



THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

EDITOR: THOMAS E. MARSDEN; ASSOCIATE EDITOR: EDWARD MARSDEN
WWW.NJSALUTE.ORG



OPEN LETTER TO ALL SQUADRONS

Michael Arner, Detachment Vice Commander

We have just completed half of our year and I'd like to report on my observations of the first six months. I have visited many squadrons throughout the state and have seen a renewed spirit in our programs among our members. I have seen a group of dedicated members traveling to other states for information to make our Detachment better. I have seen new members getting involved at all levels of our organization. I have seen our detachment gain new respect from other detachments.

I have seen our NEC and candidate for National Vice Commander East Tom Marsden out and about talking about the future of the Sons of the American Legion. I have seen our ANEC Carl Albern, Jr. working closely with Milton Chatham on the National Community Service Committee. I have seen VA&R Chairman Frank Jiosi running the parties at the veterans homes with a lot more help. I have seen By-laws Chairman Jay Gillman hold several meetings to reword some mistakes within our by-laws. I have seen Convention Chairman Patrick Gallagher working hard to make our convention a good one. I have seen Edward Marsden working on projects for CWF and trying to reach our goal. I have seen Membership Chairman Kenneth Esposito, Sr. doing another outstanding job on membership.

So far I have to say we are moving in the right direction and we bring a new meaning to the word volunteers.

DETACHMENT BY-LAWS

J. Gillman, Constitution & By-Laws Chairman

On November 19, 2005, at Post #346 Neptune, the By-Laws Committee held its meeting. Eight members and I were in attendance. Three resolutions were considered then submitted at the December Detachment meeting. They concern: Art. VI, Sec. 3 and Art. VI, Sec. 5 of the Detachment Constitution, and Art. III, Sec. 1, 2, and 3 of the Detachment By-Laws.

Another topic of discussion was Detachment Policies and Procedures, Art. 1, Sec. 1 concerning dress. A resolution written then approved at the Detachment meeting has been submitted to the American Legion SAL Committee for approval.

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

Edward Marsden, CWF Chairman

Squadrons of New Jersey, I need your help in the CWF campaign. We all know that money is short and the S. A. L. helps sponsor many needy causes, but are we going to forget CWF? New Jersey was #1 in the East last year; now CWF response is almost nonexistent here. Thank you for your support over the years. I know you will again be generous. Please help me get the word out. It's not about you or me. We can do a lot more, so come out and help the kids out.

Last fall I sent out letters to the squadrons in New Jersey. Ones I sent to Squadrons #73 East Orange, #165 Bayonne, #177 Old Bridge, #179 Franklinville, #196 Point Pleasant Beach, #281 Blackwood, #284 Whitehouse Station, #357 Berlin, and #438 Paterson have slowly found their way back to my mail box as being "unable to deliver".

This means that many members are not getting the information that they need to participate fully in the Sons program. The Detachment's newspaper seems to be the only line of communication left for them. All editions of the SALUTE (2001-present) are archived on the www.njsalute.org website.

VA&R

Frank Joisi, Chairman

On Saturday, December 3, 2005, the Detachment of New Jersey held a Christmas Bingo/Pizza Party at the Menlo Park Veterans Home. SAL members in attendance included Frank Joisi, Jr., Frank Joisi, Sr., John Devenany, Manny Socarros, Mike Arner, Carl Albern, John and Pat Gallagher, and Tom Arner.

Gifts socks and handkerchiefs were given to each of the 55 residents present. Lucky bingo winners won \$5 and \$10 prizes as well. Sons in attendance were amazed by the enormous smiles on the faces of the vets who had a truly great time.

MEMBERSHIP

At the close of the 2005 actual calendar year, enrollment in the SAL was 9,118 members. The 2006 membership drive is now under way. Card-carrying Sons number 5,276.pm



DETACHMENT OFFICERS 05-06

Commander:

Sean Howarth
commander@njsal.org

Vice Commanders:

Joseph Colontone
vccolontone@njsal.org
Michael Arner
vcarnar@njsal.org
Spike Abrams
vcabrams@njsal.org
Frank Jiosi
vcjiosi@njsal.org
John Gillman
vcgillman@njsal.org

Adjutant:

Carl W. Albern, Jr.
adjutant@njsal.org

Judge Advocate:

James Noble
ja@njsal.org

Chaplain:

Bill Schimminger
chaplain@njsal.org

Historian:

Robert Ritz
historian@njsal.org

Sgt-at-Arms:

Kermit Riley
Brett Stadtler
Kevin Ritz

Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:

K.J. Esposito
Robert Hehl

NEC:

Thomas E. Marsden
nec@njsal.org

ANEC:

Carl W. Albern, Jr.
anec@njsal.org

WWW.NJSAL.ORG
WWW.NJSALUTE.ORG

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Here's hoping that everyone had a joyous Holiday Season and wishes you a healthy and prosperous New Year. We are now officially into our last half of our year and we have a long way to go. I encourage all of the committee chairman to continue their good work, and thank you for your continued service to the Detachment.

In December I had the pleasure of attending the Auxiliary Birthday Luncheon. I was looking forward to meeting the Eastern National Vice President of the Auxiliary, Linda Caudell, but she unfortunately got stuck in the snow in Pittsburgh and could not make it to the Luncheon. The Detachment wishes the American Legion Auxiliary a Happy Birthday with many more to come.

On December 3 the Detachment was well represented at 15th Annual POW/MIA Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Shore Boros American Legion Post #351 in Seaside Heights. My hat is off to Chick Robbins for the outstanding program that evening. I was impressed with the POW/MIA Remembrance Service conducted by the NJ "782" Air Force J. R. O. T. C. students from Jackson Memorial High School.

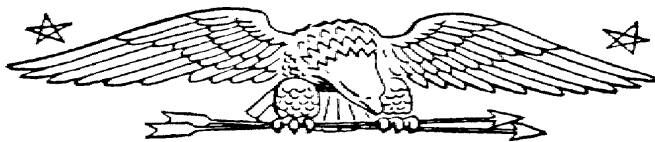
As I mentioned that night, The most precious American right is freedom, and there are many we take for granted every day, but as we know there are those who have had these freedoms denied for far too long. Our hearts, our thoughts, and our prayers remain with our POW/MIA's and their families. As the solemn pledge beneath the POW/MIA emblem swears, "You are not forgotten."

The Detachment welcomes back Brown/Moore Squadron #297 Pennsville, (Salem County), as their charter was reinstated on December 10 and welcome aboard the Cline-McAnney Squadron #396 in Brigantine, (Atlantic County).

This is also the time of year that many Squadrons sponsor Delegates to Boys State as the Delegate sponsorship fee is due February 1, 2006. For any new Chairperson assigned to Boys State in their local Squadron and want to learn the process on how to select the proper Delegate/Alternate to Boys State, a training session will be conducted on February 4, 2006 at 9:00 A.M. at the War Memorial Building and we are invited.

The Detachment Commander's Testimonial Dinner was changed from April 9, 2006 to March 26, 2006 due to conflicts in scheduling. I hope this hasn't inconvenienced anyone, but trying to figure out the scheduling of other activities, this was the only date available.

For God and Country
Sean D. Howarth
Detachment Commander



DATES TO REMEMBER

Detachment Meeting, Trenton	February 4
For God and Country Service, Lakehurst	February 5
Washington Conference	February 26-March 1
National SAL Commander's Homecoming	March 17-19
Detachment Commander's Testimonial	March 26
Eastern Area Gathering	March 30-April 1
Detachment Meeting, Trenton	April 1
Department President's Testimonial	April 2
S.A.L. College, Sea Girt	April 22
Department Commander's Testimonial	April 29

A NATION'S HERO

As Americans celebrate January 16, let them remember Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., pivotal in civil rights. An assassin's bullet ended his life but not his work.

*Cowardice asks the question, "Is it safe?"
Expediency asks the question, "Is it politic?"
But conscience asks the question, "Is it right?"
And there comes a time when one must take a
position that is neither, safe, nor politic,
nor popular but because conscience tells one it is
right....MLK, Jr.*

For a long time too many Americans believed that separate was equal. Martin Luther King changed that idea. The man arrested thirty times, brought the American dream to all. His nonviolent direct actions from 1955 to 1968, brought social changes in public accommodations, housing, voting, schools, and transportation. Let us all honor this charismatic man by helping to fight injustice and segregation. ^{lm}

THEY DO FOR VETS AND CHILDREN

Dave "Duke" Haring

Squadron 351 has been very busy.

Every Sunday from 8 A. M. to noon, we as part of the Legion Family help out with breakfast. We are proud to be part of the kitchen crew that helps the post by donating \$500 to \$600 back into the general fund.

We will again be sponsoring any child whose family belongs to our post, who wants to play Little League baseball no matter what the financial situation is.

Because we are proud and honored to have Leading Candidate for Department Commander Chuck Robbins (dual Legionnaire and Son) as one of our own, we sponsored an Octoberfest Dinner/Dance for him. We earned enough to present Chuck with \$1,200. We are also working on a \$100 per ticket 50-50 raffle for his Commander's Project.

In November, we brought the disabled veterans from Menlo Park to our post. Guests feasted on turkey dinners complete with all the trimmings, played bingo, and were given crossword puzzle books and packages.

December 12, (Son) Captain Randy cooked a gourmet Christmas dinner for the Ladies Auxiliary. December 18 brought over 30 AMIB's (people autistic, mentally challenged, and blind) from four homes to the Christmas party our SAL provides every year. A band, singing and dancing, delicious food, a visit from Santa, and, of course, Christmas presents were enjoyed by all.

BITS AND PIECES

The National Association for Music Education's National Anthem Project Road Show will be traveling across the United States in 2006. It will be in Trenton, N. J. October 17-18. Go to www.tnap.org/index.html for more info...The new Emblem Sales catalog is out. To request a copy, call 888-453-4466. Most items can be ordered online (www.emblem.legion.org)...pm

C & Y TEAMS UP WITH SPINOZA

J. Lightcap, Chairman

The Children and Youth Committee is asking for donations for the Military Spinoza Bear Package. These bears are sent out to the children of our servicemen and women who are deployed. It is designed to help the children understand their feelings about, peace, war, and terrorism. The price for this package is \$160. Any donations from individuals or from squadrons are greatly appreciated.



A letter is going out in the next mailing with more details and where to send donations. Thank you in advance for your support.

DETACHMENT COMMANDER'S PROJECT

J. Gillman, Detachment Commander's Project Chairman

At December's Detachment meeting, \$675 was received in donations from Squadron #370 Magnolia, #84 Oaklyn, and the SAL Camden County Committee. Many members in attendance also gave donations in the name of my father, John P. Gillman (recently deceased). I would like to personally thank these individuals and the Detachment of New Jersey for their support. Please keep up the good work and the donations forthcoming so we can add to our present total of \$1,235.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

(source: Jack Querfeld report of 12/15/05)

From January 1 to December 15, 2005, approximately \$2M has been paid out in grants, and approximately \$1.5M is currently available for disbursement. This amount included 2,357 grants paid as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Editor's Desk has clearly put forth publishing standards as well as the need for all officers and chairmen to do their job correctly. Recently I was chastised by a reader for publishing original verse (my and my entire staff of four's holiday message) and signing our names instead of those of the Detachment.

He claimed that 1/8 of the paper was wasted. I leave that to the rest of the readers to decide. I thought it was better to include something written by my family than leave one full column blank.

There are three kinds of writers: those who do their own, those who use ghost writers, and those who plagiarize. Speaking for the staff, it's all ours or credit is given to the source. The SALute includes the name of submitting writers.

Its staff should not be expected to write for others (although it edits most articles but not Commander's Messages). It has enough to do without taking on ghost-writing.



SONS SUPPORT POW-MIA'S

At the 15th Annual American Legion Tree Lighting Ceremony at Shore Boro Post #351 Seaside Heights, Detachment Commander Howarth congratulated Chairman Robbins for all his efforts and thanked the National League of POW-MIA Families for all it does. Before a packed house, he went on to say:

"The most precious American right is freedom freedom to go and do nearly anything we wish, freedom to worship as we please, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and, as we know, the list goes on--freedoms that some of us take for granted.

"There are those who have had that freedom denied for far too long. With each passing year, it is more difficult for us to remember the more than 88,000 POW-MIA's still missing from World War II, Korea, the Cold War, the Gulf War, and now Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Our hearts, our thoughts, and our prayers remain with our POW-MIA's and their families. As the solemn pledge beneath the POW-MIA emblem swears: You Are Not Forgotten. We will wait. We will remember. We will not rest until there is a full accounting of our missing heroes.

"We must remain vocal, devoted, and critical in order to keep the POW-MIA issue on America's mind. Although may take a lifetime of dedication to rectify to past and secure the future for America's prisoners of war and missing in action, we must never forget.

"The Sons of The American Legion remain vocal every year through the Watchfire held in September. We cannot and will not forget until we have the fullest POW-MIA accounting.."

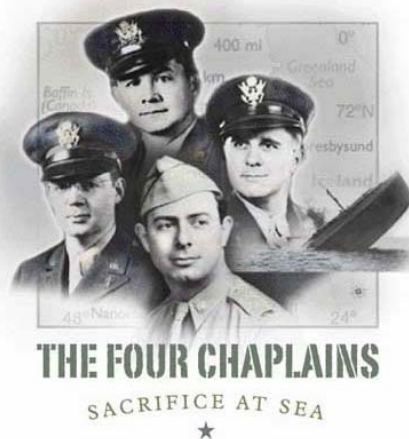
(See photo and related article "Remembering New Jersey's Lost Heroes", pg.1-2 in The Ocean County Observer, 12/4/05.)



SAL Cmdr. Sean Howarth Speaks at Tree-Lighting



(l to r) NEC Bill Rakestraw, Nat. Vice Cmdr. East Jimmy Hall, Brigadier General Joseph Johnston, Dept. Cmdr. Joe G., with POW-MIA Chairman Chuck Robbins



CATHEDRAL OF THE AIR

I recently saw pictures of a stained glass window in a shrine in Orlando. It showed four sailors going down with their ship. Theirs was a real "For God and Country" story of heroism.

On February 3, 1943, Father Washington, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Fox, and Reverend Poling were among the 902 men onboard the sinking USAT Dorchester in the North Atlantic. Chaos and panic was everywhere. They, as chaplains, calmed the frightened, tended the wounded, guided the disoriented. They prayed for the dying and encouraged the living.

Each man did not merely preach courage; he lived it. Now these men of God were about to be tested when no more life preservers were left for the men still lined up. How would each respond given the choice of ministering to others vs saving himself?

Simultaneously, each of the four chaplains removed his own life preserver and gave to the next man in line. The spiritual act transcended religious differences. They were united in their universal love of mankind.

Washington, Goode, Fox, and Poling went down with the ship--kneeling, arms linked, huddled together, heads bowed, praying. How gallant, noble, and heroic they were!

We know that it doesn't matter if our brother is Christian, Catholic, or Jew. While the War on Terrorism which began in attacks on our homeland on 9-11, continues to go on in foreign lands, we must all live our lives with courage and determination, in faith.

For God and Country,
Edward T. Marsden
Past National Chaplain

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 28, 2006.