



Scuttlebutt



General Smedley D. Butler Detachment

P.O. Box 184 • Newtown Square, PA 19073

Website • www.gensdbutlerdet.org

Commandant **Dan Luty**

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Dan Luty, editor
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Commandant's Report March 2010

There really isn't that much to report on during this time of the year. I'd like to report that Spring, and the events that it brings, is just around the corner, but because of the piles of snow, I can't see past my curb, much less, the corner!

There are just a few events going on in February and a couple to look forward to in the upcoming months.

By the time you receive this edition, the three Detachments in Delaware County would have held their annual Iwo Jima Commemoration by the DELCO Detachment. This event was started a few years ago and is a great way to honor our local Iwo Veterans. It's always great to see these Iwo Marines together, enjoying each others company.

Another event that was scheduled for February was the banquet to support Operation First Response, Walk for the Wounded. This is a great charity, and one that we frequently donate to.

On March 8th, we will again participate in the PA 7th Congressional District Veterans Summit. This is the fourth Veterans Summit hosted by Congressman Sestak. In an invitation sent by the Congressman, "one objective will be to increase access to services for Veterans. I expect over forty service organizations to be present. In addition, this summit will be dedicated to the heroism of SPC4 Barry T. Burnite, U.S. Army, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile). SPC4 Burnite was recently awarded a posthumous Silver Star for his gallantry in action in Vietnam in 1965. The award will be presented to his sister, Judith Nickel of Brookhaven, at a ceremony at the outset of the Summit. This recognition of a brave young Soldier from Springfield High School is the result of some extraordinary research by his comrades, notably John Eade, who served with Barry in Vietnam. It also reflects the gratitude our nation is now, belatedly, extending to Veterans of the Vietnam War."

Our special SDB Scholarship Committee has been making quite a lot of progress. The word has been delivered to all the participating schools and inquiries are already being received. The competition should be very interesting!

Semper Fidelis,

Dan Luty

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Sr. Vice Report

Leaguers, we had a lot of interest at the last meeting for membership packets, that is a good sign. I will have more at March's meeting.

This is a short report but with spring around the corner we will soon be busy.

Semper FI

Jim Herbst

Sr. Vice Commandant

Jr. Vice Report

Help Our Heroes Campaign

This Campaign involves our Members sharing information with potential contributors regarding the financial challenges faced by our wounded troops, needy veterans, and their respective families. The Campaign will continue throughout 2010. Members are encouraged to use the materials distributed last year. Updated kits will be created as needed.

Letters and Certificates of Appreciation will be sent to our 2009 Contributors by the end of February.

Birthday Ball Program Ad Book

Follow up action will be taken on unpaid ads.

Help Us to Help Others (HUHO) Campaign

We hope to complete our 2010 HUHO event schedule by the end of February.

Respectively submitted,

Jack McLeod

Jr. Vice Commandant



From the Jr. Past Commandant

Important! Your attendance is desired.

The Marple/Newtown Combined Veterans Alliance has been providing Military Funeral Honors for many years. Our Combined Alliance is comprised of three Veterans Service Organizations, (VSOs), the VFW, the American Legion and the Marine Corps League. In the past few years we provided over 250-300 Honor Ceremonies per year.

We are authorized to provide military funeral honors, "Honoring Those Who Served", by authority given us by the Department of Defense. This DOD program, Public Law 106-65, states that upon a family's request, every eligible veteran receive a military honors ceremony. The DOD program calls for funeral home directors to request military funeral honors on behalf of the veteran's family. The definition of an Authorized Provider includes individuals or groups recognized by a Secretary of a Military Department or the Commandant of the Coast Guard, who are not members of the Military or employees of the United States and who augmented the uniformed members of a military honors detail. Authorized providers may include, but are not limited to, veterans' service organizations, members of the Reserve Officer Training Corps, and other appropriate individuals and organizations that support the rendering of Military Honors.

There are, of course, other requirements that a VSO must adhere to. As an example, the Military Honors ceremony consists of, at a minimum, the folding and presentation of the American flag and the sounding of Taps by a detail of two uniformed members of the Military Services or a VSO. At least one of the detail's members shall be from the parent Service of the eligible beneficiary. Satisfactory evidence of the deceased veteran's honorable service must be provided to the funeral director.

We are responsible to adequately train our members to perform military honors duties, and ensure a sufficient numbers of trained members to be available for this mission. We train our new members to perform these duties. At times one of our members could be called to fold the flag, or present the flag with a uniform statement to the family's representative, or play taps on our electronic bugle if our ceremonial bugler is not present, or shoot three volleys over the grave, all presenting arms by rendering hand salutes or with their rifles. We also recite "In Flanders Field" and present the veteran's family with a laminated copy of the poem with the veteran's name on it. IMPRESSIVE!

On Monday March 1st, 2010, at our general meeting, a representative of the Department of Defense will be in attendance to present the newer members of our Military Honors detail, an individual Certificate that recognizes them as an Authorized Provider in the Military Funeral Honors Program. The certificate will be signed by Navy Captain David Opatz, Commanding Officer of the Willow Grove NAS and Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense. The ceremony has been arranged by Sherri R. Jones, Public Affairs Officer of the Willow Grove, NAS. The last time Certificates were presented, Captain Harry Myers (now Admiral) and members of his staff attended.

You don't want to miss this!

Earle Drake

"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!

MARCH BOOSTERS

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Bud Davis | Jim Sandusky |
| Joe Direso | Larry Doyle |
| George Curran | Jack Kelly |
| Con McGinley | Gene Kern |
| Pat & Joe Mensack | Carole & Jack McLeod |
| Janice & Stan Samsel | Bee Lloyd |
| Bob Matthews | Beth & Jim Herbst |
| Florence & Bob Spano | Ellen Lister |

Thank you boosters!

Bob Spano
Paymaster

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

Birthday Greetings for March

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

- Philip Baglivo, Jr.
- Richard Guyer
- Henry Kaufman
- Raymond Keesey
- Jacques Mauch
- John McHenry
- Henry Mummah
- Thomas Potter
- Gerald Powlus
- Edward Seidl
- Charles Sexton, Jr.
- Robert Stanton
- Paul Vergalla



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 Officers

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Commandant | Dan Luty |
| Sr. Vice Commandant | James Herbst |
| Jr. Vice Commandant | Jack McLeod |
| Adjutant | Jack Kelly |
| Paymaster | Bob Spano |
| Judge Advocate | Paul Ferguson |
| Sergeant-At-Arms | James D. Ross |
| Chaplain | Christopher Bush |
| Service Officer | Con McGinley |
| Director | Bob Cosgrove |
| Director | Ed Seidl |
| Director | Bernie McGinley |
| Jr. Past Commandant | Earle Drake |

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Committee Chairmen

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Adopt-A-Highway | John Burfete |
| Americanism | Jim Mulhern/E. Drake |
| Auxiliary Liaison | Tony Fusto |
| Awards | Harry Kaufman |
| Ceremonies | Jim Ross |
| Color Guard | Joe Conigliaro |
| Flag Collection | Barry Reese |
| Historian | Jack Gallagher |
| Home Association | Tom Kerrigan |
| Honor Guard | Wayne Barner/B. Loyd |
| Honor Guard Assistant | John J. V. Cook |
| Locker Box | Paul Ferguson |
| Marksmanship | Gene Kern |
| Membership | James Herbst |
| Newsletter (Scuttlebutt) | Dan Luty |
| Newtown Twp Vets Park | Jerry Leon |
| Nominations | Earle Drake |
| Property | Bob Spano |
| Public Relations | Wayne Williams |
| Scholarships | John Gingras |
| Scouting | Dan Luty |
| Toys-For-Tots | Con McGinley |
| V.A.V.S. | Robert Stanton |
| Young Marines | Dan Luty |
| Web Master | |

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 | <u>www.va.gov</u> |

Looking Ahead

DETACHMENT EVENTS

March

- 01 General Meeting, KOC at 1930
- 05 Detachment Pistol training and familiarization. Contact Gene Kern—Marksmanship Chairman.
- 08 VAVS Bingo at Coatsville VA Medical Center.
- 08 7th Congressional Dist. Veterans Summit. Ridley High, 901 Morton Ave., Folsom, 1815-2100.
- 12 Detachment Pistol training and familiarization. Contact Gene Kern—Marksmanship Chairman.
- 19-20 PA Dept. Staff Meeting, for more information: www.pamcleague.org/mclpaACTEVNT.htm
- 26-27 Northeast Division Conference, for more information: www.pamcleague.org/mclpaACTEVNT.htm
- 30 Staff Meeting, American Legion Post 805 at 1930.

April

- 05 General Meeting, KOC @ 1930.
- ?? Combined MCL of Delaware County Pistol Match. To be held at DCF&S, Brookhaven. Date to be announced!

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 1930.

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

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

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

Other Organizations' Events (Cont'd.)

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. and Sutton Avenue, Folsom, PA.

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Broomall Post #7390, Meetings the second Thursday of the month at 1930. Meetings are held at the Marple Twp. Municipal Building, Sproul & Springfield Roads, Broomall, PA.

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

Knights Of Columbus: Mater Dei Council #4129, 327 N. Newtown Street Rd., Newtown Square, PA. Meetings the first Thursday of the month at 2000.

SICK CALL

Matt Balfrey
Ralph LaMarra
Dave Brimble
Wes Tomlinson

Jack Haynal
Steve Hodulik
Anthony Delgripo

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

The Legend Continues ...



On arrival in Brest, Butler described the conditions of the Camp: "We were assigned to two choice residential plots of mud. Acres and acres of mud flats with dripping, dejected, khaki-colored tents. Beyond, ... a cheerless steel sea, half hidden in fog. A shivering cold, bleak, death-stricken ----- A HELL of a place." There with Spinal Meningitis and Flu hovering over the camp, quartered in shallow ponds, under a downpour of cold rain, and with hardly enough firewood for cooking, let alone to keep warm, Butler fought one of the vital battles of the War, a battle far from the front lines ----- A Battle for Life.

He was put in command of this place with orders to "Clean It Up". The camp he described as a "Disgrace ever since A.E.F. first landed at Brest" became a pest hole when the Flu epidemic swept over France. On the day that he took command, 250 men died in that hole. The situation was 65,000 men in camp, 12,000 cases of flu and no doctors in many units. Then an Army transport arrived from the U.S. with 10,000 men on board, 4,000 of whom were down with the flu. The field hospital held only 250 patients and 12,000 patients were lying sick in the mud.

With the cessations of hostilities in November 1918, the camp took on the dual role of a debarking and embarking center.

At Brest, problems of efficiency and morale were slowed by a military system of red tape. Butler rose to the occasion and because of his warrior background, attacked the problems, even to the point of insubordination, at times. He rallied the able bodied from the camp and the men from his 13th Regiment and led 7,000 men, four miles, to "raid" the government warehouses at the port of Brest. They cleared the stores of shovels, axes, picks, stoves and kettles but most important were sections of "Duckboards" (wooden sections of slats) which had been made to be laid in the bottom of trenches.

These now, could be used at the camp as tent floors and sidewalks in order to keep the troops from wading through the sea of mud. Butler had the field kitchens improved, fed the troops *improved rations*, issued six blankets per man, greatly improved the medical facilities, and had the Regimental Band playing music throughout the camp to entertain and improve morale.

It was because of the raid for duckboards, for Butler not only led the men, but carried a duckboard four miles back to camp, that he was nicknamed "General Duckboard."

The fabled duckboard symbol, implying heroic defiance of Army red tape, was painted on buildings, vehicles and equipment. The A.E.F. Supreme Command authorized a white duckboard on maroon background as a shoulder patch for the permanent garrison.

After the Armistice, Butler organized the return of American Troops. In a single day 26,000 men were put on homeward bound ships and 10,000 were processed from the front into Camp Pontanezen.

For outstanding leadership, Butler was awarded Distinguished Service Medals from the Army and the Navy. France also awarded him The Order of the Black Star.

Series edited by:

John JV Cook

Spaghetti Dinner



M.O.D.D. "Devil Dogs" Triboro Pound #19, Pack of PA, will have a spaghetti dinner to benefit the "Visually Impaired Children's Scholarship Fund!"

The spaghetti dinner will be held on **March 13** from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at **VFW Post 928**, MacDade Blvd. & Sutton Avenue in Folsom, PA. The cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under the age of 12.

Chef - **Roberto DiStantonino** will be hosting the event.

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment #741
Marine Corps League
General Meeting Minutes – 1 February 2010

Commandant: Commandant Dan Luty opened the meeting at 1930. The normal opening ceremonies were conducted. Officers present were Commandant Dan Luty, Sr. Vice Jim Herbst, Jr. Vice Jack McLeod, Judge Advocate Paul Ferguson, Adjutant Jack Kelly, Paymaster Bob Spano, Chaplain Chris Bush, Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Ross, Service Officer Con McGinley, Director Bob Cosgrove, and Director Ed Seidl.

Minutes: George Boyajian made a motion to accept the minutes of the 4 January 2010 general meeting as published in the *Scuttlebutt*. Paul Ferguson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Commandant: Dan Luty presented Department of Pennsylvania Distinguished Citizen Awards – Silver to John Cook and Walt Tallmadge, on behalf of Department Commandant Leanna Dietrich, as they were not in attendance at the January awards meeting. They were also presented with Meritorious Commendations from the Detachment. Joe Conigliaro and Tony Fusto were also presented with Meritorious Commendations. Dan Luty indicated that a letter and a certificate of appreciation had been received from the Commanding Officer of the Folsom Reserve Unit for the Detachment's participation in the 2009 Toys for Tots drive. Dan Luty also mentioned that our Detachment had been approved by the Department of Pennsylvania for the Department Meritorious Unit Commendation. Dan Luty also provided information on the recognition of Iwo Jima veterans at the Upland Detachment scheduled for Sunday, 21 February 2010.

Sr. Vice: Jim Herbst mentioned that he has new member application forms for anyone who needs them.

Paymaster: Bob Spano presented the paymaster's report as of 31 January 2010. He also presented the Detachment's proposed budget for 2010. There were only a few questions on the budget, and Bob Spano answered those. George Boyajian made a motion to accept the paymaster's report as received and to also accept the budget for 2010 as presented. Joe Conigliaro seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Chaplain: Chris Bush mentioned that both Henry Mummah and Walt Tallmadge were in attendance at this meeting, after overcoming health issues. Chris Bush also mentioned that he had visited Del Delgrippo in the hospital recently.

Adjutant: Jack Kelly mentioned that a number of letters of appreciation had been received from organizations that the Detachment had made donations to, including The Fisher House, Inc., Mom 4R Marines, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), Operation First Response, and the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, among others.

In addition, the Detachment received a nice letter and a donation of \$1,000.00 from the granddaughter of a veteran who had been buried last fall with the Honor Guard providing a military funeral for her grandfather. She had also provided the same contributions to the VFW and to the American Legion in the Combined Veterans Alliance.

Judge Advocate: Paul Ferguson mentioned that if any member desires to recommend changes to the Detachment's By-laws, please contact him and he would assist in the process. He also mentioned that he could provide new members with a membership binder, if they had not received one when they joined.

Committee Reports:

Color Guard: Joe Conigliaro mentioned that the Detachment's Color Guard and Honor Guard participated in the opening of the General Smedley D. Butler display at the Springfield Library. This event took place in early January, and the display was there for the entire month of January. The display was created by John Cook and Con McGinley.

Honor Guard: Wayne Barner reported that the Honor Guard participated in 23 military funerals during the month of January. He also reported that the supply of blank ammunition is getting low, but a new supply of ammunition has been ordered.

Lockerbox: Paul Ferguson mentioned that the lockerbox has been discontinued. Members with supply needs could contact the website for the Marine Corps League – National Headquarters.

Marksmanship: Gene Kern mentioned that the members of the pistol team will try to get some practice time in during March 2010. Paul Ferguson will be coaching the members of the pistol team.

Detachment Website: Dan Luty mentioned that he is looking for ideas for the Detachment's website. If any member has any suggestions for the website, please contact Dan Luty. Prior issues of the newsletter, the *Scuttlebutt*, are on the website. Dan Luty also mentioned that the Detachment now has a Facebook group on Facebook, and members can add their names if they are on Facebook.

Property: Bob Spano reported that the Knights of Columbus has finished the new shed on the property. At present there is no electricity for the shed. Bob Spano made a recommendation that the Detachment not request any storage room in the shed until warmer weather arrives, or until the shed is supplied with electricity. The storage cost may be \$1.25 per square foot per month, but this will need to be finalized.

Scholarships: Wayne Williams provided information on recent activity for the special scholarship that the Detachment is providing for high school seniors in the Marple-Newtown area schools and the West Chester area schools. He also mentioned that scholarships are available through the Detachment, the Department, and from the National Marine Corps League. Those interested in scholarships for family members should contact Wayne Williams for the necessary forms.

V.A.V.S.: Con McGinley reported on the next bingo event at the Coatesville Veterans facility, and he also provided information for the Valentine's Day party there, scheduled for 10 February 2010.

Unfinished Business: Chris Bush indicated that Walt Tallmadge was recuperating after breaking his wrist, but he was glad to see Walt was in attendance at the meeting this evening. Chris Bush also mentioned that he had spoken to John Haynal, and that John said hello to the membership.

New Business: Gene Kern discussed a possible method of increasing fund rising. A casino in Delaware has a method of having a charitable organization participate at the casino one night per month, and the organization receives a small percentage of the evening's winnings. Aleta Krauss indicated that she is the Commander of an American Legion post in Delaware that participates in this activity, and she can provide some information on this program. Gene Kern volunteered to look into this further.

Bob Spano made a motion to donate \$250.00 to Don Downer, a retired Marine in Destin, Florida who assists the troops with packages of supplies. The motion was seconded and passed. Bob Spano also provided information on five other organizations for donations that the officers had recently discussed and approved for recommendation to the general membership. George Boyajian made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to each of the following organizations: (1) The Marine Corps League Foundation, Merrifield, VA; (2) Operation First Response, Culpeper, VA; (3) USA Together, Los Altos, CA; (4) The USO, Philadelphia International Airport, Philadelphia, PA; (5) The Wounded Warrior Regiment's Charitable Giving Office. Joe Conigliaro seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Good of the League: Chris Bush made a motion to donate \$250.00 to The Gideons International. Jack Kelly seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Announcements: Joe Conigliaro provided information on an event sponsored by Operation First Response, scheduled for 27 February 2010. Tickets are \$40.00 per person, and tables are available for reservations of eight people per table. An ad book is being planned. Jim Robinson made a motion to have the Detachment take out a full page ad at a cost of \$100.00. Jim Cecchini seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Bob Spano mentioned that those members needing ribbons as a result of recent awards should contact him. He also reminded members of the opportunity to become a sponsor of the newsletter.

Dan Luty reminded everyone again of the Iwo Jima veterans recognition at the Upland Detachment on 21 February 2010. He also provided general information on upcoming Department and National activities.

George Boyajian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris Bush seconded the motion, and the motion passed. After the normal closing ceremonies, the meeting was adjourned at 2040.

George Curran won the 50/50. Forty-one members signed the logbook.

Respectfully submitted,



Jack Kelly
Adjutant



John J. Burfete, our Adopt A Highway Chairman, has set the following dates for 2010:

- April 11
- June 13
- August 8
- October 10

• These dates are all tentative. Our designated road is Bishop Hollow in Newtown Square and we usually meet around 0830.



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

*Honor-Courage-
Commitment*



Next Meeting
March 1, 2010
1930 hours
Knights of Columbus
327 N. Newtown Street Rd.
(Route 252)
Newtown Square, PA 19073