



THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY



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

Child Welfare Foundation Donations

Sought

(excerpt from The American Legion Dispatch)

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is celebrating 50 years of service to America's children, one dollar at a time. National Commander John Brieden has challenged the Legion family to raise \$2 million to benefit the foundation. A limited-edition, 50th-anniversary pin is now available for a \$25 donation.

Dateline: Nov. 8-10, Hutchinson, Kansas

Over 100 visitors including PDC's Stillwell, Stevens, Robichaux, Cook, Winkleman, and Law and our Eastern Area's Bill Sparwasser, Brian O'Hearne, Tom Wigmore, and Tom Marsden all traveled here to pay respect to National S. A. L. Commander Warnken.

Morton's salt mines, the Cosmosplane and Space Center, and a heartland hoe down were some of the pre-homecoming activities on tap. Country hospitality made the event a huge success.

The hospitality and warmth of Middle America shone out to guests. It was a great party, great linedancing. Carmel apple pie topped off a country-fresh menu of pork and turkey, potatoes, and corn at the sitdown feast. It was a fitting tribute to a well-qualified, dedicated, hardworking Son, Cmdr. Neal. em

Reader's Forum

Joe Colontone

This is a thank you to Tom Marsden for doing another fabulous job on the 19th and 20th of September. The POW/MIA Watchfire was a huge success. To you and your committee, thanks again.

Accolades to Billy Mack. On September 27, I attended the dedication of the new bus at Menlo Park Veterans Home. Billy's dream came true with hard work and contributions. The bus is a beautiful piece of equipment that the veterans can enjoy. Again, thank you, Billy.

Congratulations to Jim Noble, NEC, on becoming County Commander for Hudson County. I know Jim will do an excellent job for the county. It was an honor for me and the other officers to install Jim and his county officers.

Young Citizen's Award

James Lightcap

There are a lot of young people in our communities who do special and outstanding deeds for others or the towns they live in and do not get the recognition that is due. This award enables your squadron to find that special someone and show him or her that unselfishness has not gone unnoticed. Please don't let this award go UNPRESENTED as it did last year.

Packets containing an application and qualifications for this award will be distributed at the December Detachment meeting. If you do not attend meeting and would like a packet, please contact me at jdlightcap@msn.com or call me at 856-845-9010 and I will make arrangements to get one out.

Find that special young citizen. You know you have one; every town does.

The Editor's Desk

The American Legion Press Club of New Jersey held its annual awards dinner October 19, 2003, at Legion Post 60, Roselle Park. On behalf of Editor Tom Marsden, PDC Neal Newlin accepted the first place plaque awarded for publication of the SALute.

The 2002-2003 SALute was awarded first place in the computer generated category. Three judges acting independently scored entries on news, editorial excellence, makeup and style. The Detachment can be proud of its newspaper.

The Commander's Message almost wasn't included in the current issue because of late posting; sorry there was no time to edit it. As the old year rings out and the new one in, be sure to get material in before deadline. We can't publish without your help. em

Membership

Membership is on the rise. Oct. 31 records 8,118 members for 2003 and 3,396 for 2004.

tm



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

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It's hard to believe that six months have past since the convention in June. Two detachment meetings, national convention and the first national meeting. Of which all of the above have made me a little more nuts, crazy or informed , you pick. I hope that all the squadrons have their programs running. I know that one or more of these programs will have a special interest with you or your Squadron. This is where it has to happen, right there at the squadron, post and unit. You know the ones that your members like, the ones your members can have fun with, the ones that you believe in, the ones that hit close to your heart.

All our programs are up and running. Child Welfare is doing good with over \$6000 in donations turned in . We will be supporting Children's Miracle Network for the first time this year. This gives an opportunity for our squadrons to choose to donate to either one or both of these excellent programs for our children. The Five Star and Ten Ideals programs have been very hard to nail down, but I will continue to try with this program. This is for our younger members to get them involved in our causes. If any squadron has a program in place would you please share with the rest of us?

As sons we must first support our post, our parent organization. This is where our eligibility for membership comes from. Constantly remember what our fathers have done and continue to do for our country, our children and our communities.

Membership, Membership, Membership, can't say enough. We went over 8000 members last year , what about this year 9000 or 10,000? Without our members we can't do anything. In New Jersey there are over 3 million veterans. Do you think that any of them have sons? The American Legion in New Jersey has over 78,000 members, do they have sons or grandsons? If you can get new members there are awards to be had, but what about the members you already have? Is his wife an auxiliary member, his daughters or his SONS. We all must work hard on this, it is the only way we can achieve our goals. Which are supporting our men and women in uniform, care of our veterans and our children.

To my last point of my message; Commander's Project. I have had a lot of support on this, since my last message I have made a BIG COMMITMENT to Veterans Haven, a transitional housing program for homeless New Jersey veterans. The program assists our veterans in their transition from the streets and causes of their homelessness to community living as productive and contributing citizens. Here I said to the CEO (man in charge) Bob Durante that we will supply (54) 8000 BTU room air conditioners to our veterans. I am going to need at least \$15,000 to complete this project. At this time I am happy to say that we have sponsors for 20 units and we have gone over \$4000.

As the holidays approach us let us ever be mindful of our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan. And please do not forget their loved ones left at home, our home the United States of America.

WE are PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
YOUR DETACHMENT COMMANDER
KENT HEHL



Fight for Pledge at Supreme Court

Lee Harris

With the Supreme Court announcement that it will decide in 2004 whether it is constitutional for public-school teachers to lead students in the Pledge of Allegiance because of the words "under God," the nation's largest veterans organization pledged its commitment to fight this at the highest judicial level for the right of public-school teachers and students to voluntarily observe the time-honored tradition.

"The heart of this case is about allowing the Constitution to appropriately reflect the intent of our republic's founders and the values of the American people," American Legion National Commander John Brieden said. "We believe our nation will be stronger when the courts let our Constitution protect the rights of all the people rather than merely the wrongs of a few people."

"The American Legion filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance at Federal Court in San Francisco. The American Legion is committed to take this fight all the way to the highest court in the land. Teachers leading students in the Pledge of Allegiance is as constitutional as "In God We Trust" stamped on our nation's currency and references to "God" in the oaths taken in our courts.

"But this case is bigger than the Pledge. What is really at stake here is the moral direction of the nation. The right of the people to declare their patriotism by voluntarily reciting the Pledge is but one battle. The right of the Boy Scouts of America to select its leaders consistent with its founding principles is another battle. The right of the people to protect the U. S. flag from acts of physical desecration is a battle that The American Legion has been fighting since the Supreme Court in 1989 invalidated flag-protection in 48 states; a constitutional amendment approved by the House and soon to come to vote in the Senate is the remedy."

The 9th U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled 2-1 in June 2002 that reciting the Pledge in public schools is unconstitutional. The court reaffirmed its decision in February, amending the ruling to say that "teacher-led" recitation of the Pledge is unconstitutional. The rulings came after Michael Newdon, an atheist and father of an elementary school girl, filed the case against the United States, Congress, California, and two school districts.

Newdon's daughter lives with her mother, who has sole custody of the young girl. The daughter attends public school in Elk Grove, Calif., near Sacramento and according to reports regularly attends church. Newdon's complaint alleged that his daughter is injured when she is compelled to watch and listen as her state-employed teacher in her state-run school leads her classmates in a ritual proclaiming that there is a God and ours is one nation "under God."

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation inserting "under God" after the words "one nation." The American Legion supported the addition. "We have full faith the court will uphold the right of the people as one nation under God," Brieden said.

Commander's Project

"Quality of life for our N. J. Veterans," Cmdr. Kent Hehl announced at his October meeting. After numerous visits and gatherings of information at Menlo Park, Paramus, Vineland Memorial Home, and Veterans Haven facilities, Cmdr. Hehl has noted the areas needing immediate attention and is currently setting goals.

The first phase of his project will be for Veterans Haven, a transitional housing program for homeless New Jersey veterans. The program assists our veterans in their transition from the streets and causes of their homelessness to the community living as productive and contributing citizens. Here he found that the home is in need of 54 8,000 BTU room air conditioners.

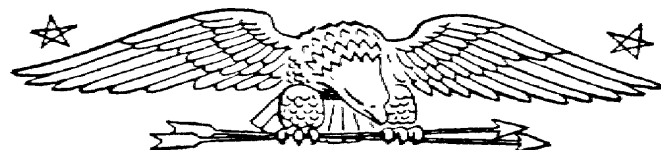
This will be a large undertaking by the SAL Detachment but Cmdr. Hehl is very enthusiastic about this project and knows that the Legion Family of New Jersey cares about their veterans. He is hopeful that all will support this with a large contribution.

As an incentive, Cmdr. Hehl will honor any squadron, post, or unit who will sponsor an air conditioner installation by donating \$200, which will include an engraved plate to be placed on the air conditioner denoting the sponsor's name. For those who will make a personal donation of at least \$10 to this project Cmdr. Hehl will give a Detachment Commander's Project Pin.

Phase Two of the project will be for all of the state facilities to supply CD players for their activity rooms and individual CD players with earphones for the patients in the Alzheimer's units. These patients respond to the senses, ex. sight, sound, aroma, and touch therapy.

Phase Three of the project will be to assist Department Commander Behr and Department President Newlin with their project concerning the Alzheimer's units in our state facilities.

Donations are to be made out to SAL Detachment of New Jersey, earmarked (memo line) Detachment Commander's Project. To reach Cmdr. Hehl's goal, donations of \$15,000 will be needed. Checks can be sent to Detachment of New Jersey, 135 West Hanover Street, Trenton, NJ 08618 or Kent Hehl, 135 State Street, Blackwood, NJ 08012. kh



DATES TO REMEMBER

Pearl Harbor Day.....	Dec. 7
Detachment Meeting , Trenton.....	Dec. 13
POW/MIA Tree Lighting, Seaside Heights.....	Dec. 13
Christmas.....	Dec. 25
New Year's Day.....	Jan. 1
Four Chaplains' Sunday, Lakehurst.....	Feb. 1
Detachment Meeting , Trenton.....	Feb. 7



H eaven sings
 A ngel wings
 P eople's prayer
 P resents everywhere
 Y on snow fresh

N ativity creche
 E piphany star
 W ise men from afar

Y uletide ho-ho
 E lves on the go
 A lmost the day
 R eindeer sleigh

Good, bright
 Joy, light
 God above
 All love

These are the signs of holiday times.
 May they always live in our hearts.
 May we never forget their meaning.

The staff extends
 To Legion Family and friends
 Best wishes and hopes for peace
 For not only this Christmas season
 But for always. pm



Constitution and Bylaws Update

Chairman Jay Gilman has held two committee meetings at Neptune's Post 346. The next one is scheduled for 10:00 A.M. on January 10, 2004. All are welcome. A complete revision of the existing Constitution and Bylaws is in the works. tm

December 7, 1941

2,388 killed, 1,178 wounded, 164 aircraft destroyed, 159 more damaged, the Arizona, Utah, and Oklahoma sunk, 9 more ships damaged--these were casualties of the tragic chain of events that brought about U.S. entry in WWII. A nation asleep, catastrophic errors, foreign aggression, cultural differences, and economics all contributed to that global conflict. Remember Pearl Harbor, a day that will live on in infamy.

History repeats itself. Today's American's war against terrorism parallels 1940-1945's. Support the Armed Forces and their families. Pray the leadership finds a way to victory and peace. May this war against terrorism truly end. Take a moment to remember those who gave all.. pm



SAL TRIVIA

1. How many squadrons are in New Jersey?
2. How many Sons enrolled in New Jersey in 2003?
3. Who was Jersey's youngest commander?
4. Who is New Jersey's PNC?
5. When was the S. A. L. started?
6. What are the Five Stars (1 pt. ea.)?
7. What are the Ten Ideals (1 pt. ea.)?
8. Name 5 programs the Legion sponsors (1 pt. ea.).
9. Which program is the only self-sustaining one?
10. To which Legion program more than any other one does the S. A. L. donate?
11. How many detachments are in National?
12. What are National's 5 geographic areas (1 pt. ea.)?
13. Who is National Commander for the Sons?
14. Where is National Headquarters located?
15. Where will the 2004 National Convention be?
16. Name the color(s) of squadron, county/district, state, and national S.A.L. caps (1 pt. ea.).

Take one point for each correct answer then rate yourself:

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 36-40 | expert |
| 32-35 | knowledgeable |
| 28-31 | on par |
| 24-27 | novice |
| 23 or less | brush up needed |

Answers in the next issue. tm

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS DECEMBER 31, 2003.