



CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL

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Do Not Use After 30 September 2011.

LOCAL GROUPS TO HONOR COLONEL GERALD F. RUSSELL

The Navy League of Central PA, in partnership with the Nittany Leathernecks Detachment of the Marine Corps League, will honor Colonel Gerald F. Russell USMC (Ret.) with a banquet at the State College Elks Club on 13 October 2011. Col. Russell will be the inaugural recipient of the Navy League of Central PA's LT Michael P Murphy Distinguished Citizen Award. General James T. Conway, USMC (Ret.) will be guest speaker. Tickets for the event will be available for purchase by the public on 12 September. Order forms can be downloaded from the Navy League's website: www.navyleague-centralpa.org. For more information contact John Groenveld at 814-863-9896.

Col. Russell is a decorated combat veteran of World War II who served at both Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima. He commanded a combat battalion in Korea and a regiment at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Following his distinguished Marine Corps career, Col. Russell served Penn State as an assistant vice provost within the College of Education. He is known throughout Centre County (and beyond) for his various efforts which include the Pennsylvania Special Olympics, Centre County Toys for Tots, United Way Day of Caring, and many other programs that benefit our community.

The LT Michael P Murphy Distinguished Citizen Award is given to a non-active duty person(s) whose character, distinguished military or civilian service and stature draw wholesome comparison to the qualities for which the Central PA Council of the Navy League strives. The 1998 Penn State graduate, LT Murphy, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on 22 October 2007 for his actions in combat 27 to 28 June 2005, while leading a special reconnaissance mission deep behind enemy lines in the Hindu Kush of Afghanistan. More information about Murphy's life and career can be found at www.navy.mil/moh/mpmurphy/.

Gen. Conway, the 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, was commissioned in 1970 as an infantry officer. His general officer duties included Deputy Director of Operations, J-34, Combating Terrorism, Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.; and President, Marine Corps University at Quantico, Virginia. After promotion to major general, he assumed command of the 1st Marine Division. In November 2002, he was promoted to lieutenant general and assumed command of the I Marine Expeditionary Force. He commanded I Marine Expeditionary Force during two combat tours in Iraq. In 2004, he was reassigned as the Director of Operations, J-3, Joint Staff, in Washington, D.C. Gen Conway assumed the duties of Commandant of the Marine Corps on 14 November 2006. He retired from the Marine Corps on 1 November 2010.

The Navy League of Central PA is dedicated to nonpartisan, enhanced public understanding of the missions and challenges facing today's Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine, as well as advocating for the well-being of the men and women of each service.

The Nittany Leathernecks Detachment of the Marine Corps League (Department of Pennsylvania) is an incorporated non-profit service-oriented fraternal organization composed of active, retired and veteran Marines and Navy FMF corpsmen. The detachment is also composed of associate members who served honorably in other service branches of the Armed Forces of the United States. Members of the Nittany Leathernecks join together in fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and principles of the Marine Corps, and the United States of America, through community support programs within Centre County, Pennsylvania -- and beyond. Leading by example, the membership is dedicated to voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all honorable Marine veterans, as well as their widows and orphans. The detachment attempts to perpetuate "Corps Values" espoused by the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. This is done through fitting acts of community service of the highest order.