



Scuttlebutt

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment
Incorporated 1991

P.O. Box 184 • Newtown Square, PA19073
Website • www.genbutlerdet.org

1914 1915



Commandant Jim Flynn
Email: flynelectric@yahoo.com

Volume XXX, Issue 7
September 2020

Dan Luty, editor

Commandant's Report September 2020

Summer is coming to an end and still no solution in sight for the corona virus. The Detachment has been able to work around it for the most part, keeping the members safe while still participating in some activities. We are still able to have meetings, Honor Guard and HUHO, as long as we take the necessary precautions. But we have had to cancel parades, the summer picnic, and the casket flag ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial. The Annual Freedom Dinner also is cancelled. At the September General Meeting we will discuss the 2020 Marine Corps Ball, but unless something changes soon, I am not optimistic. Last month's General Meeting was sparsely attended, a combination of virus concerns and some really bad weather. The next few meetings are especially important as in October we will begin nominations for 2021 Officers. Please attend if you are able.

I am sad to report the passing of Tom McGovern. Tom was a Naval Corpsman and served in WWII and the Korean War.

Tom was an active member of Smedley Butler Detachment, as well as American Legion Post 805 and VFW Post 7390. Tom was very active with Honor Guard, rarely missing a funeral. He was a great guy and well-liked by all. Tom was always the first one to make a new member feel welcome. He will be sorely missed.

We have a little over a month of fundraising for HUHO in this COVID abbreviated season. We can always use more help with this program. If you would like to volunteer to help by taking a 2 ½ hour shift on a Saturday or Sunday, please contact myself or Junior Vice Commandant, Jerry McGuckin. Also, as the weather begins to get cooler, the Adopt-a-Highway Committee will need help with 2 more road cleanups. We will probably schedule one in September and the final one mid-October. Dates will be announced at the September meeting and through email. All are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Semper Fi,

Jim Flynn
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 can continue our **award-winning** newsletter!

SEPTEMBER BOOSTERS

- Polly/Chris Bush
- Bud Davis
- Joe Direso
- Jim Flynn
- Bill Inverso
- Dominick Longhi
- Gerald McGuckin
- Bob Spano

Thank You Boosters!

Bob Spano
Paymaster

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

Birthday Greetings for September

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

- Leo Carlin
- Dominic D'Alessandro
- Earle Drake
- Maurice Furlong
- John Gallagher
- Michael Horne
- Emil Latini
- Richard Van Luvender



Happy Birthday...and many, many more!

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Officers

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Commandant | Jim Flynn |
| Sr. Vice Commandant | Dominick Mattioni |
| Jr. Vice Commandant | Jerry McGuckin |
| Adjutant | Charles (Bud) Davis |
| Paymaster | Bob Spano |
| Judge Advocate | Paul Ferguson |
| Sergeant-At-Arms | Dominic D'Alessandro |
| Chaplain | Christopher Bush |
| Service Officer | Jim Herbst |
| Director | Bill Kinney |
| Director | Ben Sides |
| Director | Paul Donohue |
| Jr. Past Commandant | Dominic D'Alessandro |

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Committee Chairmen

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Adopt-A-Highway | Jim Flynn |
| Americanism Team | J.Mulhern, E. Drake, D. Fitzpatrick |
| Auxiliary Liaison | Chris Bush |
| Awards | James Herbst |
| Ceremonies | Dom D'Alessandro |
| Color Guard | Wayne Williams |
| Flag Collection | Dominic D'Alessandro |
| Historian | OPEN |
| Home Association | Bob Spano |
| Honor Guard | OPEN |
| Honor Guard Assistant | Ben Sides & Mike Milliken |
| Marksmanship | Gene Kern |
| Membership | James Herbst |
| Newsletter (Scuttlebutt) | Dan Luty |
| Newtown Twp Vets Park | Bill Kinney |
| Nominations | Dominic D'Alessandro |
| Property | Bob Spano |
| Communications | John Burfete |
| Scholarships | Wayne Williams |
| Scouting | Ed Seidl |
| Toys-For-Tots | Paul Ferguson |
| V.A.V.S. | Jim Herbst & Claude Falcone |
| Web Master | Ilene Silvers |

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

| | |
|--|---|
| General & Healthcare Benefits | |
| VA Hotline | 800-827-1000 |
| Veterans' Healthcare | 877-222-8387 |
| Education | 888-442-4551 |
| Grave Markers | 800-697-6947 |
| Life Insurance | 800-669-8477 |
| Website | www.va.gov |

Looking Ahead

DETACHMENT EVENTS

*****NOTE - SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS*****

September

- 1 MCL General Meeting at Knights of Columbus Hall, Rt. 252 in Newtown Square at 1930.
- 13 DCVMA casket flag ceremony.
- 18 National MIA/POW Remembrance Day.
- 27 Gold Star Mother's Day.
- 29 Staff Meeting at Marple Memorial Post #805 at 1930.

October

- 6 MCL General Meeting at Knights of Columbus Hall, Rt. 252 in Newtown Square at 1930.

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, 3rd 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.

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.

Other Organizations' Events (Cont'd.)

Delaware County Detachment MCL, Breakfast, 3rd Sun of the month (except Jun, Jul & Aug), 0800-1130, \$10.00/person. DELCO Detachment, Upland, PA.

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 Upper Darby Detachment Home, 1026 Providence Road, Secane, PA 19018.

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.

MARK YOUR 2020 CALENDAR

Stayed tuned for this year's events!!!

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Veteran's Picnic: | CANCELLED |
| Det. Birthday Ball: | Saturday, 7 November |
| Toys4Tots Dinner: | Tuesday, 1 December |

Dominick Mattioni
610-692-4335

SICK CALL

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| John Burfete | Joe Tier |
| Earle Drake | Rich Bortner |
| Paul Donahue | Jim Mulhern |

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 – 4 August 2020

Commandant: Commandant Jim Flynn opened the meeting at 1935 and the regular opening ceremonies were conducted. Officers present were Commandant Jim Flynn, Senior Vice Commandant Dominick Mattioni, Junior Vice Commandant Jerry McGuckin, Judge Advocate Paul Ferguson (Absent), Paymaster Bob Spano, Adjutant Bud Davis, Chaplain Chris Bush, Service Officer Jim Herbst (Absent), Directors Paul Donohue (Absent), Ben Sides (Absent), Bill Kinney and Sergeant-at-Arms/Junior Past Commandant Dominic D'Alessandro (Absent).

Minutes: Bill Kinney made a motion to accept the minutes of the 7 July 2020 Detachment general meeting as published in the **Scuttlebutt**. Joe Beal seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Officer Reports

Adjutant: Bud Davis thanked the Detachment members and staff who were able to attend tonight's meeting due to the severe weather we had a couple of hours earlier. He let members know that many traffic lights were out along West Chester Pike. He also read a couple thank you cards sent to the Detachment from scholarship recipients. He mentioned that the Detachment would not hold a 50/50 at tonight's meeting due to the low turnout. He stated he hopes everyone is safe and looks forward to a larger turnout at next month's meeting.

Senior Vice Commandant: Dominick Mattioni reported he has the dates for the annual Detachment events scheduled and posted in the **Scuttlebutt**. He stated that these events may change or be canceled, so please watch for emails and updates in the **Scuttlebutt**. Dominick reminded Detachment members that the annual **Combined Veterans Alliance** picnic scheduled for 22 August has been canceled. Dominick spoke briefly about the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in November. The Detachment staff and Dominick are discussing the Ball for this year, and he is also talking with the Porch Restaurant at The Lamb Tavern about any restrictions that are currently in place.

Junior Vice Commandant: Jerry McGuckin reported that the **Help Us Help Others (HUHO) Campaign** is up and running. The Detachment's first weekend started 17 July at Shop Rite of West Chester. Jerry thanked all Detachment members who have participated in these **HUHO** events. Jerry did mention that if anyone can give a few hours to collect it would be greatly appreciated. The shifts for **HUHO** are 2 ½ hours long and are available on Saturday and Sunday. He also reported that collections through the first three weekends have been surprisingly good.

Paymaster: Bob Spano provided the Paymaster's report as of 28 July 2020, reviewing income and disbursements for the month. Bob reported that no funds would be made available to any charitable organizations at this time. This was discussed at the recent Detachment staff meeting, and the Detachment membership will be updated monthly. Chris Bush made a motion to accept the Paymaster's Report as received. Jerry McGuckin seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Judge Advocate: Paul Ferguson (Absent), no report.

Sgt-at-Arms: Dominic D'Alessandro (Absent), no report.

Chaplain: Chris Bush mentioned he spoke with several members of the Detachment and their families. Chris asked the Detachment members to keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Chris asked that if any Detachment member knows of someone that is ill or needs help to please contact him.

Newtown Twp. Vets Park Director: Bill Kinney reported that the kiosks at the **DCVMA** will remain covered and closed until further notice. Bill also mentioned that the **Flag Ceremonies** at **DCVMA** are on hold until 13 September. Currently there are four possible ceremonies scheduled for September, three for members of the Hennessey family and one for the Kelly family. The Soldiers Cross Statue that Detachment member Terry Jones sculpted for **DCVMA** and donated by our Detachment should be installed soon. Bill reported that Bob Spano delivered the statue to the National Developers group that oversees the **DCVMA**.

Honor Guard Director: A report was given for the Honor Guard that they participated in 1 funeral for veterans for the month of July. Total year to date for 2020 is 32 funerals. It was mentioned that the Honor Guard could always use help, anyone who can volunteer their time to the Honor Guard it would be greatly appreciated. It was also stated that any Detachment member who would like to take over the Honor Guard program to please contact Commandant Jim Flynn.

Director Donohue: Paul Donohue (Absent), no report.

Committee Reports:

Adopt-a-Highway: Jim Flynn reported that he is looking at dates for the next clean up. He would like to wait for cooler weather, possible September. Jim reminded members that if they are interested in participating in these clean ups, the meeting time is around 0830 at the Wolff Company parking lot on Bishop Hollow Road. All supplies are provided for this event. After the cleanup, the Adopt-a-Highway Chairman provides coffee and donuts.

Americanism: Earle Drake (Absent), no report.

Auxiliary Liaison: The Ladies Auxiliary awarded four scholarships at their July general meeting. Congratulations go out to Ava Dodge, Sarah Hanlon, Katie Tanis and Justin Wylie who were awarded the scholarships for this year. It was also reported that the Ladies Auxiliary Nominating Committee was selected.

Awards: Jim Herbst (Absent) reported at the staff meeting that he still has awards from 2019 to give out to Detachment members. Jim stated that he will be giving them out over the next couple months.

Ceremonies: Dominic D'Alessandro (Absent), no report.

Color Guard: Wayne Williams (Absent), A report was given that the Color Guard participated in Detachment member **John Haynal's** funeral service on 31 July. Wayne wanted to thank all Detachment members who were able to attend. It was also mentioned that the Color Guard will be participating at Detachment member **John Cook's** funeral service on 7 August. Both Detachment members passed away in April.

Flag Collection: A reminder to Detachment members and family that there are five Flag Collection Boxes in Marple/Newtown Townships. The location of these Flag Collection Boxes is the (1) American Legion Post #805, (2) Marple Township Building, (3) Marple Veterans Park, (4) Newtown Township Building and the (5) Delaware County Veterans Memorial. Detachment members may also bring unserviceable flags to a Detachment staff/general meeting for Dominic D'Alessandro to collect.

Historian: POSITION OPEN, this very important position is available to any Detachment member. If someone would like to step up and take on the duties of Historian, please contact Commandant Jim Flynn.

Home Association: Bob Spano, no report.

Marksmanship: Gene Kern (Absent), no report.

Membership: RECRUIT - RECRUIT - RECRUIT

Jim Herbst reminded everyone at the staff meeting to keep looking for new members for our Detachment to help fill our ranks. Jim stated that if any Detachment member needs a recruiting kit to please contact him.

Newsletter: If Detachment members have articles/photos for the **Scuttlebutt**, please direct them to Dan Luty by the 15th of the month.

Property: Bob Spano reported that progress is being made. Bob also reminded members that if they need patches, pins or ribbons to see him before/after a general meeting.

Communications: John Burfete (Absent), Through email John informed the Detachment membership that Associate/Life member **Thomas P. McGovern** passed away on 12 August. At the time, the **Scuttlebutt** minutes were being turned in, no information was available about Mr. McGovern's funeral services. May Mr. McGovern rest in peace and the Detachments thoughts and prayers be with his family.

John also passed along information on a Blood Drive (**9 August**) at the American Legion Post that was being run by the American Red Cross.

Scholarships: Bud Davis, for Wayne Williams, thanked the Detachment membership for their support again this year in providing the funds for the Scholarship program. Bud took a few minutes and read thank you cards from a few scholarship winners. The cards were from Justine Davis, Madeline Werndl and Christopher Milliken. All winners stated that the funds were greatly appreciated.

Scouting: Ed Seidl (Absent), no report.

Toys-For-Tots: Paul Ferguson (Absent) reported at the staffing meeting that the Toys-For-Tots program for 2020 is uncertain at this time. Paul will provide further information as he receives it.

VAVS/SERVICE OFFICER: Jim Herbst/Claude Falcone (Absent), Jim reported at the staff meeting that all Veterans Day activities scheduled at the Coatesville VA Medical Center have been

canceled for this year. He did state that they would like to have a fall coat drive, more details to come. Jim also mentioned that the VA is also looking into a luncheon and may be asking for gift bags or baskets.

Unfinished Business: Dues (Reminder) under the program instituted by National MCL, for regular/associate members, excluding Life members, are **due on or before 31 August** of each year. If you need to pay your dues, please remit **\$30** to Paymaster Bob Spano so that your membership will not be interrupted.

Make checks payable to: MCL #741

Send to: Bob Spano

1528 Honeysuckle Court West Chester, PA 19380-4287

New Business:

1. **Department of PA Convention**, 15-17 October at Indiantown Gap PA.
2. **Dept Winter 2021 Meeting**, 15-16 January at New Cumberland PA.

If any Detachment member is interested in attending one of these events, please contact Bob Spano or Bud Davis for further details.

Good of the League: This November will be the **Detachment's 30-year anniversary**, if anyone has suggested on a celebration/honoring of this event, please share with the Detachment.

Charitable Contributions: Bob Spano notified the Detachment membership that all veterans and charitable donations will be suspended until further notice. A month to month review of this policy will be talked about at the Detachment staff meeting. All Detachment members are welcome to attend this meeting on the last Tuesday of each month at 1930.

Commandant Jim Flynn asked for a motion to adjourn. Joe Beal made a motion and Bob Spano seconded and the motion passed. After the regular closing ceremonies, the Detachment general meeting for August was adjourned at 2000.

Logbook:

Members: 8

Guests: 0

50/50 Winner: N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Bud Davis III

Adjutant



An Ode To A Friend

I know this does not really have a place in this newsletter but I just wanted to add this on to the story of the Marine battles for the hills in '67. At the same time I was aboard Enterprise on Yankee Station, most of my boyhood friends were involved in the war in one capacity or another, including my older brother who was in the Army at Cam Rahn Bay. One friend in particular was with the Marines in those hill fights of '67. He was my great friend, Michael W. Mortimer, who I had gone to school with for twelve years and he arrived at Khe Sahn with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Marines. This force arrived at Khe Sahn on 11 May 1967 relieving the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 3rd Marines and constituted half of the previous force. They continued the savage hill fights through the remainder of '67 and withstood the siege of Khe Sahn from January to April '68 at the end of which they were withdrawn.

My friend was an M-60 machine gunner and during that time he became a legend in his company for his coolness under fire and the lethality of his weapon. He was regarded as a Champion in battle and other outfits in his company would ask if he would accompany them when it was their turn to go out on patrol. Because they placed their trust in him, my friend would go along, and they marvelled at his fearlessness. He was deemed a fighting machine and a good luck charm. They began to call him "The Mad Gunner."

My friend was fearless. He knew very well the risks he was asked to take. He knew others were counting on him, and for that reason he could not let them down. He lived up to their expectations regardless of cost to himself. When the stutter of his M-60 opened in battle, the others knew the Mad Gunner was in action. His precise eight round bursts were quickly opened on the hidden enemy. His devastating bullet streams probed sinister places, seeking out the ambushers. Tree trunks exploded into splinters and brush and dirt were blasted away as the Mad Gunner blinded the enemy with debris. Once an enemy was seen, or a muzzle flash pinpointed the target, the crash of the bullet stream was on in and instant of dismemberment. He was the Mad Gunner, credited with thirty one confirmed kills and he had seen many of his friends bleed and die.

Mike Mortimer survived the War and after I got out in December of '69 we hung out together. Later, he became incensed that there was to be a Vietnam War protest march in Washington held on Memorial Day of 1970. He went down there himself wearing his three-piece Sharkskin suit with a nice tie. He also had on his boonie hat and jungle boots that he brought back from Khe Sahn and all his medals splayed across his chest. There were about a hundred thousand protesters (College punks?) marching down Pennsylvania Avenue and the Mad Gunner, waving the biggest American flag he could find, countermarched right through all of them. He sung the Marine Corps Hymn as he marched and recited the names of as many of the fallen of Bravo Company as could remember. His mighty right fist smashed down any who dared not give way. The Mad Gunner, a force of one, took on an Army.

He lived his life standing up for others and living up to the expectations of others. Last April, at the age of 47, his great heart gave out under the strain and the Champion fell. The Earth, for me, became a lesser place with his passing.

*And when I get to Heavens Gate
to Saint Peter I will tell*

*"Another Marine reporting, Sir,
I've served my time in Hell"*





MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

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

Honor-Courage-Commitment



John Cook's Funeral

Next Meeting
1 September 2020, at 1930
Knights of Columbus
327 N. Newtown Street Rd.
(Route 252)
Newtown Square, PA 19073