

# Nittany Leathernecks



**JULY 2004**

*"Valiant service is not limited to combat."*

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## From the Commandant



As we put Memorial Day and Special Olympics behind us, we are now staring down at the People's Choice Arts Festival parking detail on 8-11 July. Please look the duty roster over and give us a hand where you can. As will likely be the case, some who are already signed on will bite the bullet and pick up the slack. We have enough members to easily cover the entire event with only one shift stood. Again, check the duty roster over and call Greg Johnson if you can fill in one of the slots still open.

Thanks to all who supported Special Olympics. We had a good turn out and shared special experiences with special citizens. The following members, family and friends participated: Bob Johnson, Tim Brickley, Gerry Thompson, Bill Klaban, Don Joyce, Wade Alexander, Joe Tomczuk, Andy Visnovsky, Jose Texidor Jr., Dallas Lykens, Marc Mc Mullin, Gene Weller, John Auman, Herb Wong, Dick Crowley, Albert Anderson, John Klara, and Gerry Russell. The following family and friends of the Nittany Leathernecks also participated: Bill Dixon, Donna Weller, Dennis Stoltz, Bob Truby, Lee Kolankiewicz, Mark Schaaf, Jim Purdum, Karen Johnson, Selma Thomson, Bill Whittaker, Arnold Gasche, Megan Joe, Deanna Johnson, Jan Miller, Greg Johnson II, J.R. Johnson, Christie Johnson, Mike Nordborg, and Rick Ball. Well done!

We had a good turn out last meeting. Seems perhaps we have a lot of mercenaries looking to take home the attendance drawing. Read more about that in this newsletter. We will meet again on the 13th at the Elks Club in Bellefonte. We also had three more new applications for membership. Look forward to seeing more new faces.

That's the latest scoop from my end. Continue to march and please give us some support for our upcoming events. Semper Fi.

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**Detachment 302**

**Department of Pennsylvania**

**United States Marine Corps League**

**Chartered 1974 / Incorporated 2002**

**<<http://marines.centreconnect.org>>**

Department of Pennsylvania



## Officers

### Commandant

**Charles Snyder**  
814.383.2849  
<scmsnyder@aol.com>

### Senior Vice

**Martin Kaschalk**  
814.383.2718  
<mjkaschalk@yahoo.com>

### Junior Vice

**Jack Lambert**  
814.383.0948

### Adjutant

**Steve Rayhorn**  
814.280.3051  
<thewashbox@yahoo.com>

### Paymaster

**Robert Johnson**  
814.234.7249  
<karbob64@mindspring.com>

### Judge Advocate

**Dennis Brown**  
814.383.4513  
<denbro@pennswoods.net>

### Sgt at Arms

**Mahlon McMurtrie**  
814.364.9110  
<mlm243@chilitech.com>

### Chaplain

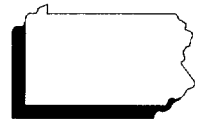
**Wayne Shamer**  
814.355.8027  
<dr2metapho@aol.com>

### Editor

**Greg Johnson**  
814.234.6093  
<gjj26@adelphia.net>



## From State



There is a group called "American Veterans" that is claiming to help homeless veterans. They are calling department members and requesting credit card donations. The president of the group is apparently called Robert Friend, Jr. If persons check their caller ID, it may read "Safety Programs (717) 234-2635." This is a non-working number. Robert Friend is the president of American Veterans Coalition based in Gig Harbor, WA. The Web site with his information is <http://www.american-veterans.org/OnlineRequestAssistance.html> Another report on this group, which has several aliases, may be found at <http://www.give.org/reports/nondissql.asp?798> . Please be advised that this is not an official VA-recognized veteran's service organization.

## VAVS

Jack **Bechdel** executed the Spring Carnival event at the VA Hospital in Altoona in late May. We thank Jack for all he does. But Jack can't do it by himself. If you are interested in supporting his future efforts, please call him.

## Meeting Date Change Reminder

A reminder that monthly business meeting will now commence the SECOND TUESDAY of each month. This will hopefully make it more easy for members to attend, plus it will likely be more quiet within the Elks Club since that is traditionally a slow evening. Also, this will allow us to have a pre-Toys for Tots effort meeting during December, in order to make last minute adjustments. During November, this will also put out meeting closer to the 10th. This month's meeting will be held on the 11th of May, same times, same place. See you there. Don't forget there will be an opportunity to walk away with some big cash.



## Eagle Scout Awards

2004 Presentations: Matthew S. **Burkett**, Troop 370 (1-18-04) -Det rep: D. Joyce; William H. **Weaver IV**, Troop 66 (1-18-04) -Det rep: D. Joyce; Christopher J. **Ritter**, Troop 367 (1-25-04) -Det rep: G. Johnson; Paul **Falkenstern**, Troop 44 (2-08-04)-Det rep: Lykens; James S. **Bickle**, Troop 370 (2-8-04) -Det rep: Lykens; Jacob D. **Lucas**, Troop 45 (2-14-04); Justin S. E. **Helms**, Troop 375 (2-15-04)- Det rep: Lykens; Eric J. **Nordberg**, Troop 380 (2-25-04)- Det rep: G. Johnson; Norman O. **Wenrick, IV**, Troop 20 (3-14-04) -Det rep: Lykens; Justin **Wilson**, Troop 44 (3-27-04) -Det rep: Lykens; Christopher B. **Lentz**, Troop 32 (4-18-04) - Det rep: TBD; Kevin P. **Ward**, Troop 31 (5-23-04) - Det rep: Lykens; D. Luke **Marion**, Troop 31 (5-23-04) - Det rep: Lykens; Joshua T. **Beben**, Troop 20 (5-23-04) Det rep: Bechdel; Ryan E. **Griffin**, Troop 83 (5-23-04)-Det rep: Weller; Vincent F. **Fiore**, Troop 83 (5-23-04)- Det rep: Weller; Jameson L. N. **Whitehill**, Troop 399 (5-23-04)- Det rep: Bechdel; Kevin **Dobash**, Troop 32 (7-3-04)- Det rep: TBA.

[Eagle Scout Awards Committee: Chairman- Dallas Lykens; Members: Bill Robison, Jack Bechdel, John Hammond, Greg Johnson, Denny Mains, Don Joyce.]

## **Gun Raffle Continues to Go Well**

Nittany Leathernecks continue to do well selling our gun raffle tickets. Thanks for keeping the effort up. We still have a long ways to go, but need to keep the push on. At a certain date in the next couple of months, we will suspend selling the blue tickets you have in order to make sure we sell only a set number of tickets. So get your ticket sold soon so that we can insure an efficient execution of this great program.

## **Five-Year MCL Membership Medals**

Marines Gene Weller and Herb Wong received their Five-year membership medals. At our next meeting we will present two more. Will it be you? We have an eligibility list we have selected based on seniority and participation in detachment events.



## **Memorial Day Flag Placement Detail Correction**

In our pronouncement of those who helped support the May Spring Creek Memorial Day flag placement effort, your editor accidentally overlooked the participation of **Tom McBride** and **Lewis Davidson**. I sincerely regret the oversight and think this detachment should get a new newsletter editor!

## **Postmaster Query**

The detachment is trying to locate the second key we have to our Lemont post office mail box. If you know where it is, please contact Greg Johnson. Thank you.



## **Penn State NROTC/Nittany Leathernecks Marine Corps Ball**

Mark your calendars now for the Marine Corps Ball on Friday, 5 November 2004. The ball will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center. The guest of honor will be Major General Francis Wilson, who currently serves as the President of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. General Wilson is an air controller by MOS but has extensive combat service support command experience. She is looking forward to being the guest of honor and meeting many of the Nittany Leathernecks. Stay posted for more information.

## **Special Note to Jack Lambert**

Jack, we need you to come to the next meeting! You have something over-due for presentation.

## **Korean War Veterans**

Korean War veterans are invited to attend a summer picnic on July 10th at a park to be determined. This event will be sponsored by the Penn State Korean Student Association in gratitude for saving their country 50 years ago. Korean style food will be served. 36 Korean War veterans have been identified to date and will be receiving invitations. If you are a Korean War veteran and would like to attend, please call Tom Pelick at 238-9492 to register and receive additional information

## **Quotable**

"I have only two men out of my company and 20 out of some other company. We need support, but it is almost suicide to try to get it here as we are swept by machine gun fire and a constant barrage is on us. I have no one on my left and only a few on my right. I will hold." -1stLt. Clifton B. Cates, USMC in Belleau Wood, 19 July 1918

# People's Choice Arts Festival Parking Detail FINAL Warning Order #4

Please call Greg Johnson at 234-6093 to volunteer your time :

## Thursday, 8 July

0930-1300	1300-1600	1600-1930
1. Joyce	1. Shields	1. Weller
2. Russell	2. Russell	2. Russell
3. D. Lykens	3. D. Lykens	3. D. Lykens
4. Tomczuk	4. Mc Bride	4. Loop
5. M. Gamble	5. Benner	5.
6. S. Gamble	6.	6.

## Friday, 9 July

0930-1300	1300-1600	1600-1930
1. Joyce	1. Shields	1. G. Johnson
2. Tomczuk	2. Russell	2. Weller
3. D. Lykens	3. D. Lykens	3. Brickley
4. Brickley	4. Tomczuk	4.
5. M. Gamble	5.	5.
6. S. Gamble	6.	6.



## Saturday, 10 July

0930-1300	1300-1600	1600-1930
1. G. Johnson	1. Russell	1. Weller
2. C. Johnson	2. Shields	2. Brickley
3. D. Lykens	3. D. Lykens	3.
4. Brickley	4. Benner	4.
5. McBride	5.	5.
6. M. McMurtrie	6.	6.

## Sunday, 11 July

1200-1430	1430-1645
1. G. Johnson	1. G. Johnson
2. Brickley	2. C. Johnson
3. M. McMurtrie	3. D. Lykens
4.	4. M. McMurtrie
5.	5.
6.	6.

## Tomczuk A Winner!!!

Marine Joe Tomczuk walked home with \$142.50 after his name was drawn from the attendance hopper last meeting. The take-home prize for our July meeting this month will be \$25.00 plus half of whatever is collected prior to the drawing. The only caveat is you have to be at the meeting to take it home -- if your name is selected.



## Life Member Certificates

We have a number of Marine Corps League Life Membership certificates ready to pass out at the next meeting. Please come to the meeting so that you can receive your certificate. This is a high-quality certificate you will appreciate.

## Major Fundraising Event To Be Discussed

A major fundraising event has been identified that may contribute significantly to the detachment. This plan will be discussed at the 13 July meeting. This effort will be a one night event that we think has the potential to become a major event within Centre County. It will require a team effort, but we think all involved will enjoy being part of the team that executes the event. The financial rewards could be significant. Come to the meeting to find out more.

## New Members

We are pleased to welcome aboard three new members: James M. **Tharaldson**, Nevin C. **Wilt**, and Robbie J. **Fulton**. We hope to have information on these Marines in the next newsletter.

## Membership Renewals/Status

*Total members: 143 Regular Members / 3 Associate Members/ 63 Life Members / Due July - Thompson / Due August- Benner, Bratton, Conaway, Derugen, Haines, Kyle, Masteller, Tami Mondy, Nau / Delinquent -Carfley, O'Connor, Holderman (to be dropped shortly)*



## Calendar of Events

Each Friday	<b>Lunch at the Legion.</b> State College American Legion Post 245. 1200 rain or shine
July	<b>Post Office Box Renewal.</b> Lemont Post Office.
13 July- Tue	<b>Detachment Meeting.</b> Bellefonte Elks Club. 1830 dinner (order off menu); Business Meeting (1930). Adjourn (2045)
8-11 July	<b>People's Choice Parking Detail.</b> Pennsylvania Military Museum, Boalsburg
October	<b>Day of Caring Project.</b> State College Food Bank
5 November- Fri	<b>Penn State NROTC/MCL Birthday Ball.</b> Penn Stater Conference Center
23 November-Tue	<b>Toys for Tots Kick-off Breakfast.</b> 0830, Atherton Hotel.
November	<b>Gun Raffle Drawing,</b> TBA
December	<b>18th Annual Centre County Toys for Tots Campaign.</b> Penn Stater Conf Ctr.

## ***NEXT MEETING:* Tuesday, 13 July 2004**

### **Bellefonte Elks Club**

6:30 p.m. (1830) Dinner (order off menu) / 7:30 p.m.  
(1930) Business meeting / 8:45 p.m. (2045) Adjourn



# **Be there, or be square!**

# Local man back in S. Korea to mark service in conflict

By Chris Rosenblum  
crosenbl@centredaily.com

Long ago, Gerald Russell and Kim Sung Eun defended the hills and valleys of South Korea together.

Now, 50 years after they last met, they're walking the same ground again.

Russell, a retired Marine Corps colonel from State College, is back in the Republic of Korea for the first time since the Korean War. Leading an international contingent of veterans from the war, he's taking part in national services marking the 54th anniversary of North Korea's invasion and the start of a conflict that's never officially ended.

The trip, ending Monday, includes a whirlwind itinerary for Russell and about 60 other veterans who fought under the United Nations banner against the North Koreans and their Chinese allies.

Today, however, is the centerpiece of the visit for Russell. After helping place a commemorative wreath in a military cemetery in Seoul, Russell will give the keynote speech of a nation-



CDT photo/Michelle Klein

**Col. Gerald Russell, who commanded a Marine infantry battalion and served as a senior adviser to a Korean marine regiment, is shown at the Boalsburg Military Museum.**

ally televised ceremony in a packed arena.

Afterward, at a dinner reception in the capital, the South Korean president will award "Ambassador for Peace" medals to the veterans.

"I'm thrilled and absolutely delighted," Russell said recently. "I'm being offered a great opportunity, not only to go back

but to meet so many of the people I served with."

On top of that list is Kim Sung Eun.

Back then, Russell was a battle-tested lieutenant colonel, a survivor of combat on the Pacific islands of Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima during World War II.

See Russell, Page A6

Local Marine goes back to mark service in Korea

Russell, continued from A1

Kim was a general commanding an elite South Korean marine brigade.

A transfer made them partners. Russell was in charge of a front-line battalion in 1952 when he received orders to be Kim's adviser. For more than six months, the pair led 3,000 Koreans in battle.

"We were comrades in arms and brother marines," Russell said.

A year after the war, Kim visited Russell and his wife in Quantico, Va. Russell went on to serve 28 years in the Corps. Kim rose to head the Korean marine corps before becoming Minister of Defense.

Both stayed on their sides of the ocean.

Then Russell signed on to make the trip with the help of the Korean Veterans Association, a South Korean government agency that pays for several such trips each year by groups of veterans who served in the war.

American bases are controversial in South Korea, but Ed Henry, a Vietnam veteran and tour leader, said none of the veterans on last year's invasion anniversary trip encountered any hostility.

"Like every country in Asia right now, (South Korea is) undergoing a tremendous generational change," Henry said.

"But anybody over 50, or even 45 years of age, welcomes these guys back. And even among the young people, there's still this deep respect for what these guys did in the name of the Korean people during the war."

Kim was excited to hear of his friend's return.

"When he found out I was coming over, he called me three times at my home," Russell said.

Kim planned to meet Russell at the airport and, undoubtedly,

"We came to your country to fight alongside you to stop this enemy who was attempting to conquer and rob you of your independence and freedom. It took hard work and the loss of many lives, but together we were successful."

**Col. Gerald Russell, an excerpt from the keynote speech he plans to make today at services in South Korea, marking the 54th anniversary of the start of the Korean War**

the two have been catching up between events. On the schedule, there are trips to Panmunjom along the Demilitarized Zone, where peace talks continue, and Incheon, site of a daring amphibious invasion.

But for two old soldiers, the places revisited in conversation might be more ordinary — windswept hills and dusty ravines where many died and a friendship was born.

Centre Daily Times, Thursday, June 24, 2004

CDT 23 MAR 2004

## BulletinBoard

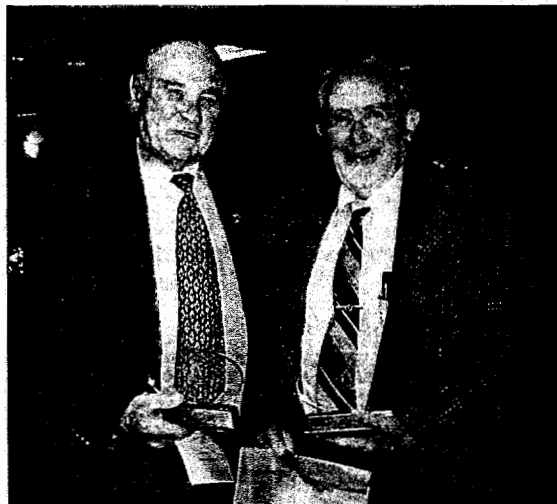


Photo provided

Col. Gerald Russell and Dr. Ernest Bergman were recently given the 2003 Community Service Award by the Kiwanis Club of State College. Russell's involvements include the Day of Caring and Special Olympics, while Bergman's activities include township government, the Kiwanis Holiday Basketball Tournament and the Alpha Ambulance Service.

JULY 2004

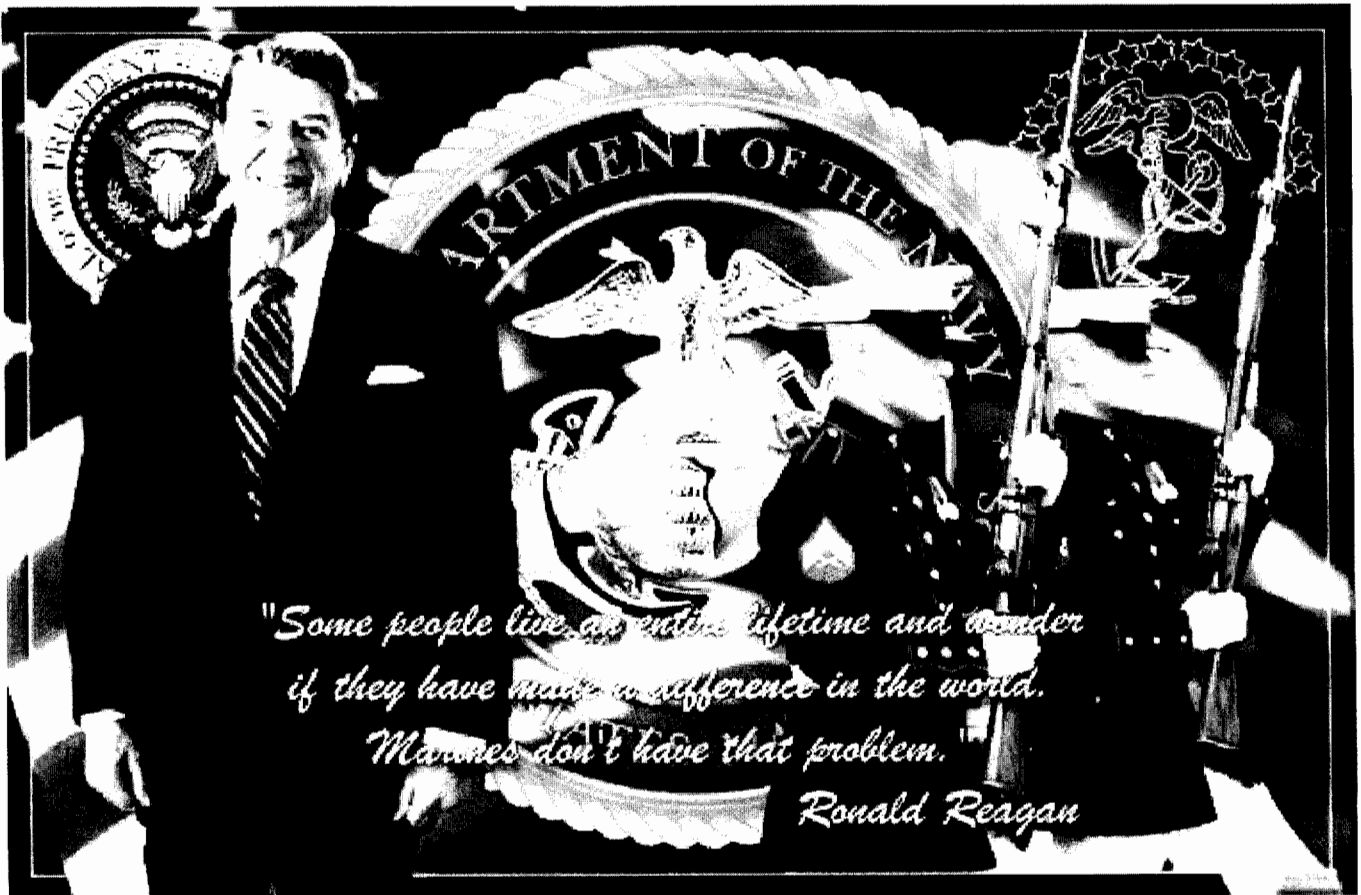


PEOPLE'S CHOICE PARKING DETAIL-  
FINAL CALL FOR HELP.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

An Incorporated Nonprofit Organization

Nittany Leathernecks Detachment  
United States Marine Corps League  
P.O. Box 956  
Lemont, PA 16851-0956



*"Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder  
if they have made a difference in the world.*

*Marines don't have that problem.*

*Ronald Reagan*