



# THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

EDITOR: THOMAS E. MARSDEN; ASSOCIATE EDITOR: EDWARD MARSDEN

## Child Welfare Begins a New Year

Mike Arner

As we come off last year's record setting year with over \$14,500 raised for CWF, I would like to thank everyone who has given. Thus year we are already off to a good start with over \$3,000 in. I am hoping that we can break last year's record and bring CWF in New Jersey to new heights.

The committee is working on new ideas all the time to raise the needed money. If you or your squadron have any ideas to help us, please let us know. We are again looking at the squadrons to help us reach our goal. We need you to go out into your communities and push CWF to your local merchants and get them to contribute.

I have been lucky to retain all my committee members from last year plus a new one Ed Marsden. We are: Mike Arner (Chairman), Sq. 338 Leonardo; Spike Abrams (Vice Chairman), Sq. 133 Woodbury; Ed McCloskey, Sq. 91 Wharton; Amel Balega, Sq. 227 Totawa; Dean Staknys, Sq. 177 Old Bridge; and Ed Marsden, Sq. 129 Toms River. If you have any questions about CWF, you can contact any of us.

## Web Site

Carl Albern

The Detachment's web site continues to be the main way of getting information out to all squadrons and counties in a timely fashion, and your Internet Committee is investigating ways of making it better. We are looking to add features to provide an e-mail list so that we can send important or time sensitive information directly to you. There will be a form on the page soon so that you can fill out your e-mail contact information. Comments and suggestions are always welcome, and we do our best to provide you with quick responses.

Please remember that we have a section for squadron events on the site. If you have an event coming up and would like to get the information out to all the squadrons of New Jersey, this is a good way to do it. You can always contact the web masters at "webmasters@njsal-org" with any feedback or information.

## Veterans Day

Have you ever wondered why Veterans Day is not celebrated like Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Columbus day on a Monday? For a time--from 1971 through 1977--it was. However, because of the holiday's patriotic and historic significance, state legislatures, major service organizations, and the people of the United States supported returning it to its original date, November 11.

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month marked the end of the first global conflict, World War I. That day first known as Armistice Day was dedicated to the cause of world peace. When other wars followed, the name changed to Veterans Day.

Veterans Day is a celebration of patriotism, love of country, willingness to serve, and self-sacrifice. It commemorates every soldier, sailor, marine, and airman who fought against aggression.

As we pay homage to the veterans of all wars, those who helped preserve our homeland, let us remember with thanksgiving and pray for peace, good will, and mutual understanding among nations.

May the war against terrorism end.*pm*

## Special Olympics

Ed Marsden

Cmdr. Hehl has approved having bottles of water and cans of soft drinks available at regular Detachment meetings. As in the past, beverages will be donated. Proceeds from the sales continue to be donated to Special Olympics. Suggested donation is \$1.00 for a great cause.

## Membership Update

The Department of New Jersey records as of August 29, 2003, membership in the Sons of the American Legion for 2003 rose to 8,042. 2004 cards are being distributed now with 1,195 members signed up to date.

Help promote membership within the Legion Family; carry those enrollment applications everywhere. Sign up 30 new members and receive a Blue Brigade jacket from National.*mm*



## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

It's time to step up! The officers are in place and the committeemen are approved. Our programs are running and we need you. As our Department Commander Ted Behr likes to say, "Stepping Up and Stepping Out to serve". This means get involved in our programs. Make them happen.

If you would like to get involved in one of the +20 committees we have at the Detachment, please let the chairman or me know. Our programs are basically about veterans, children, and Americanism. I know that one or more of these programs will have a special interest to you or your squadron. With our 8,000 members and 150 squadrons, we can make a difference. As squadrons, do the programs that you can; you will not be able to do them all. You know the ones your members like, the ones your members can have fun with, the ones you believe in, the ones that hit close to your heart.

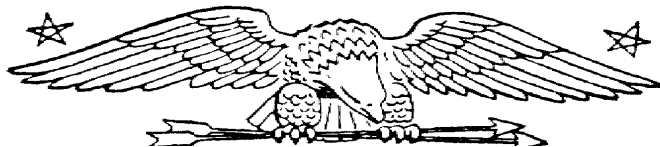
Communication between the Detachment and the Counties and Squadrons is very important. We sent out officer data forms to the squadrons, but we have received only 50 out of 150--so mailings can only be going out to one third of our squadrons. We all must work on this to keep everybody in the state informed. Remember communication is a two-way street. If your squadron would like information on a program or would like a Detachment officer to visit, please contact us.

We now have nine counties up and running out of 21. Hudson is the newest addition. Its officers were installed on September 3, 2003, at Bayonne Post #19. Congratulations! Hudson joins Ocean, Morris, Bergen, Passaic, Middlesex, Monmouth, Hunterdon, and Camden.

The Commander's project will focus on quality of life at our state veterans' facilities--Paramus, Menlo Park, Vineland, and Veterans Haven. This project will be evolving throughout the year. The first part will be to get CD players for the activity rooms and personal CD players for the Alzheimer units. More specifics will come later. I will be working with the Department Commander and President. They are our veterans, and we must show them we care. I know we can raise \$10,000. Donations can be made by sending a check to the Trenton office made out to "Detachment Commander's Project".

WE ARE PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE.

For God and Country,  
Your Detachment Commander  
Kent Hehl



## DATES TO REMEMBER

SAL Fall NEC.....	Oct. 4-5
Columbus Day.....	Oct. 13
Testimonial Dinner for Frank Sickle.....	Oct. 18
Detachment Meeting, Trenton.....	Oct. 25
Election Day.....	Nov. 4
Veterans Day.....	Nov. 11
Thanksgiving.....	Nov. 27
Pearl Harbor Day.....	Dec. 7
Detachment Meeting, Trenton.....	Dec. 13
POW/MIA Tree Lighting.....	Dec. 13
Christmas.....	Dec. 25
New Year's Day.....	Jan. 1
Four Chaplains' Sunday.....	Feb. 1
Detachment Meeting, Trenton.....	Feb. 7
Presidents Day.....	Feb. 16
Washington Conference.....	March 7-10
American Legion Birthday.....	March 15-17
Detachment Meeting, Trenton.....	April 3
Dept. Pres. Newlin Testimonial.....	April 3

## DETACHMENT OFFICERS 03-04

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## The Editor's Desk

It is impossible for the Trenton office to mail out the Detachment newspaper to 100% of the 8,000+ membership. The SAL budget just doesn't have enough to cover printing and mailing costs that rise with increased distribution.

For those who have a computer and internet service, I have requested that a page for the SALute be incorporated onto the web site. That way if you can't get down to the post, you can still find out what's up.

Advertising the Child Welfare fundraiser was difficult because of the lack of complete squadron and county lists. 150+ squadrons and 9 counties need to work to correct this problem. It's a shame that Chairman Mike Arner had to decide to cancel the miniature golf tournament advertised in the last SALute because of limited response. Plans are underway to reschedule in April.

I'd like to see more that's newsworthy in print. Please work with me. Very few Sons send in pictures and articles so I must continue to rely on Detachment minutes for most of the paper's material.<sub>tm</sub>

## Remember 9/11

Remember in your prayers the friends and families of all those who perished in the 9/11 tragedies, the passengers and the pilots on the United Air and AA flights, the workers in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the policemen and firemen, and all the innocent bystanders.<sub>tm</sub>

## Adjutant's Corner

The new administrative year is upon us, and once again the Detachment and the Department need information from you so that we can get information out to the squadrons of New Jersey. If you haven't already done so, please send in your officer sheet to Trenton, and if you haven't received them, please contact the Trenton office or me to receive a copy. This information is necessary if you are to receive any Department mailings. There are also County forms available so that the Detachment minutes can be mailed out to running counties. You can get these forms from me or download them from the Detachment web site.

If you have correspondence for the Detachment, please send it to me as soon as possible. If you need to have it acted on quickly, send it to my home address instead of the Trenton office. I can't get to Trenton on a daily basis so sending it to my home will get it to me that much quicker. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or problems. My contact information is below. Let's work together to make this a successful year.

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## Gen. Brady Appears

PDC Luc Marsden

For years I have staunchly supported the American flag. I do not want to see it desecrated in any way. I have written letters to my senators and congressmen supporting a constitutional amendment prohibiting flag burning. I even wrote an article for the press expressing my feelings.

No one can imagine how proud I was and honored to spend a few minutes with Maj. Gen. Patrick H. Brady last month in St. Louis, Missouri. On behalf of our Detachment, I promised this great man that New Jersey's Sons would support the Citizens Flag Alliance. I pledged that we would never give up until the Star Spangled Banner was safe and protected.

Gen. Brady recounted biased media coverage fanning fear and hatred of proposed constitutional amendment. He encouraged all Americans to get involved and make themselves heard. Strength and support of volunteer groups educates the public and influences public opinion.

The general says that things are working for the cause with positive political changes after next election. Supporters are building the awareness that our flag belongs to *we, the people* and *we* will decide.

## In Memoriam

Local Sons were remembered in the St. Louis, Missouri Convention Memorial Service:

Frederick Adams	Robert Dispanga	Anthony Olivo
Fred Aldridge	Guy Doron	Eugene Pateman
Michael Alese	Joshua Dowd	Todd Powell
William Axt	Thomas Garay	David Roskoski
James Bartoloma	Edward Gentis	David Smock
John Beres	Roddy Hughes	F. Taylor
T. Bonner	Paul Huthinson	Thomas Vazquez
Robert Borusiewicz	Raymond Miller (PDC)	James Ward
Richard Collier	Stephen Miller	William Welsh
William Dell	Harry Nessler	William Wentworth
William Devitt	Charlie Norton	James White
		Vincent Wosky

They live on in our hearts. Pray for them.<sub>em</sub>

## Local Watchfire Honors POWs, MIAs

Chuck Robbins, American Legion Department of New Jersey, Committee Chairman, released this news article (The Observer, 9/19/03):

American soldiers have never failed to answer their nation's call. Through sacrifice, they have brought to the entire world concept most often associated with American ideals--freedom.

This word relates to the somber, black POW/MIA flag, a national symbol, and a firm reminder of those still missing, and of their families who have waited decades for answers. On it we see the words, "You Are Not Forgotten," which reminds us that this nation's work is not done.

There are more than 88,000 American warriors who still remain unaccounted for in conflicts and wars past, and still their families wait for word on their fate. More than 140,000 Americans since World War I have endured the hardships of captivity as prisoners of war. Their sacrifices must never be forgotten.

Today, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, please put a moment aside to remember those whose fate remains unknown, those who have given all for the ideals of freedom, and their families, that they may one day know the fate of their loved ones.

The American Legion Department of New Jersey strives for a full accounting, and believes we must never leave an American behind on the battlefield. If this should happen, everything must be done to account for or return this person to safety as quickly as possible. This we owe to all our warriors.

A "watchfire" will be held from dusk tonight until dawn tomorrow on the oceanfront at Hieing Avenue in Seaside Heights. Sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of New Jersey, all POW/MIAs will be honored. All are invited to stop by. The POW/MIA issue is very much alive, and, because of efforts by veterans groups, organizations such as the League of Families, and private groups, Americans are being accounted for.

Let us never forget.

## Americanism on the Homefront

A record crowd of 150 braved gusting winds and flood threats to attend the Detachment's National POW/MIA Recognition Day Watchfire. Threats of Isabel's fury then its impending wake did not stop the Twelfth Annual Watchfire. Flames of freedom burnt throughout the night.

At dusk, songs, poems, prayers, and the reading of names of those fro, New Jersey still not home from WWI through the present, began. It was followed by a Flag Retirement ceremony removing 6,000 patriotic banners from service. At dawn, Department Commander Behr presented "The POW-MIA Flag Up Close".

Sons POW-MIA Chairman Tom Marsden thanked the Legion Family and the public for their record attendance. When the Past Detachment Commanders Club presented him with a plaque for 10 years of distinguished service, he remarked, "For God and Country' is about working together and helping others. We don't do this by ourselves, for ourselves."

Tom lauded Post 351, Chuck Robbins, Joe Colotone, Jim Lightcap, Spike Abrams, John Gallagher, and Matt Bieda as true examples of the spirit of volunteerism. They and other Sons are out there giving something extra, supporting programs.*em*



**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS OCTOBER 31, 2003.**