

# THE NEW JERSEY **SALute**

**The Official Publication of The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New Jersey**

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Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New Jersey

171 Jersey St, Bldg #5, 2nd Floor

Trenton, New Jersey 08611



Commander .....	Jeff Hicks
Vice Commander .....	Brett Stadler
Vice Commander .....	Matthew Thalasinis
Vice Commander .....	Mark Natale
Vice Commander .....	Harry Hasslehan
Vice Commander .....	Gregory Shaffer
Chaplain .....	William Odom
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Asst. Adjutant .....	PNVC Thomas Marsden
Judge Advocate .....	PNVC Joseph Korba
Historian .....	PDC Robert Bascou
Asst. Historian .....	PDC Nicholas Wingler
National Executive Committeeman .....	PDC Len Free
Ait.National Executive Committeeman .....	PDC Robert Phillips Jr
SAL Chairman .....	Norman Marlin

*Tony Clappsy...Editor*

**WE WANT YOU**



Attend out bimonthly  
meetings learn how you can help.

## **Membership**

by Daid "Duke" Haring

Hello S.A.L.'s, Dual members and Junior S.A.L.'s who read this article. At this time our Detachment membership stands at 87%, we are very close to reaching the 90% with just 295 members short of our April 10th target date.

**Membership! Membership! Membership! equals Delegate Strength!**

Please remember to have your Squadrons send in their membership cards.

**DON'T HOLD ON TO THEM!!!**

We need to get them in to Department, Delegate strength is 60 days before our Annual Convention in Wildwood, April 13th. Membership awards are decided based on the membership submitted by that date.

The American Legion's 100th Anniversary is this year, and our 10,000 membership is still achievable, but only if we can retain the members that did not pay their dues this year. We must be relentless, and go the extra mile.

Here are some statistics:

The following counties are in the 70% bracket; Atlantic, Cumberland, Gloucester, Morris, Somerset and Summit. a bit more effort needs to be taken by your part to get to 90% by April 10th.

Squadrons : 4, 8, 21, 37, 39, 45, 73, 86, 95, 105, 113, 136, 146, 148, 153, 165, 166, 175, 185, 242, 206, 261, 262, 263, 286, 306, 311, 396, 401, 421, 434, 458, 471, 516 and 526, your membership never changes, we are supposed to PROMOTE MEMBERSHIP and RETAIN MEMBERSHIP. These squadrons are not doing what they are expected to do.

Squadrons : 5, 12, 25, 43, 82, 91, 119, 102, 129, 131, 132, 133, 142, 155, 157, 166, 170, 227, 279, 278, 281, 284, 314, 321, 324, 328, 338, 348, 352, 365, 423, 450, 458 and 493, get those membership cards in now, Do Not wait until the last minute. WE NEED YOUR COOPERATION TO SUCCEED.

Don't make this look like a conspiracy to make our Commander, Jeffrey Hicks, and our Detachment look bad. Let's reach and surpass our goals. Even if your squadron has met your last year membership goal, take that step to sign up just one more member, and go "Over the top"! Status quo is not good enough.

On a good note, in my many years, I signed up many new S.A.L. members, and right from the very beginning I tell them, "Thank you," and I explain to them that we are a PROGRAM of the American Legion. We have NO RIGHTS, we get privileges. We are there to honor our veterans through our devotion to mutual helpfulness. And to abide to their rules which are documented within our by-laws.

Congratulations to **Cape May** for being the first Squadron over the top this year. Thirty-six (36) other squadrons have gone over the top, and 12 had reached their last year's membership expectations. FANTASTIC WORK!

The American Legion is a wonderful organization to belong to, and I'm proud to be a member of the Legion Family.

So let's stay the course, get those membership cards into Department A.S.A.P., THANK YOU ALL !! S.A.L.

Detachment Membership Chairman, David (DUKE) Haring







## National Emergency Fund Fundraiser:

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 338

Comedy Night

by Carl Albern, PDC;



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 338 in Leonardo, NJ held their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Night of Comedy" on March 9th, at their Post home, with proceeds to benefit The American Legion's National Emergency Fund. Squadron 338 has previously hosted the comedy show to benefit other programs of The Sons of The American Legion, but Squadron 338 Commander / Detachment Vice Commander Mark Natale suggested that they change this year to benefit the N.E.F., as it has not seen as much attention as other programs over the past few years.

The show was hosted by Sean Morton, who had headlined some of their previous shows and headlined by Chris Johnston who tours with "Impractical Jokers", a hidden-camera reality show on tru-TV, that also tour across the country. Johnston entertained the crowd for nearly an hour on a wide variety of subjects. Rounding out the acts that night were Jackie Byrne, the warm-up comedienne for the show "The View", and Linette Palladino, an Iraq-War Veteran, and new comic.

Attendees of the show could take part in the "Balloon Challenge" to win one of several prizes that were donated to help raise money for the event. There was plenty of food and beverages available as well. Everyone who attended the show enjoyed it and contributions totaled about \$3000.00 for the National Emergency Fund.

Vice Commander Natale is already planning on the next show for 2020, and hopes to raise even more money for the programs of the S.A.L.



## Anti-Bullying in the Schools (Pilot Program)

Provided by David "Duke" Haring

Hello everyone, my name is David Haring Sr., first and foremost I'm a member of The American Legion Family of Post 129 in Tom's River, NJ. I'm an S.A.L. (son of a Legionnaire) for over 31 years. I am also a nine (9) year member of the Legion Riders of the same American Legion Post. We are, and consider ourselves, a great reflection to the American Legion. We are there for many ceremonies, home comings for our service men and women, parades, as well as escorting our fallen heroes from Dover Air Force base to their final resting place. We donate to many organizations, Veterans, and community programs and would have it no other way.

NOW HERE IS WHERE I NEED YOUR HELP!

At our October 2018 meeting, we were asked by our president, what other things we can do to benefit our community. I stood up and said that I saw something very interesting on the news a few months back. It involved a child that had been bullied at school, it involved a motorcycle organization that picked the child up at his home and escorted him to school. This showed the person or persons, who had initiated the bullying incident, that someone had his back and that this behavior would not be tolerated anymore.

The executive board found this to be a good idea, especially since the bullying epidemic is wide spread on the news and media, reporting that some children are even taking their own lives due to the constant harassment. The victims are embarrassed to say anything, suffer from low grades, low self esteem, and are afraid to socialize because they feel they have nowhere to turn.

I had approached the Toms River School System in order to make contact with the Superintendent. I expressed that as a member of the American Legion Family and Legion Riders we wanted to do something for our community and schools to help with this situation at no cost. Unfortunately as of February, following three (3) attempts to make contact, we had received NO response from the Superintendent.

One of our Executive Officers in the Legion Riders, Jim Everette, met with the Chief of Police and talked to him about this Anti-Bullying (Pilot-Program). He thought it was a great idea, and would also like his officers involved. But before he meets with the Superintendent, he would like to know if any other organizations had done anything like this, and with what success.

Please if anyone out there has any knowledge of anyone doing something like this, Please Contact me.

Too many children are suffering from being bullied.

My email is [dukedve7@comcast.net](mailto:dukedve7@comcast.net), Cell 72-597-2604. I am not looking for donations or money, Just Information.

Thank you Duke Haring

### Dates to Remember:

April 27<sup>th</sup> SAL Legion College

April 27<sup>th</sup> National SAL Commander Gibbs' Homecoming

June 1<sup>st</sup> Ways and Means Beefsteak Dinner

June 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> Annual SAL Convention in Wildwood



## POW-MIA:

77 Years later, DNA ID's NJ Sailor

Lost in Pearl Harbor Attack

Provided By Patrick Gallagher, PDC

Angelo M Gabriele was 21 years old when he died in World War II, but for decades, his relatives lacked full closure.

Garriele, a U.S. Navy Fireman from Trenton, was aboard the USS West Virginia on Dec. 7, 1941. The battleship was moored at Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii when Japanese aircraft attacked, hitting the ship with multiple torpedoes.

The crew worked to prevent capsizing and the ship came to rest on the harbor floor, but not without taking 106 crewmen along with it.

The Navy later recovered remains of at least 66 service members from the battleship.

It turns out, the Department of Defense said Tuesday, that Angelo was interred as an unknown at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (also called the Punchbowl) in Honolulu.

Gabriele's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Punchbowl. A rosette will be added next to his name to show he has been accounted for.







## Matthew C. Thalasinios

**Candidate for Detachment of NJ Commander  
2019-2020**

by Matt Thalasinios, DVC; Barnegat Squadron 232

My eligibility is through my father, James Thalasinios, who served in the Army during the Korean War. I feel that I honor the memory of my father by providing services for Veterans and Youth Programs.

At the Detachment level I have served as Vice Commander for two years, Chaplain for two years, Sgt.-At-Arms and Asst. Sgt.-At-Arms. I served as the Children and Youth Commission Chairman this past year, and have served as the Chairman on various committees throughout my tenure at the Detachment level. These committees include the Ernie Wilson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Committee for four years, the Religious Emphasis Committee for two years and the Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness Committee for one year. I also served on the Convention Committee for a year, served as the Vice Chairman of the Internal Affairs Committee for two years and Vice Chairman of the Son of The Year Committee for one year. My projects for the Religious Emphasis Committee were the writing of an American Legion Riders Manual of Prayers and the modification of the Convention Memorial Service. I received the high honor of "Son of the Year" in 2016.

I have served as Chaplain at the Squadron level for thirteen years, and was the Commander of Barnegat Squadron 232 for two years. I have served as the Chaplain at the County level for nine years, as well as one year as Vice Commander, and one year as the Commander of the Ocean County Sons of The American Legion Executive Committee. I have been an active supporter of the Child Welfare Foundation at the Squadron and County level.

I received my undergraduate B.A. degree from Rutgers University, and my graduate degree from Georgian Court. My M.A. degree is in Educational Administration, Supervision, and Curriculum Planning. I attended our S.A.L. College program provided by the American Legion and have completed the S.A.L. Basic, S.A.L. Advanced, Chaplain and Legion Basic classes. At the National level, I have completed the first of three years of the National Management Institute course. I am also ordained as a Reverend.

I am running for the position of Commander for the Detachment of NJ for the 2019-2020 term and feel that I can handle the responsibilities of the position. I look forward to continuing to serve the Detachment and our Legion Family in this capacity and will continue to work in assisting the membership throughout the year. My initiatives for the year are both internal and external. Besides the continuance of our outstanding programs already in place, I am looking at modifications to our internal structure and communication, as well as increasing membership by improving our image and involvement in our communities. I would also like to see more of our members get involved at the state level; there are many positions available on our committees.

Thank you for your support.

Matthew C. Thalasinios



## Gregory Shaffer

**Candidate for Detachment Vice Commander  
2019 - 2020**

by Greg Shaffer, DVC; Squadron #174

*First let me introduce myself, my name is Gegory B.*

*Shaffer and I am currently a Detachment Vice Commander for The Sons of The American Legion. I would like to continue my work as a Detachment Vice Commander, so I am asking for your support again this year. I have been a member of the Sons of The American Legion for eleven (11) years.*

*I am eligible for membership into The Sons of The American Legion through my father who was a WWII veteran, serving in the U.S. Marine Corp. My brother is a Viet-Nam veteran who served in the Navy, Seabees. Both have been active in The American Legion since their discharge. Growing up with my father, who was a very active member in The American Legion, I spent many days with veterans and being involved in activities at his American Legion Post #421 in Cleveland, Ohio.*

*I would like the opportunity again, as Detachment Vice Commander, to help support our veterans and their families and to support the many organizations that the American Legion sponsors.*

*Hopefully you will allow me to fulfill this opportunity once again by giving me your vote this June.*

*Thank you.*

*For God and Country*

*Greg Shaffer, Detachment Vice Commander.*

## Golf Outing

**Neptune Township Squadron 346**

by Carl Albern, PDC

Sons of The American Legion Squadron 346 will be holding its annual Golf Outing on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Pebble Creek Golf Course in Colts Neck, NJ., to raise funds for programs of The American Legion Post 346 and Squadron #46.

The outing begins with registration and a continental breakfast at 7:30 am at the course, with a shotgun start at 9:00 am. The price of \$150.00 per golfer includes greens fee, golf cart, and a check-in gift bag, as well as a 2-hour open bar and Steak Bake at Post 346 following the outing. During the tournament, other chances to win include Longest Drive and Closest to Pin contests, as well as raffles and a super 50/50.

Interested golfers should contact Tom Freda (732-610-2158), Bruce Cannell (732-996-0245) Fred Boenig (732-403-6069) or visit Post 346 to pick up a registration form. Sponsorship for tee boxes and featured holes are also available. Please Help Squadron 346 support the programs of the S.A.L. and also have fun while doing it.







## Gary P. Nelson

### Candidate fo National Vice Commander

East : 2019-2020

By Gary P. Nelson PDC, PNEC



Born Gary P. Nelson on November 17, 1956 to proud parents Doris and Russell Nelson, Gary gained eligibility into The Sons of The American Legion through his father's service. Russell Nelson, a WWII veteran, served at "Normandy Beach", the "European Asian Theatre", and the "Battle of the Bulge". His father was a seventy-four (74) year member of the American Legion in New Jersey, a life member of the VFW Post 2648 North Bergen, NJ.

Gary's mother, Doris, was a retired Administration Assistant to the Superintendent of schools, as well as an Auxiliary member. Gary also has a sister, Barbara who is also an American Legion Auxiliary member.

A charter member of his old Squadron, Gary served as Commander for three (3) years, as an Adjutant, Finance Officer and Judge Advocate. He is currently serving as Judge Advocate and membership chairman in his new squadron.

On the county level, Gary served two (2) years as County S.A.L. Commander, during which time Bergen County came close to doubling its membership as well as forming several new squadrons.

At the Detachment level, Gary served two (2) terms as Detachment Vice Commander, at which time assisted in the formation of three (3) County organizations and several Squadrons in various counties. As Ways and Means Chairman; the pin sales broke an all time high in sales.

Gary has attended both Basic and Advanced S.A.L. Legion College classes and has taught both Advanced and Basic courses. He has been on the Membership Committee and had received several requests to attend County and Squadron meetings to speak about membership.

As Detachment Commander (2004 - 2005), Gary was to bring many new achievements:

- all time high in Membership
- Special Olympics
- The Commander's Project
- #1 in Child Welfare contributions
- #1 in per-Capita in the Eastern Region.

The Detachment of NJ received several awards for the S.A.L. newsletter and was also honored in Hawaii, by bringing in the #1 squadron in the nation, and the Americanism Award, earned by his own Squadron #365.

In 2006 - 2007 Gary was awarded the high honor of being named "Son of the Year" for his exceptional dedication to the American Legion family and several projects he ran.

For the past sixteen (16) years Gary has attended the Spring and Fall N.E.C. meetings and attended the National Conventions. In 2005, he represented the Detachment of New Jersey as Delegation Chairman at the National Convention.

Gary received a B.S. in Management & Economics from Ramapo College in NJ and an M.B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He has many other certifications in both Real Estate and Insurance, L.U.T.C., C.R.E.A., & others. Gary is a self-employed Property Manager, out of Cliffside Park for 44 years.

Gary is running for the high office of National Vice Commander East, He would be honored to receive the support of all members of the detachment.



The Sons of The American Legion  
was founded in 1932 to honor  
the service and sacrifice of  
Legionnaires.

This organization is a program  
of The American legion.  
[www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)

## From the Editor

by Tony Clappsy



Once again, I am reporting corrections from our last print edition. These errors were initially provided to the staff incorrectly. Please find the corrected retractions below for recipients of the "Son of the Year" recipients.

2004 Frank Keith Squadron 72 Camden County

2018 Nicholas Wingle Squadron 166 Ocean County

I have noted several times the importance of submissions and deadlines for the SALute. This edition is one of the smallest we have produced while I have been editor. This is due to poor submissions. There is a numerous number of Commissions and Committees that have never once submitted anything to the SALute. Are these Committees and Commissions not doing anything for the Detachment? Just because you do not think it is news worthy does not mean it is not.

Show pride in the events you are hosting no matter how trivial. This is the fodder we need to get the word out about the great things New Jersey is doing for our communities and our veterans.

For this edition I have requested at the meeting as well as through emails, that all campaigning offices submit a bio, in order to let the state of New Jersey know who are stepping up as leaders for the Detachment. We had received a total of three (3) submissions. This is far less than we had expected.

If future turn out for the SALute continues to be this low, we fear that the publication will cease to continue circulation.

CONVENTION ISSUE:

MAY 24TH DEADLINE ..... RELEASE DATE JUNE 13TH

Send Submissions via email to [Tony713c@gmail.com](mailto:Tony713c@gmail.com) Subject: SALute. Thank you  
We are still working on creating an online subscription option, once the internet chairman catches up with his upgrades this will be featured.