



# Scuttlebutt



**General Smedley D. Butler Detachment**

Incorporated 1991

P.O. Box 184 • Newtown Square, PA19073

Website • [www.genbutlerdet.org](http://www.genbutlerdet.org)

**Commandant Dominic D'Alessandro**

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1914 1915



Volume XXVII, Issue 1  
January 2017

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## Commandant's Report

### January 2017

The Detachment's main fundraiser, the Help Us Help Others (HUHO) Campaign was a huge success this year. Over \$166,000.00 was collected from shoppers at area supermarkets. This is all thanks to the efforts of our members, Auxiliary members, and individuals who have worked over 2,400 hours to make this possible. A special thanks is in order for Jr. Vice Commandant Jack McLeod for his undying efforts in this program. Many veterans have benefited from this program through the donations made by the Detachment to organizations the assist veterans causes.

The election of officers for 2017 was conducted at the December 6th general meeting. The results of the election were:

- Commandant - Dominic D'Alessandro
- Sr. Vice Commandant - Dominick Mattioni
- Jr. Vice Commandant - Jack McLeod

- Adjutant - Jack Kelly
- Paymaster - Bob Spano
- Judge Advocate - Earle Drake
- Sergeant-at-Arms - Charles (Bud) Davis
- Chaplain - Chris Bush
- Service Officer - Jim Herbst
- Directors - Paul Donohue, Bill Kinney, Jim Flynn

The election of the Marine of the Year for 2016 was also held at the December meeting. The three final candidates were George Boyajian, Dan Luty, and Dominick Mattioni. The result of the election will be announced at a future general meeting.

The Detachment's Color Guard, whose participants vary, has been very busy during the past few months. Thanks, guys, for doing a great job.

Our staff dinner meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 27, 2016 at Valentino's Restaurant. All officers are urged to attend and members are welcome to attend. The cost of the dinner is \$30.00 per person. Members were asked to contact Sr. Vice Commandant Dominick Mattioni if planning to attend.

We are still in need of a member to chair the Honor Guard Program. This is a much needed program to honor our veterans at their final hour. So please, if you can, "step up" and help our Detachment continue this very important program.

If anyone has information of illness of any of our members or Auxiliary members, please contact Chaplain Chris Bush.

*Semper Fi,*  
***Dominic D'Alessandro***  
Commandant

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"SCUTTLEBUTT" BOOSTER CLUB



**Help support our award winning 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	Joe Daly
Joe Direso	Jean & Tom Falgiatore
Beth & Jim Herbst	Jack Kelly
Dominick Mattioni	Con McGinley
Jerry McGuckin	Charles Sexton
Rosemarie & Lloyd Spangler	Dan Luty
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 January**

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

James Cecchini  
 Scott Chambers  
 Paul Drinkard  
 Anthony Fusto  
 Richard Hudak  
 Edward Moore  
 Nicholas Repino  
 Robert Wells



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

**General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Officers**

Commandant	Dominic D'Alessandro
Sr. Vice Commandant	Dominick Mattioni
Jr. Vice Commandant	Jack McLeod
Adjutant	Jack Kelly
Paymaster	Bob Spano
Judge Advocate	Bernie McGinley
Sergeant-At-Arms	Charles (Bud) Davis
Chaplain	Christopher Bush
Service Officer	Jim Herbst
Director	Bill Kinney
Director	Roger Godfrey
Director	Paul Donohue
Jr. Past Commandant	Paul Ferguson

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

Adopt-A-Highway	Jim Flynn
Americanism Team	J.Mulhern, E. Drake, D. Fitzpatrick
Auxiliary Liaison	Tony Fusto
Awards	James Herbst
Ceremonies	Charles (Bud) Davis
Color Guard	Wayne Williams
Flag Collection	Dominic D'Alessandro
Historian	Jack Gallagher
Home Association	Tom Kerrigan
Honor Guard	OPEN
Honor Guard Assistant	Mike Milliken
Locker Box	Paul Ferguson
Marksmanship	Gene Kern
Membership	James Herbst
Newsletter (Scuttlebutt)	Dan Luty
Newtown Twp Vets Park	Bill Kinney
Nominations	Paul Ferguson
Property	Bob Spano
Communications	John Burfete
Scholarships	Wayne Williams
Scouting	John Gingras/Ed Seidl
Toys-For-Tots	Dan Luty
V.A.V.S.	Con McGinley
Young Marines	Sgt Uwe Esser and Dan Luty
Web Master	Ilene Silvers

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

**General & Healthcare Benefits**

<b>VA Hotline</b>	<b>800-827-1000</b>
<b>Veterans' Healthcare</b>	<b>877-222-8387</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>888-442-4551</b>
<b>Grave Markers</b>	<b>800-697-6947</b>
<b>Life Insurance</b>	<b>800-669-8477</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>www.va.gov</b>

# Looking Ahead

## DETACHMENT EVENTS

### January

- 3 General Meeting, Knights of Columbus Hall, Rt. 252, Newtown Square, 1930.
- 6-7 Winter PA Dept. Staff Mtg, Holiday Inn, Hershey, PA.
- 11 Bingo, Coatesville Veterans Health Center. Contact Jim Herbst for additional information.
- 18 Budget Meeting, Post #805, West Chester Pike, 1800.
- 31 Audit for Income/Expense 2016, Post #805, West Chester Pike, 1900, followed by Staff Meeting at 1930.

### February

- 7 General Meeting at KoC, 1930 start time.

## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS

### OTHER VETERANS' & FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS' 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 1900.

**American Legion Nunan-Slook Post #338**, Meets the second Tuesday at 7:00 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.

## 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 MCL**, Third Sunday of the month: Breakfast: 0800-1130, \$10.00/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

Bill Inverso  
Tom Falgiatore

Ben Sides  
Bernie McGinley

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

**General Smedley D. Butler Detachment #741**  
**Marine Corps League**  
**General Meeting Minutes – 6 December 2016**

**Commandant:** Commandant Dominic D'Alessandro opened the meeting at 1800. The regular opening ceremonies were conducted. Officers present were Commandant Dominic D'Alessandro, Sr. Vice Commandant Dominick Mattioni, Jr. Vice Commandant Jack McLeod, Judge Advocate Bernie McKinley, Paymaster Bob Spano, Adjutant Jack Kelly, Chaplain Chris Bush, Sergeant-at-Arms Charles (Bud) Davis, Service Officer Jim Herbst, Director Paul Donohue, Director Roger Godfrey, and Director Bill Kinney. The meeting began early in order that the Detachment and Auxiliary could enjoy the annual Christmas Toys for Tots dinner after their respective meetings.

**Election of the Marine of the Year:** Ballots for the election of the Marine of the Year were distributed to each one in attendance by Jim Herbst and Ben Sides. Jim Herbst announced that there had been a good number of members nominated, but the top three were announced as George Boyajian, Dan Luty, and Dominick Mattioni. Members and associate members were able to vote, and the ballots were collected. The person who has been elected as the Marine of the Year for 2016 will be announced during the January 2017 general meeting.

**Minutes:** Dan Luty made a motion to accept the minutes of the 1 November 2016 general meeting as published in the *Scuttlebutt*. Bob Wells seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**Officer Reports:**

**Adjutant:** Jack Kelly mentioned that letters of appreciation for donations made by the Detachment had been received from the Fisher House Foundation, the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces, the Semper Fi Fund, the Archdiocese for the Military Services USA, the Liberty USO at the Philadelphia International Airport, and from Homes for our Troops. Members were aware that Commandant Dominic D'Alessandro had recently lost his father, and a note of thanks was read from the D'Alessandro family, in which the family expressed their appreciation for the military memorial service for Commandant D'Alessandro's father. In addition, a letter was received from Guy Fizzano, Board President of the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association, in which he expressed his appreciation for the Detachment's Color Guard serving at the annual Freedom Medal Awards Dinner on 17 November 2016. This letter also referred to Paul Donohue, who appeared once again as a Revolutionary War soldier.

**Sr. Vice Commandant:** Dominick Mattioni mentioned that he had received positive feedback on the Detachment's annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball. It was reported that everyone had a good time at the Ball. Dominick Mattioni then mentioned that the annual staff dinner is scheduled for 27 December at Valentino's Restaurant in Broomall, PA. The cost is \$30.00 per person, and those planning to attend should contact Dominick Mattioni.

**Jr. Vice Commandant:** Jack McLeod reported on the Detachment's Help Us Help Others (HUHO) Campaign. This year's campaign began in March 2016 and it resulted in seventy-one collection events, including three three-day weekends plus two events at Wawa locations. There were 2,400 hours of effort put into collection activity which resulted in more than \$166,000.00 being collected from generous shoppers at area supermarkets. It was reported that more than \$1,000,000.00 has been collected in this effort over the past nine years. This means that a great number of veterans and their familiars have been assisted financially through these efforts through the organizations to whom the Detachment donates. In addition, Jack McLeod mentioned that almost \$5,000.00 has been received from advertisements in the annual Birthday Ball program book. A round of applause followed Jack McLeod's report.

**Paymaster:** Bob Spano provided the paymaster's report as of 30 November 2016. He reviewed the income and disbursements for the month, and he provided a summary of the Detachment's financial assets. He suggested that the members should review the list of organizations listed on the back of the agenda. These organizations are being suggested to the membership for consideration for donations, and they will be discussed later in the meeting. George Boyajian made a motion to accept the paymaster's report as received. Jim Flynn seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**Chaplain:** Chris Bush requested that during the holidays if anyone hears of a member or family member becoming ill or entering the hospital to let Chris know. Chris mentioned that he had spoken recently with Bill Inverso and he had recently been hospitalized but was now at home. Chris Bush also mentioned that Jack McLeod had recently had a one day stay in the hospital for a procedure, but he was now able to attend this evening's meeting.

**Service Officer:** Jim Herbst referred the members to the Calendar of Events shown on the agenda for upcoming events at the Coatesville Veterans Medical Center. He also reminded the membership that the last round of nominations for officers for 2017 would take place later in the meeting. He requested that committee chairmen submit members' names to him to recognize members for their contributions to the Detachment during 2016. Jim Herbst also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Terry Jones.

**Director Kinney:** Bill Kinney mentioned that the National Realty Corporation would be having its annual Christmas luncheon for its employees and a Color Guard has been requested once again for this event. Bill Kinney mentioned that the third annual Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association Freedom Medal Dinner was great, and more than 595 tickets were sold and more than 600 people attended the event. Bill Kinney mentioned that the Detachment's Color Guard looked great, performing with the Marines from the Folsom Reserve Center and cadets from the Valley Forge Military Academy and College.

**Committee Reports:**

**Americanism:** Earle Drake reported on the recent Detachment visit to the former home of General Smedley D. Butler. Melisa Clarke, the current owner of the house, invited Detachment members to visit the house on 10 November 2016, and Phillippa, the last surviving grandchild of General Butler, came down from New York for the visit. Those who attended were Earle Drake, Jim Flynn, Bob Spano, Conn McKinley, and Terry Jones. Doug Hume from the Historical Society also joined the festivities. In another event, on 11 November 2016 the Americanism team participated in a flag raising and Veterans acknowledgement at the St. Patrick's School in Malvern, PA. On 12 November 2016, there was a presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to Senior Veterans at High Gate at Paoli Pointe. John Cook spoke of his experiences in Korea and Jim Mulhern spoke about his experiences in Viet Nam.

**Color Guard:** Wayne Williams reported that the Color Guard had participated in the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Association Freedom Medal Awards dinner. The Color Guard from the Marines Corps' Folsom Reserve Center and the Color Guard from the Valley Forge Military Academy and College were also involved in the evening's activities. Those members participating in the Color Guard at the Freedom Medal Awards Dinner were Bob Wells, Jack Kelly, Jim Donegan, Wayne Williams, and Jim Herbst. Wayne Williams also reviewed the Color Guard's activity at the Detachment's Marine Corps Ball, at a local fundraiser, and the upcoming luncheon for the National Realty Corporation. A number of different members were listed as participating at these events.

Marksmanship: Earle Drake mentioned that due to health concerns, he would not be able to participate in the pistol match responsibilities in the coming year. A volunteer would be needed to participate in this function.

Young Marines: As a status report, Dan Luty mentioned that Sergeant Broz from the Folsom Reserve Center was stuck in traffic and was running late to our meeting. In the Toys for Tots program, the last date for picking up toys was announced as 15 December 2016. There was some discussion on administrative details for the Toys for Tots program.

Property: Bob Spano announced that all the Detachment property that was used at the Birthday Ball had been returned to the locker.

Communications: John Burfete mentioned that some recent Detachment activities have been posted on the Marple Newtown Patch. Several items have been released to local newspapers as press releases but John Burfete was not aware if any had been published.

Scholarships: Wayne Williams mentioned that he would have the application forms for the Detachment scholarship program at the January 2017 general meeting.

Honor Guard: Ben Sides reported that the Honor Guard had participated in twelve funerals for deceased military veterans during the month of November. The year-to-date total for the Honor Guard is now one hundred and thirty-two funerals.

Old Business:

Election of Officers: Jim Herbst conducted the final round of nominations of officers for the Detachment for 2017. Nominations for the following positions have been accepted by the following members:

- Commandant - Dominic D'Alessandro
- Sr. Vice Commandant - Dominick Mattioni
- Jr. Vice Commandant - Jack McLeod
- Adjutant - Jack Kelly
- Paymaster - Bob Spano
- Judge Advocate - Earle Drake
- Sergeant-at-Arms - Charles (Bud) Davis
- Chaplain - Chris Bush
- Service Officer - Jim Herbst
- Directors (three needed) Paul Donohue, Bill Kinney, Jim Flynn

Jim Herbst mentioned that there were no contested officer positions and according to Detachment By-laws, the Adjutant would cast one vote for each person nominated. As directed by Detachment By-laws, Adjutant Jack Kelly then cast one vote for each person nominated, and the slate of officers was thereby elected for the 2017 year.

New Business:

Charitable Organizations: Bob Spano reviewed the list of charitable organizations on the back of the agenda that were being suggested for donations this month. These organizations had been discussed at a recent officers' staff meeting and were being suggested to the membership for consideration. George Boyajian made a motion to donate the funds as outlined on the back of the agenda. The organizations, with the amount of the donation in parentheses, are: (1) Fisher House Foundation, Rockville, MD (\$2,000.00); (2) The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, Oceanside, CA (\$2,000.00); (3) Operation First Response, Inc., Culpeper, VA (\$2,000.00); (4) Operation Homefront, Doylestown, PA (\$2,000.00); and (5) The USO, Philadelphia International Airport, Philadelphia, PA (\$2,000.00). Bill Kinney and Wayne Williams seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Good of the League: Bob Spano mentioned that the price for the dinner tonight was one unwrapped toy. If anyone did not bring an unwrapped toy, the price for the dinner was \$16.00.

Announcements: Wayne Williams mentioned that at this time of year, he often plays Santa Claus, especially for kids with special needs. If anyone knows of any group needing a visit from Santa Claus, contact Wayne Williams.

The members recognized Lou Camilli for his ninety-seventh birthday. He was given a "special" golf club, and Lou mentioned that so far this year, he has played 152 rounds of golf. Lou was serenaded with a round of "Happy Birthday" and he was given a round of applause.

Earle Drake mentioned that he and Bob Spano had gone to Limerick, PA where a person had found an old flag that had belonged to Major General Smedley D. Butler. It was given to Earle Drake and Bob Spano. Earle Drake has taken the flag to the cleaners to be cleaned and it will be brought to a future meeting.

George Boyajian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by many and the motion passed. After the regular closing ceremonies, the meeting was adjourned at 1840. The members were then joined by the Auxiliary members for the annual Christmas dinner, catered by Justine's. During the dinner, Dan Luty presented a Detachment check of \$5,000.00 to Sergeant Broz of the Folsom Reserve Center for the Toys for Tots program.

Joe Daly won the 50/50. Thirty-six members signed the logbook.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Jack Kelly*  
Adjutant





# Smedley Butler Detachment 2016 Toys for Tots Holiday Dinner





## Remembering John Herschel Glenn Jr. (July 18, 1921 – December 8, 2016)



Glenn was born on July 18, 1921 in Cambridge, Ohio, the son of John Herschel Glenn, Sr. (1895–1966, owner of the Glenn Plumbing Company) and teacher Clara Teresa, and was raised in nearby New Concord with his adopted sister Jean. He attended New Concord Elementary School. After graduating from New Concord High School in 1939, Glenn studied engineering at Muskingum College. He earned a private pilot license for credit in a physics course in 1941. Glenn did not complete his senior year in residence or take a proficiency exam, both required by the school for its Bachelor of Science degree. Muskingum awarded his degree in 1962, after Glenn's Mercury space flight.

### **World War II**

When the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II, Glenn quit college to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Never called to duty, in March 1942 Glenn enlisted as a U.S. Navy aviation cadet. Glenn attended the University of Iowa in Iowa City for pre-flight training and continued at Naval Air Station Olathe in Kansas for primary training, where he made his first solo flight in a military aircraft. During advanced training at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi in Texas, he accepted an offer to transfer to the U.S. Marine Corps.

Completing his training in March 1943, Glenn was commissioned as a second lieutenant. After advanced training at Camp Kearny, California, he was assigned to Marine Squadron VMJ-353 and flew R4D transport planes. Glenn was posted to the Marine Corps Air Station El Centro in California in July 1943 and joined VMO-155, which flew the F4F Wildcat fighter. VMO-155 re-equipped with the F4U Corsair in September 1943.

He was promoted to first lieutenant in October 1943, and shipped out to Hawaii in January 1944. Beginning in June 1944, stationed in the Marshall Islands, Glenn flew 59 combat missions in the area. Hit by anti-aircraft fire five times, he received two Distinguished Flying Crosses and ten Air Medals.

Glenn returned to the United States at the end of his one-year tour of duty in 1945, and was assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina and then to Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland. Although he was promoted to captain in July 1945, shortly before the Pacific War's end, he was uncertain of a regular commission in the Marine Corps. Glenn was ordered back to Cherry Point, joined VMF-913 (another Corsair squadron), and learned that he qualified for a regular commission.

In March 1946, he was assigned to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro in southern California. Glenn volunteered for service with the occupation in North China, believing that it would be a short tour. He joined VMF-218, yet another Corsair squadron (based at Nanyuan Field near Beijing), in December 1946. Glenn flew patrol missions until VMF-218 was transferred to Guam in March 1947, and he returned home in December 1948.

He was re-posted to NAS Corpus Christi, first as a student and then as a flight instructor. In July 1951, Glenn was sent to the Amphibious Warfare School at Marine Corps Base Quantico in northern Virginia for a six-month course. He then joined the staff of the Commandant, Marine Corps Schools. Given only four hours of flying time per month, Glenn maintained his proficiency (and flight pay) by flying on weekends. He was promoted to major in July 1952.

### **Korean War**

Glenn was ordered to South Korea in October 1952, late in the Korean War. On February 3, 1953 he reported to K-3 and was assigned to VMF-311, one of two Marine fighter squadrons there, as its operations officer. VMF-311, equipped with the F9F Panther jet fighter-bomber, was assigned a variety of missions. Glenn flew his first, a reconnaissance flight, on February 26.

He flew 63 combat missions in Korea with VMF-311, and was nicknamed "Magnet Ass" because of his ability to attract enemy flak (an occupational hazard of low-level close air support missions); twice, he returned to base with over 250 holes in his plane. Glenn flew for a time with Marine reservist Ted Williams (a future Hall of Fame baseball player with the Boston Red Sox) as his wingman, and also flew with future major general Ralph H. Spanjer.

Before he left for Korea, Glenn applied for an inter-service exchange position with the U.S. Air Force to fly the F-86 Sabre jet fighter-interceptor. In preparation, he arranged with Colonel Leon W. Gray to check out the F-86 at Otis Air Force Base in Massachusetts. Glenn later wrote, "Since the days of the Lafayette Escadrille during World War I, pilots have viewed air-to-air combat as the ultimate test not only of their machines but of their own personal determination and flying skills. I was no exception."

In June 1953 he reported for duty with the 25th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, and flew 27 combat missions in the faster F-86. Glenn shot down his first MiG-15s in a dogfight on July 12, 1953. A second battle followed on July 19 and a third (during which four Sabres shot down three MiGs) on July 22. These were the final air victories of the war, which ended with an armistice five days later. For his service in Korea, Glenn received two more Distinguished Flying Crosses and eight more Air Medals.



## Test pilot

With combat experience as a fighter pilot, Glenn applied for training as a test pilot while he was still in Korea. He reported to the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School at NAS Patuxent River in Maryland in January 1954, and graduated in July.

Glenn's first assignment was testing the FJ-3 Fury, a Navy version of the F-86 Sabre which nearly killed him when its cockpit depressurized and its oxygen system failed. He also tested the armament of aircraft such as the Vought F7U Cutlass and F8U Crusader. From November 1956 to April 1959, Glenn was assigned to the Fighter Design Branch of the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics in Washington, D.C. and attended the University of Maryland.

On July 16, 1957 he made the first supersonic transcontinental flight, flying an F8U Crusader 2,445 miles (3,935 km) from Los Alamitos, California to Floyd Bennett Field in New York City in under 3 ½ hours. Glenn received his fifth Distinguished Flying Cross for this mission, and he was promoted to lieutenant colonel on April 1, 1959. He now had nearly 9,000 hours of flying time, including about 3,000 hours in jets.

## NASA career

While Glenn was on duty at Patuxent and in Washington, he began reading everything he could find about space. His office was asked to send a test pilot to Langley Air Force Base in Virginia to make runs on a spaceflight simulator, part of NASA research of reentry-vehicle shapes. The pilot would also be sent to the Naval Air Development Center in Johnsville, Pennsylvania, and would be subjected to high g-forces in a centrifuge for comparison with data collected in the simulator. Glenn's request for the position was granted, and he spent several days at Langley and a week in Johnsville for the testing.

Before Glenn's appointment as an astronaut in the Mercury program, he participated in capsule design. NASA had asked military-service members to participate in planning the mockup of a capsule. Since Glenn had participated in the research at Langley and Johnsville, been on mock-up boards in the Navy and understood capsules, he was sent to the McDonnell plant in St. Louis as a service adviser to the mockup board.

## Project Mercury

The flight took off on February 20, 1962 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. There were eleven delays during the countdown due to equipment malfunctions, improvements to equipment functioning properly and the weather. During Glenn's first orbit, a scheduled 30-minute test to see if he could fly the spacecraft manually became significant when a failure of the automatic-control system was detected at the end of the first orbit; this forced Glenn to operate in manual mode for the second and third orbits and re-entry.

Later in the flight, telemetry indicated that the heat shield had loosened. If the telemetry was correct, Glenn's spacecraft would probably have been destroyed during re-entry from the intense heat. Flight controllers had him modify his re-entry procedure by keeping his retrorocket pack over the shield to help retain it during re-entry. Leaving the retrorocket pack on made large chunks of flaming debris fly past the window of his capsule during re-entry, although Glenn thought it might have been the heat shield. He told an interviewer, "Fortunately it was the rocket pack—or I wouldn't be answering these questions." After the flight, it was determined that the indicator was faulty.

*Friendship 7* safely splashed down 800 miles southeast of Cape Canaveral after Glenn's 4-hour, 55-minute flight. He carried a note on the flight which read, "I am a stranger. I come in peace. Take me to your leader and there will be a massive reward for you in eternity" in several languages, in case he landed near southern Pacific Ocean islands. Although the original procedure called for Glenn to exit through the top hatch, he was uncomfortably warm and decided that egress through the side hatch would be faster. During the flight, he endured 7.8 G's of acceleration and traveled 75,679 miles at about 17,500 miles per hour.

The flight made Glenn the first American to orbit the Earth; the third American in space, he was the fifth human in space. The "best day of his life", it renewed U.S. confidence.

As the first American in orbit Glenn became a national hero, met President Kennedy, and received a ticker-tape parade in New York City reminiscent of those honoring Charles Lindbergh and other dignitaries. He became "so valuable to the nation as an iconic figure", according to NASA administrator Charles Bolden, that Kennedy would not "risk putting him back in space again. On February 23, 1962, President Kennedy gave him the NASA Distinguished Service Medal.

## Political career

### U.S. Senate

During Glenn's training, NASA psychologists determined that he was the astronaut best suited for public life. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy suggested to Glenn and his wife in December 1962 that he run for the U.S. Senate from Ohio in 1964, challenging aging incumbent Stephen M. Young in the Democratic primary election. In early 1964, Glenn announced his resignation from the space program to run against Young. He withdrew from the race several weeks after his hospitalization for a concussion sustained in a fall against a bathtub in late February; an inner-ear injury from the accident left him unable to campaign. Glenn remained close to the Kennedy family; he was with Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles when he was assassinated in 1968, and was a pallbearer at Kennedy's funeral in New York City.

In 1970, Young did not seek reelection and the seat was open. Glenn was defeated in the Democratic primary by businessman Howard Metzenbaum, but Metzenbaum lost the general election to Robert Taft Jr. In 1974, Glenn declined Ohio governor John J. Gilligan and the state Democratic party's request that he run for lieutenant governor and challenged Metzenbaum again for the other Ohio Senate seat. Metzenbaum was the short-term incumbent, appointed by Gilligan in January.

In the primary, Metzenbaum contrasted his strong business background with Glenn's military and astronaut credentials and said that his opponent had "never held a payroll". Glenn's reply became known as the "Gold Star Mothers" speech. He told Metzenbaum to go to a veterans' hospital and "look those men with mangled bodies in the eyes and tell them they didn't hold a job. You go with me to any Gold Star mother and you look her in the eye and tell her that her son did not hold a job". According to many observers, Glenn's "Gold Star Mothers" speech won him the primary. He defeated Metzenbaum 54 to 46 percent before defeating Ralph Perk in the general election, beginning a Senate career which would continue until 1999.



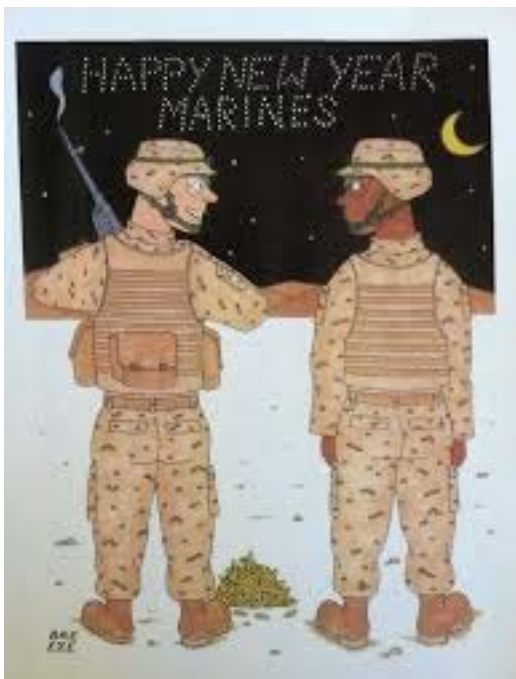


## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Smedley D. Butler Detachment  
P.O. Box 184  
Newtown Square, PA19073-0184



Honor-Courage-Commitment



Next Meeting  
**3 January, 2017 @ 1930**  
Knights of Columbus  
327 N. Newtown Street Rd.  
(Route 252)  
Newtown Square, PA 19073