



# 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 November 2009

### Our detachment continues to grow.

We had another new member sworn in at the October meeting. **Mr. Louis Camilli**, sponsored by **John Cook**, was sworn in. Louis is a WW2 Veteran and an Iwo Jima Veteran. With his joining the detachment, we have had nineteen new members join us in the past twenty one months. This was a combined effort with various members out there recruiting.

Once again, members (8), of the detachment visited Ft Dix, NJ to welcome home members of our armed forces returning from Iraq. Director **Paul Ferguson** again spearheaded the effort. They met and greeted our troops, and served them their first meal back in the USA. The troops, (over 300), were very happy to see people turning out to help them re-enter the world.

The volunteers started work at 1630 and were back at their starting point by 2130. One of the VVA greeters told them, they, along with other volunteers present, were the largest group to welcome home our troops since he was involved.

The Department of Pennsylvania's scholarship program has been approved and is posted on the Department's web site. You may download the forms and instructions or pick up a packet at our meetings.

Our October General Meeting saw the first round of nominations for officers take place. Candidates have been nominated for all offices, except Commandant and Sr. Vice Commandant. Nominations will be held at both the November and December meetings. The November meeting is the second of the three nominating meetings with the December meeting being both the final nomination meeting and our elections. The Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant, Adjutant, Paymaster, Judge Advocate, Service Officer, Chaplain and Sgt-at-Arms and the Three Directors- at - Large shall be elected annually for a term of one year. In order to qualify for office a member must have at least six months membership in the Detachment by December and must have attended at least four meetings prior to the meeting in which the election is to take place.

In order to qualify for the office of Commandant, a nominee must have held any other office for one full elected term. The Commandant may be elected for two consecutive terms and thereafter cannot succeed himself. The other officers may accept unlimited successive terms.

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**Commandant's Report continued ...**

Our Americanism program is back in force with **Jim Mulhern** being the program's leader. So far Jim and his assistant have given presentations to the Young Marines and an assembly of 150 students at St Patrick's school in Malvern. Letters are going out to nearby schools telling the principals about the program we are offering. If you have a school in mind and want us to make the Americanism presentation to it, please let Jim know. Thanks to **Bob Wells** for his listing of parochial schools.

**Share** a little of your Christmas cheer with our hospitalized veterans at the Coatesville Medical Center. **Con McGinley**, our VAVS chairman, needs volunteers for December 12, 2009. You would take part in the stocking stuffing, distribution of gifts to the vets and a party for them. Call Con to volunteer at **610-446-0478**. Meet on the 12<sup>th</sup> at the KOC parking lot to carpool to Coatesville.

**Make 2009 the year you became more involved with your League.**

Semper Fidelis,

*Earle Drake*

**Sr. Vice Report**

The November 2<sup>nd</sup> general meeting will be your last chance to sign up for **Our Detachment Marine Corps Ball**. The Ball is on November 6 and starts at 6:00 PM. The location is Paxon Hollow Country Club. Sooo, bring your check book. The affair will cost \$45.00 per person which includes a two hour open bar, a sumptuous dinner, remarks by our guest speaker, Maj. Joe Featherston, USMC Retired (see Major Featherston's bio, page 6) and "Dancing with the Stars"! See John Cook for your reservations.

**See You at The Ball,**

*Big Coz*



**Jr. Vice Report**

**Help Our Heroes Campaign**

Regrettably, we have made no notable progress in our Campaign.

**Please contact me at 610-356-8893 if you have not received a kit or need additional solicitation letters.**

**"Help Us Help Others (HUHO)" Campaign**

We have completed our nineteenth event and have seven remaining on our schedule. Our 2009 Budget objective has been substantially exceeded thanks to the blessings of the Lord, our gracious Store Hosts, generous shoppers and the dedicated work of our Member participants!

**"Help Us Help Others" Upcoming Schedule.**

- 10/31 ACME Ridley 124 Morton Ave  
610-237-3800 Folsom, PA  
ACME Concordville 101 Byers Drive  
610-459-2759 Glen Mills, PA
- 11/01\*ACME Ridley 124 Morton Ave  
610-237-3800 Folsom, PA  
ACME Concordville 101 Byers Drive
- 11/07 Wal-Mart Eddystone 1570 Chester Pike  
610-447-1860 Eddystone, PA  
Wal-Mart Boothwyn 605 Conchester Hwy  
610-494-2535 Boothwyn, PA
- 11/08 Wal-Mart Eddystone 1570 Chester Pike  
**Wal-Mart Boothwyn 605 Conchester Hwy\***
- 11/14 Super Fresh Havertown 1305 W Chest Pike  
610-446-4516 Havertown, PA  
Pathmark Broomall 50 Lawrence Rd  
610-356-2845 Broomall, PA
- 11/15 Super Fresh Havertown 1305 W Chest Pik  
Pathmark Broomall 50 Lawrence Rd
- 11/21 Wal-Mart Glenolden 50 N Mac Dade Blvd  
610-583-2682 Glenolden, PA  
Shop Rite W Chester 115 W Chester Pk  
610-696-4066 West Chester, PA
- 11/22 Wal-Mart Glenolden 50 N Mac Dade Blvd  
Shop Rite W Chester 115 W Chester Pk
- 12/18 Wawa Store 205 5 Mathews Road  
(Fri) 610-640-5322 Malvern, PA

\* Denotes Sundays

**Birthday Ball Program Ad Solicitation Campaign**

**Thanks to all who have placed Ads in or solicited Ads for our Birthday Ball Program Book!**

Respectively submitted,

*Jack McLeod*

*Results are in from the Combined Marine Corps League Pistol Match held October 17 at Delaware County Field and Stream ...*

Name	Score	Category	Detachment
Mike Bodle	518	Master	Upper Darby
Gerry Zell	463	Expert	Delco
Bob Spano	454	Expert	S. D. Butler
Ray Mansfield	448	Expert	Delco
Jay Joseph	435	Expert	Upper Darby
Gene Kern	389	Sharp Shooter	S. D. Butler
Earle Drake	371	Sharp Shooter	S. D. Butler
John Meyer	346	Sharp Shooter	S. D. Butler
Joe Clark	332	Sharp Shooter	Delco
Greg Mellor	*230	Sharp Shooter	Upper Darby

\* *Greg Mellor shot one string of fire, due to circumstances, but he would have fired expert if he shot both strings.*

We had several other Leaguers signed up for the match. Two were on sick call and others could not be present for various reasons.

Earle

### "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!

#### NOVEMBER BOOSTERS

Con McGinley	Janice & Stan Samsel
Jim Herbst	John Burfete, Jr.
C.B. Anonymous	Florence & Bob Spano
Rosemarie & Tony Fusto	Bob Wells
Gene Kern	Jack & Pauline Kelly
Bob & Barbara Cosgrove	Bob Matthews

Thank you boosters!

**Bob Spano**

Paymaster

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

### 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	Wayne Williams
Scholarships	John Gingras
Scouting	Dan Luty
Toys-For-Tots	Connie McGinley
V.A.V.S.	Robert Stanton
Young Marines	Dan Luty
Web Master	

### 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

### Events – November, 2009

- November 2** **General Meeting @ 1930**, Knights of Columbus. 2nd round of nominations.  
**Nomination for Marine of the Year.**  
(Submit your written nomination to one of the officers)
- November 6** Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Paxon Hollow Country Club. Cocktails at 1800. Dinner and ceremonies to follow.
- November 10** **Marine Corps Birthday Party. Cookies Tavern. 10<sup>TH</sup> & Oregon. All day! It's a Marine Thing.**
- November 11** **Veterans Day** Festivities. VFW & American Legion Ceremonies at Veterans Park and American Legion 805.  
Veterans Day Parade. Meet in Media at the Rt. 252 & State Street Parking Lot after the American Legion Ceremonies.
- November 24** Staff Mtg. American Legion Post 805 @ 1930.
- December 7** **General Meeting @ 1930**, Knights of Columbus. 3rd round of nominations.  
**Election of 2010 Officers!**

## 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

## 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 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, \$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.

### SICK CALL

Ralph LaMarra	Matt Balfrey
Dave Brimble	Bernice Kerrigan
Gerry Powlus	Marino DeFrancesco

*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 ...



The first step in subduing the Cacos, a.k.a. bandits or guerrillas, was an attempt to buy their weapons for gold. The Cacos were to be paid according to their military rank and those with shoes claimed to be generals and those barefooted were privates. The swap had an officers bias! This trade-off was a partial success but the Caco problem of the still armed groups remained and that called for combat encounters.

Marines and Sailors in the Landing Force started aggressive patrolling and became heavily involved in setting ambushes and being ambushed. After quite a few of these encounters, it was decided to send long-range patrols to the lair of these bandits which lay in the old French forts in the Northern Mountains. They had been built during the French regime and, to this day, dot the countryside in various degrees of decay.

Three of the main strongholds in the Northern mountains were Fort Capois, Fort Dipitie and Fort Riviere on the peak of Montagne Noire, 4000 feet above sea level, and was an old bastion of 200 square feet with thick walls 30 feet high and made of brick and stone.

A major problem for the North American military force was one of health. Some of the conditions encountered by our troops in the tropical jungle were the diseases of that environment such as jungle rot, malaria, blackwater fever, elephantiasis, small pox, dirty water and lack of proper food.

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, the order for the first patrol was to send **Major Butler** on a six day mounted patrol with 27 men and pack animals. The Gunnery Sergeant for the group was **Daniel Daly** who had already served 25 years of his 45 year career as a Marine. The patrol also had one machine gun. It's objective was to locate and capture Fort Capois, reputedly the main Caco stronghold. The Fort was located on the third day of the patrol but it was determined that more men were needed to storm the Fort. On his way to locate reinforcements, the patrol was ambushed by Cacos during a river crossing via help from a double agent posing as their guide. Extracting themselves, the patrol reformed about a mile from that site and found that the machine gun was lost during the firefight.

Daly, on his own, returned to the ambush site that night and retrieved the lost weapon and returned while being shot at by bandits in the jungle. He immediately put the gun into action against the surrounding enemy.

For this deed, **Gunnery Sergeant Daniel Daly**, was recommended for the **Medal of Honor** by **Major Butler** and later received his second award of this decoration.

At dawn, the surrounded patrol broke out of the encirclement and charged the Cacos, who then fled, and the patrol captured and demolished Fort Dipitie and burned the surrounding buildings. They had covered 40 miles on foot over rough trails in 55 hours without proper rest for the men or pack animals. The local natives were amazed that the patrol had gotten through the Caco infested valley with only 27 men.

The patrol returned to base and reported that the whole region was alive with hostile Cacos and the new target now clearly defined.

*Submitted by,  
John Cook*

## Birthday Greetings for November

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

Kim Babcock  
Matthew Balfrey  
David Cleary  
Joseph Conigliaro  
John Cook  
Laura DiLiello  
James Donahue  
Daniel Fitzpatrick  
Karl Heinzelmann  
Stephen Hodulik  
Aleta Krauss  
Daniel Luty  
H. Chalmers McDaniel  
Bernard McGinley, Jr.  
Christopher Mouraview  
James Sandusky  
Jack Thomas  
Craig Williams  
Russell Williamson



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

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

## **JOSEPH F. FEATHERSTON**

### *“A Biographical Sketch”*

***Enlisted U.S. Marine Corps 1956, commissioned via Warrant Officer Program 1966, retired as Major 1978.***

Ten years enlisted service as radio operator, radio chief, wire chief and communications chief.

Twelve years commissioned service in all aspects of aviation maintenance supply support management including program management, analysis, financial planning, computer operations and personnel management. Two ground combat tours with 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines in 1965 and VMFA-542 in 1968 and 1969 in the Republic of Vietnam. He holds a Final Secret security clearance.

Mr. Featherston brings over 53 years of professional experience to the identification, analysis and resolution of problems and challenges in the military and the marketplace. In 22 years of military service with the United States Marine Corps, he advanced from Private to Staff Sergeant, then from Warrant Officer to the rank of Major at retirement. Mr. Featherston's commercial career began in 1978 with **National Airlines** in Miami Florida as Supervisor of Inventory Planning followed by Supervisor of Logistics Control for **Pan American World Airways**, Manager of Stores, then Director of Purchasing and Stores for **Air Florida**.

In 1982, Mr. Featherston was recruited by **Ryder System** in the Aviation Leasing and Services Division where he advanced from Director of Materials Management to Senior Director of Operations, then to responsibilities as divisional Vice President of Operations for a five-company grouping in multiple locations.

In 1987, Mr. Featherston moved to Washington and joined **Airbus Industrie** of North America (now Airbus) as Senior Vice President Operations for AINA Holdings, Inc. and Chairman of Airbus Service Company, Inc., the product support organization for North America. Over a period of six years, the Airbus aircraft presence grew at an accelerated rate and the attendant reputation for superior product support in spares, customer service, pilot & maintenance training and field service was widely recognized by the airline customer base.

Mr. Featherston served the last four and a half years with Airbus as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the holding company and Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Airbus Service Company. During this period Airbus opened both a state-of-the-art pilot and maintenance training facility in Miami and a modern, efficient 180 thousand square foot spares

distribution center nearly in Ashburn Virginia near Dulles Airport in support of a rapidly increasing market presence. This dual responsibility also included personnel, administration, information services and governmental liaison.

**NOVA Advisory Group International** was formed in April 1993 as an operations and logistics, multi-faceted support firm consulting to industry. Mr. Featherston serves as Chairman and President

Mr. Featherston is a Life Member and was President of the Society of Senior Aerospace Executives and a member of the International Steering Committee of the George Mason University, Institute of Public Policy's *Aviation Policy Program*. He was also Chairman of the National Marine Corps Council, a fraternal grouping of over 30 national Marine Corps organizations. Mr. Featherston is a member of numerous professional, military and social organizations involving community interface and improvement. He holds an Associate of Arts degree from University of Maryland and graduated from Florida International University's School of Engineering with a Bachelor of Technology in Industrial Systems degree as well as significant work toward a Masters degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University .



***Joseph F. Featherston will be the guest speaker at this year's Smedley D. Butler Detachment Ball.***

**General Smedley D. Butler Detachment #741**  
**Marine Corps League**  
**General Meeting Minutes – 5 October 2009**

Commandant: Commandant Earle Drake opened the meeting at 1935. The normal opening ceremonies were conducted. Officers present were Commandant Earle Drake, Sr. Vice Bob Cosgrove, 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, Director Jim Herbst, and Director Bernie McGinley.

Minutes: George Boyajian made a motion to accept the minutes of the 9 September 2009 general meeting as published in the *Scuttlebutt*. Paul Ferguson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

New Member: Louis Camilli, a Marine who served on Iwo Jima, was introduced by John Cook as a new member. He was approved for membership as a regular member, and he was sworn in by Commandant Earle Drake.

Commandant's Report: Earle Drake reported that the Detachment has lost another member. Jack Lister recently passed away after a long illness. A casket watch had been performed and the Honor Guard was present and served at Jack Lister's funeral.

Officer Reports:

Jr. Vice: Jack McLeod mentioned that the Help Our Heroes Campaign had recently shown some activity, thanks to the efforts of John Burfete and Pete Patrucci. John Burfete provided some comments on how he approached individuals for donations for the Help Our Heroes Campaign. Jack McLeod also reported on the Help Us Help Others Campaign, reporting that last weekend's donations were probably the largest that the Detachment has ever accomplished in one weekend. Results so far this year have already exceeded what was collected in all of 2008. Jack McLeod also reported on activity for the ad booklet for the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

Sr. Vice: Bob Cosgrove mentioned that John Cook was accepting reservations for the Detachment's Marine Corps Birthday Ball to be held in November. Reservations must be made by 2 November 2009.

Adjutant: Jack Kelly reported that letters of appreciation for Detachment donations were received from Homes for Our Troops, Taunton, MA, and from Operation First Response, Culpeper, VA. In addition, a note of thanks was received from Terry Hardin, mother of U.S. Army Specialist Kevin Hardin, to whom the Detachment had recently donated some gift cards. A note was read from Alice Goldsborough expressing her appreciation to the Detachment following her husband Spence Goldsborough's passing.

Chaplain: Chris Bush indicated that Lloyd Spangler had recently been in the hospital, but was now at home. Jack McHenry had recently had a fall, but was recovering. Chris Bush also mentioned the passing of member Jack Lister.

Director Paul Ferguson: Paul Ferguson reported that a number of members had recently provided assistance in feeding approximately 600 returning troops at Ft. Dix, NJ. Those who participated had an excellent time, and it was a rewarding experience. It was indicated that that another similar event is scheduled for Friday, 9 October 2009. Dan Luty mentioned that the coffee pot used there was in unsatisfactory condition, so Dan Luty made a motion to spend up to \$300.00 to purchase a new coffee pot and donate it to the USO. Bernie McGinley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Paymaster: Bob Spano presented the paymaster's report as of 30 September 2009. George Boyajian made a motion to accept the paymaster's report as received. Jim Robinson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Adopt-a-Highway: John Burfete mentioned that the next Adopt-a-Highway event is scheduled for 18 October 2009. The report time is 0830 on Bishop Hollow Road in Newtown Square.

Americanism: Jim Mulhern was not present, but Earle Drake reported that an Americanism presentation was recently made by Jim Mulhern and Earle Drake for the Young Marines at the Folsom Reserve Unit. Another presentation is scheduled to be made at St. Patrick's Elementary School on 15 October 2009.

Auxiliary Liaison: Tony Fusto mentioned that the Auxiliary would be conducting its annual bake sale on 17 October 2009. Contributions of cakes, cookies, and other items for sale are welcome.

Awards: Harry Kaufman was not present, but Earle Drake reminded committee chairmen to submit the names of those members who have assisted in various projects through the year to Harry Kaufman. The recognition of those members will take place at the annual awards meeting in January.

Color Guard: Joe Conigliaro mentioned the need for volunteers for a Color Guard at the Walk for the Wounded event at Ocean City, NJ scheduled for 17 October 2009. Other possible events for the Color Guard were also discussed.

Honor Guard: Wayne Barner reported that 181 military funerals for deceased veterans have been conducted this year. Twenty-four had been conducted during the month of September.

Bob Spano reported that the motion at the September meeting to purchase winter gloves for the Honor Guard members would not be needed. An anonymous donor has provided the funds for the purchase of the gloves, thus saving the Detachment the expense of purchasing the gloves for the Honor Guard members.

Marksmanship: Gene Kern reported that a pistol match is scheduled for 17 October 2009 at Delaware County Field and Stream. Five members have already signed up to participate.

Scholarships: Earle Drake reported that forms for the academic scholarships available from the Department (State of Pennsylvania MCL) have been received. Individuals interested in applying for a Department scholarship should contact Wayne Williams.

Toys for Tots: Dan Luty mentioned that the Toys for Tots campaign this year may need more funds than in the past. He indicated he would look into the need and then consider making a motion for funds at the next general meeting.

Unfinished Business: As a reminder, John Cook mentioned that the Detachment's Marine Corps Birthday Ball is scheduled for 6 November 2009. He will be able to accept reservations up to 2 November 2009.

New Business: Bob Spano made individual motions for the Detachment to donate \$1,000.00 to each of the following organizations: (1) The Coatesville VA Medical Center, Coatesville, PA; (2) Hope for the Warriors, Jacksonville, NC; (3) Operation First Response, Culpeper, VA (This will be specifically for Alexander Campos, a 27 year old Marine battling cancer.); (4) The Philadelphia VA Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA; (5) Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Inc., Washington, DC; and (6) The USO, Philadelphia International Airport, Philadelphia, PA. These organizations had been discussed at the recent staff meeting of officers, and recommended to the membership for consideration. The motions were seconded individually and voted on individually. All of these motions were passed by the membership.

Officer Nominations: Commandant Earle Drake provided the Detachment's guidelines for serving as an officer. Nominations of officers for the following positions for 2010 were accepted by:

Commandant: None  
Sr. Vice: None  
Jr. Vice: Jack McLeod  
Judge Advocate: Paul Ferguson  
Adjutant: Jack Kelly  
Paymaster: Bob Spano  
Chaplain: Chris Bush  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Jim Ross  
Service Officer: Connie McGinley  
Directors: Bob Cosgrove, Jim Herbst, and Bernie McGinley.

Nominations can also be made at the November and December General Meetings, and the election of officers will be conducted at the December General Meeting.

Good of the League: Bob Spano mentioned that if a member is shopping in some local establishments, such as Lowe's or Home Depot, the member may receive a discount if the member mentions that he or she is a veteran.

Joe Conigliaro provided information on a beef and beer event hosted by the American Legion Post #338, scheduled for 23 October 2009. It will begin at 1800 and the cost is \$10.00 per person.

George Boyajian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bernie McGinley seconded the motion. There was a moment of silence for the remembrance of the passing of Jack Lister. After the normal closing ceremonies, the meeting was adjourned at 2050.

George Curran won the 50/50. Thirty-eight members signed the logbook.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jack Kelly*  
Adjutant





## Ceremony honors Marine Corps founder



### *Once a year, few are the proud who remember:*

The Philadelphian who founded the Marines is buried here. Every Nov. 10 for perhaps two decades, a simple sunrise ceremony has taken place at the unlikely site where **Major Samuel Nicholas** is buried, the Quaker meetinghouse at Fourth and Arch Streets. It's an obscure ritual at a hardly noticed resting place - an almost-unknown tomb of a well-known Marine. No gravestone marks the spot, and no sign or engraving commemorates his life. The Religious Society of Friends, renowned for its pacifism, has kept the matter quiet - a remarkable feat in a city that worships history-makers. About 6:40 a.m. yesterday, hearty chanting heralded the approach of a contingent of men and women. "Back in 1775, our Marine Corps came alive!" was one of the lines they bellowed. So was, "It's freezing out!" The cadence grew louder as about 48 souls, most of them in sweat suits with bright reflective tape, jogged double-file through the Arch Street gates, a block west of the Betsy Ross abode. "Left! Right! Halt! . . . About face!" Soon they were standing silently on a herringbone brick walkway west of the long two-story brick edifice, under a semi-skeletal canopy of towering trees. A reading commemorated the life of the Marine Corps' first commandant, who was given authorization to recruit its first battalions by the Continental Congress 233 years ago yesterday. Leading Marines during the Revolutionary War, Nicholas launched a successful assault on British forces in Bermuda and ferried Gen. George Washington across the Delaware River for the Battle of Trenton.

That the observance falls on the day before Veterans Day is mere coincidence. A wreath with red and white carnations and a red bow was placed upon a wire stand, followed by a minute or more of silence. Then the group was off, except for Capt. Phillip Peche, 31, who stayed behind to explain. The 48 paying homage - who ran 3 1/2 miles from the University of Pennsylvania - included about 40 ROTC cadets from Penn and Villanova University, as well as three second lieutenants and a gunnery sergeant from Quantico, Va. The ROTC program he helps manage, Peche said, is officially a Navy program, but cadets can opt to join the Marine Corps.

"I think it's great to introduce the newest members of the corps to the history," he said. Exactly where Nicholas' remains lie is a mystery, however, he said. Near the entrance walkway, a horizontal slab bears this inscription: "Beneath this stone lies the body of Doct Edward Owen, who desired while living that after his burial he might not be disturbed." The only other identifiable grave marker on the grounds, officials say, is the one in southeast corner for the 19th-century Mayor Richard Vaux. Some reports claim Nicholas was buried on the east side of the building, but no one really knows, former meetinghouse director Helen J. File said. "We don't have a clue," she said yesterday. The ceremony has been observed for more than 20 years, and usually the wreath was placed at the eastern end of the property, she said. But Nicholas' whereabouts weren't a factor. For one reason, the east side has a wrought-iron fence to hang the wreath on. "The other thing is, it was out of sight," she said. File, director for 28 1/2 years until two years ago, allowed the annual ceremony as long as it was small and quiet.

"Without any guns or fanfare," she said. Not knowing the grave location isn't surprising, current director Nancy Gibbs said. Quakers don't subscribe to fancy headstones, and as cemeteries go, it was anything but exclusive. As many as 20,000 people - including thousands of casualties of the yellow-fever epidemic of the late 18th century - may have been buried on the property, which William Penn chartered as a cemetery in 1701, she said.

The meetinghouse, finished in 1811, was built atop remains, she said. "They're still here," she said. "They're under our feet. They're under our parking lot. They're under our walkways." In the late 1990s, a written request was made to remedy the situation by installing a small marker just for Nicholas. "It was denied," File said. Nicholas was a Quaker until he decided to fight for the country's independence and started recruiting at Tun's Tavern to form the Marine Corps, according to accounts. He was then expelled - Quakers call it being "read out of meeting," Gibbs said.

Research never could confirm whether he attended meetings again later in his life, File said. Nevertheless, his remains were buried there. Unmarked by any stone or any tourist board.



By Peter Mucha  
Inquirer Staff Writer



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

*Honor-Courage-  
Commitment*



Next Meeting  
**November 2, 2009**  
**1930 hours**  
Knights of Columbus  
327 N. Newtown Street Rd.  
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Newtown Square, PA 19073