans' causes and to needy families. Academic scholarships were presented to nine students this year, and other activities of the Detachment progressed smoothly through the year. Earle Drake commented on a number of different activities in which the Detachment has been involved.

**Adjutant:** Jack Kelly referred to thank you letters received from the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund and from the Homes for Our Troops organization, in which both organizations expressed their appreciation for recent donations made by the Detachment. He also read a thank you memo from the family of Louis DiSantis, expressing their appreciation for the services provided by the Honor Guard during the funeral for Louis DiSantis.

**Chaplain:** Chris Bush reported that Jack McHenry had fallen recently and had been hospitalized. He also reported that Craig Allen had been in an auto accident and had also been hospitalized recently. On a positive note, he mentioned that Matt Balfrey had recently been married.

**Jr. Vice:** Jack McLeod reported on the birthday ball program book ad campaign, and the revenue received. He reported on the end of the drawing for dollars campaign, in which at 53 sites during the year, a record amount of donations was received. Jack McLeod mentioned a number of members by name who had contributed suggestions, ideas, and time to the success of the campaign, and then named all members who had participated in the campaign this year. He closed with a prayer of thanksgiving for the results received.

**Paymaster:** Bob Spano provided the Paymaster's report as of the end of November 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/V.A.V.S.:** Connie McGinley provided information on the upcoming activities at the Coatesville Veterans Hospital, including a stocking stuffer event later this week, and then a bingo party on Monday, 8 December 2008.

**Directors:** Paul Ferguson indicated that there is a possibility of having one additional fund raising event at a Wawa location on Route 29 on 19 December 2009. Once this has been confirmed, details will be shared with the participating members.

**Committee Reports:**

**Auxiliary Liaison:** Tony Fusto mentioned that a good number of Acme receipts had been received, and this is appreciated, as it helps the Auxiliary with its programs.

**Color Guard:** Joe Conigliaro reported that the Color Guard had recently been involved with the activities at Marine Sunday, as well as the Veterans' Day Parade in Media, PA. Member turnout at both events was good also. Upcoming events at Rose Tree Park on 5 December and a Pearl Harbor remembrance at the Media Museum on 7 December were also noted.

**Flag Collection:** Barry Reese reported that efforts are underway to attempt to burn a number of old or tattered American flags.

Historian: Bob Cosgrove noted that two pictorial books were being circulated during the meeting, one on the picnic earlier this year and one on the recent Birthday Ball. He also mentioned that he will provide the website information so that members with a computer will be able to access these pictures and others that are taken of Detachment events.

Home Association: Tom Kerrigan mentioned that there had recently been a change of personnel to contact with the Knights of Columbus. He provided information on some of the upcoming possibilities concerning the facility.

Honor Guard: Wayne Barner reported that the Honor Guard had participated in 229 military funerals for veterans so far this year, including 19 in the month of November.

Scouting: Although Jack Gingras was not in attendance, Harry Kaufman provided information on several recent Eagle Scout presentations. The Detachment has begun to present a Detachment challenge coin along with the usual certificate that is presented, and the recognition and the challenge coins have been appreciated by the Eagle Scouts receiving them.

Unfinished Business:

Election of Officers for 2009: This was the third and final month for the nomination of officers for 2009. There was one individual nominated for each officer position, and there were no contested officer positions. The Adjutant was requested to make one vote for each position, thus electing the individuals nominated. This was done by Adjutant Jack Kelly, as requested. The officers for 2009 are Commandant: Earle Drake, Sr. Vice: Bob Cosgrove, Jr. Vice: Jack McLeod, Adjutant: Jack Kelly, Paymaster: Bob Spano, Judge Advocate: Dan Luty, Sergeant-at-Arms: Jim Ross, Chaplain: Chris Bush, Service Officer: Connie McGinley, Directors: Paul Ferguson, Jim Herbst, and Bernie McGinley.

Marine of the Year: Jack McLeod explained the process in which the candidates for the Marine of the Year Award were selected. Nominations by the member were received, evaluated, and then voted on by the officers at a recent staff meeting. The three finalists were announced as Wayne Barner, Earle Drake, and Connie McGinley. A vote was taken by paper ballot, and the person chosen as the Marine of the Year will be announced at the January 2009 General Meeting.

Toys for Tots: A large facsimile check, representing the Detachment's contribution to the Toys for Tots campaign, was presented to Sgt. Justin Ackroyd and Sgt. Krystopher Stoner, both of the USMCR Reserve Center in Folsom, PA. Photos were taken of this event.

New Business:

Bob Spano presented information on organizations or individuals to consider for donations. All of these had been discussed and approved for consideration by the officers at a recent staff meeting. It was decided to present these to the entire membership for consideration and approval. George Boyajian made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to each of the following: Intrepid Fallen Heroes, Hope for the Warriors organization, The Semper Fi Fund, The Wounded Warrior Fund, Operation First Response, and to an individual, Patrick and JoAnna Howard. Patrick Howard is a Marine severely injured in Iraq., who is facing additional surgeries and rehabilitation. Bernie McGinley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Good of the League:

Dennis Morsa expressed his appreciation to the Detachment for its involvement in the various Color Guard and Honor Guard responsibilities during the year, along with the other organizations in the Combined Veterans Alliance. He also indicated that American Legion Post #805 is having its annual Christmas party on 17 December. The cost is \$25.00 per person.

Earle Drake made a presentation of the prestigious Legion of Honor Award from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. Citing his many acts of dedication and service to the community, the Legion of Honor Award was presented to Bob Spano. This was followed with a round of applause.

George Boyajian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bernie McGinley seconded the motion. After the normal closing ceremonies, the meeting was adjourned at 1950. Forty-nine members signed the logbook.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Kelly, Adjutant



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

*Honor-Courage-  
Commitment*



**Happy New Year!**

Next Meeting  
**January 5, 2009**  
**1930 hours**  
Knights of Columbus  
327 N. Newtown Street Rd.  
(Route 252)  
Newtown Square, PA 19073