



The New Jersey

SALute

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

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January 2021

**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of New Jersey
171 Jersey St., Bld 5, 2nd Floor
Trenton NJ 08611
www.NJSAL.org**

Commander	Matthew Thalasinis
Vice Commander	Keith Barnes
Vice Commander	Henry Hasselhan
Vice Commander	Larry McKenna
Vice Commander	Mark Natale
Vice Commander	Steve Sangemino
Adjutant	PNVC Thomas Marsden
Chaplain	PDC Nicholas Winger
Judge Advocate	PDC Jay Gillman
Historian	PDC Carl Albern, Jr.
Nat'l Exec Comm	PDC Len Free
Alt Nat'l Exec Comm	PDC Robert Phillips, Jr.
SAL Chairman	Anthony Gladden

Do a "Buddy Check" today.

Make sure our members, family, and friends are okay. Even if you are staying home, a phone call, a text, or an email is all it takes. Keep in touch.

Maybe someone needs something from the store.

Or maybe you do.

Like the phone company used to say: "Reach out and touch someone".

From Commander Matt:

January 17, 2021

Greetings!

I hope that you all enjoyed your holiday season and that this finds you and yours in good health. Although it will be a process, I also hope that this New Year provides opportunities for all of us to return to our previous lifestyles.

We are changing our virtual platform to that of The American Legion's and plans are that it will be in place before the next state meeting. A few smaller meetings are already scheduled and others are in motion. Opportunities for Commission and Committee meetings will be provided upon request. The platform that we are going to use is Microsoft Teams, which the American Legion has purchased.

Emails have been sent out; please let me know if you have problems when you respond to your invites to log onto the Microsoft Teams page. Everyone should be able to gain access in preparation for the upcoming meetings. I have provided the meeting dates below in the Revised Commander's Itinerary. **IF** you find you are having difficulty, I have set aside 3 separate time frames on Thursday, January 28 to help you access the site; time slots can be found in the itinerary.

IF you did not receive an invite, please contact me immediately!

More dates could be added, changed or canceled as the months progress; these will be disseminated by email. Additional information will be provided as these events get closer. I feel that adjustments and changes could be coming due to social regulations in regards to the Corona Virus.

I look forward to seeing you at these events. Stay healthy and safe; practice social distancing and wear masks.

For God and Country,
Matthew C. Thalasinis

For God and Country

The NJ SALute January 2021

REVISED COMMANDER'S ITINERARY January 17, 2021

Thursday, January 21, 2021:

Detachment Vice Commanders Virtual Meeting; 7:00 start

Monday, January 25, 2021:

Detachment PDC Virtual Meeting; 7:00 start

Thursday, January 28, 2021:

Detachment DEC Virtual Meeting; 7:00 start

ALSO: For those who are having connection problems, I will provide help:

LOG IN ASSISTANCE: 9am to 10am, 12:0pm to 1:00pm and 5pm to 6pm

***Saturday, January 30, 2021:

Virtual Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of NJ Meeting; 9:30 start

Saturday, February 6, 2021:

Department of NJ American Legion DEC Meeting

Sunday, February 28, 2021:

Washington Conference—To be done virtually; details to follow

***Saturday, April 10, 2021:

Virtual Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of NJ Meeting; 9:30 start

Saturday, April 17, 2021:

Department of NJ American Legion DEC Meeting

Saturday, April 17, 2021:

American Legion Family Joint Testimonial Dinner

Friday, April 30, 2021—May 2, 2021:

Spring NEC

Thursday, June 10, 2021—Friday, June 11, 2021

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New Jersey Convention

Are Your Dues Paid Up?

One way to help your Squadron is to make sure your dues are current. Many Posts suffered financially over the past year as income dwindled. Many lounges and canteens closed, public dinners and events cancelled, hall rentals ended. Which meant little to no income to the Posts. Like any business, our Posts require such expenses such as insurance and utility payments. These didn't shut off because of the pandemic, they still had to be paid, emptying many Post, Squadron, and Unit bank accounts. Your dues can help keep our Posts afloat.

For various reasons, many due to the pandemic, our membership numbers are down, mainly due to reduced income from dues payments. Now is the time to catch up.

If you are delinquent in your dues payments for 2021 after the December 31st 2020 deadline, your membership is in question. Any benefits from your membership expire on the first of the year if you are not paid up.

Remember that we are a "WE" organization. We need you.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION-- DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

OFFICERS AND STAFF--2020—2021

COMMANDER: Matthew C. Thalasin

Theme: "Unity Through Diversity"

Motto: "Let's Have Fun and Get It Done!"

VICE COMMANDERS:

Keith Barnes
Henry Hasselhan
Larry McKenna
Mark Natale
Steve Sangemino

FINANCE OFFICER: C. David Page

NEC: Leonard Free

ANEC: Robert Phillips Jr.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Robert Bascou and Frank Curtis

ASST. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Fred Handy and Anthony Libatore

CHAPLAIN: Nick Wingler

ADJUTANT: Tom Marsden

HISTORIAN: Carl Alber Jr.

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Jay Gillman

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER EAST: Gary Nelson

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS:

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN: Anthony Gladden

AMERICANISM COMMISSION: Sean Howarth

Boy's State: Bob Bascou

Color Guard: Jim Noble

Community Affairs: Henry Hasselhan

Corona Virus Information: Jeff Hicks

Flag History and Dedication: Josh Seib

Girl's State: Jim Noble

Legislative: Pat Gallagher

NEF: Dean Staknys

POW / MIA: Dave Page

Religious Emphasis: Nick Wingler

Son of the Year: Dave Page

Finance: Carl Alber Jr.

Internet: Carl Alber Jr.

Membership: Mike Arner

Mentoring: Bob Phillips Jr.

Public Relations and Publicity Awards: Tom Marsden

Resolutions: Jay Gillman

SAL College: Kent Hehl

SALute: Gary Crawford

Scholarships: Ernie Wilson Jr. Memorial Scholarship:

Amel Belega Jr.

Ways and Means: Jim Noble

CHILDREN and YOUTH COMMISSION: Michael Arner

Child Welfare Foundation: Mark Natale

Children's Organ Transplant Association: Greg Shaffer

Special Olympics: Nick Wingler

Young Citizens' Award: Bill Murphy

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION: Jim Noble

Ad Hoc and Procedures Committee: Tom Marsden

Convention Committee: Jeff Hicks

Detachment Commander's Project: Dave Page

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION:

Patrick Gallagher

PTSD: Frank Jiosi Jr.

Veteran's Affairs: Patrick Gallagher

Veteran's Employment: Ryan Sammond

Veteran's Employment and Education: Henry Hasselhan

Veteran's Homelessness and Clothing Drive:

Myran Jones Sr.

Vet Tech: Rocky Lucia

The Commander's Project

The ongoing Commander's Project is to benefit Veterans Haven outposts throughout New Jersey and the Brigadier General William Doyle Cemetery in a joint effort by the American Legion Department of NJ, the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of NJ, and the American Legion Auxiliary Department of NJ to meet a goal of \$115,000. The NJ Detachment of the SAL has pledged to contribute \$25,000 to the project.

Veteran care locations at Paramus, Veterans Haven North, Vineland, and Menlo Park will benefit from this project, as well as a donation to upgrade the communications infrastructure at the General Doyle Cemetery.

Their mission is to "ensure that homeless veterans are treated and cared for in a dignified, compassionate, and professional manner so as to reach an optimal level of independence and aid them in re-acquiring the life skills and ability to live in the community while maintaining their self-sufficiency, dignity, and honor".

Keeping History Alive

Military Technology Museum of New Jersey @ Camp Evans



When was the last time you watched as tanks, a half-track, and several jeeps and other military vehicles drove past, operated by young and enthusiastic re-enactors?

The impressive 35-year collection of military vehicles and other World War Two historical artifacts has now become the Military Technology Museum of New Jersey, housed at the former US Army Signal Corps Camp Evans in Wall Township, one of several fascinating museums located within the grounds of the Information Age Science Center, known as InfoAge.

The entire complex is open on a limited basis due to health restrictions, so it's best to check their website for directions, an overview, and scheduling. Located at 2201 Marconi Road, Wall NJ 07719, just off Route 18 Exit 7. www.infoage.org. The new military museum's website is www.mtmnj.org



SALute Editor Gary Crawford, PC Sq. 346, placed Flags at the Chosin Few Memorial Highway sign on Route 35 in Brielle NJ for Veterans Day last November. Plans are in the works to extend this distinction to Route 35 south into Ocean County. His late father-in-law fought at the Chosin Reservoir and was later captured by the North Koreans and was detained as a POW for three years.

Chosin Few Memorial Highway in Ocean County.

In 2017, the 40-mile portion of Highway 35 through Monmouth County from Aberdeen to Brielle was designated the Chosin Few Memorial Highway, honoring those who fought at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in North Korea for 17 brutal days in November and December 1950.

Continuing this tradition, plans are afoot to give the same designation to Route 35 through Ocean County. The State Assembly approved the bill, #A473, sponsored by Assemblyman John Catalano of District 10 in Ocean County. The text of the bill is quite lengthy so the gist of it is below.

(It should be noted that the State will not provide signage or financial assistance in this matter. It shall be up to fundraising and the work of volunteers to erect and maintain any signage earmarking this historic distinction, as was done in Monmouth County.)

Ocean County project, anyone?

ASSEMBLY, No. 473 STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by: Assemblyman JOHN CATALANO
District 10 (Ocean)

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate that portion of State Highway Route No. 35 located in the county of Ocean as the “Chosin Few Memorial Highway” in honor of those soldiers who fought in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War and shall erect appropriate signs bearing this designation.
2. No State or other public funds shall be used for producing, purchasing, or erecting signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of this act. The Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to receive gifts, grants, or other financial assistance from private sources for the purpose of funding or reimbursing the Department of Transportation for the costs associated with producing, purchasing, and erecting signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of this act and entering into agreements related thereto, with such private sources, including but not limited to non-governmental non-profit, educational, or charitable entities or institutions. No work shall proceed, and no funding shall be accepted by the Department of Transportation until an agreement has been reached with a responsible party for paying the costs associated with producing, purchasing, erecting, and maintaining the signs.
3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT:

This bill designates the portion of State Highway Route No. 35 that runs through Ocean County as the “Chosin Few Memorial Highway” in honor of those soldiers who fought with tremendous bravery and determination in the brutal Battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War.

AROUND THE STATE:



At Anthony Wayne Post 174, Squadron, and Legion Riders have been busy. Unable to hold their annual Toys for Tots event due to the pandemic, the Riders nevertheless were able to collect over 350 toys.

Squadron 174 had another successful year selling Christmas trees. All 260 trees were sold in two weeks. During the tree sales, many customers left generous tips for the sales crew. As before, proceeds from the tree sales and the tips were donated to the Children's Organ Transplant Association. A total of \$2,290 was donated to the children and their families. The Wayne NJ Post thanks all of the Legionnaires, Sons, and Auxiliary who work hard all year to make all of this possible. This is what they do.



Squadron 105 presents \$500 check to Fisher House. A matching donation the brought the total to \$1000.

Squadron 105 presents a \$300 check to Belleville Historic Society toward cost of wreaths to be placed at St. Peter's Cemetery.

No grass has been growing under the feet of Belleville Post and SAL Squadron 105 lately. Even with the pandemic restrictions and lockdowns, they have been busy with many activities and events.

In October, Post and SAL Sq. 105 held a flag retirement ceremony.

On Veterans' Day, a beautiful day featured ceremonies and a lunch hosted by Sq. 105 for over 30 area veterans. Newly installed Post Commander Joseph Cobiانchi gave the keynote address, followed by a wreath placing ceremony at the Belleville's Memorial site and a Flag raising by the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 366, who joined their Chapter with Post 105.

As is done each year, after the keynote speech, members of the veterans and public service community placed wreaths commemorating our war dead at the foot of the Memorial. Some of the more somber moments of the day were when Commander Cobiانchi read from the Memorial the names of the over 150 Belleville-ites who died in the service of their country: 22 who died in WW1, 118 who died in WW2, five in Korea, and the eleven who died in Vietnam.

(continued next page)



Veterans Day ceremonies at Belleville NJ Post 105.



\$355 plus additional \$500 netted from 50/50, totaling \$855 toward the Commander's Project.

A bugler from Belleville played taps following the reading of the honor roll.

Following the memorial, participants and veterans were invited back to the Post on Washington Ave for a "Veterans Lunch" held by SAL 105, and for a ceremony involving the Purple Heart Chapter 366. A group made up of combat wounded servicemen, MOPH 366 was recently invited to and voted on making American Legion 105 their permanent home. In a ceremony held out front of the Post building, attendees watched as the Military Order of the Purple Heart raised their Flag commemorating their move to a new home. Purple Heart 366 Commander Matt Escrzkowicz also presented Vietnam Veteran John X. Bezzera with an award, honored earlier in the day as Nutley's Veteran of the Year.

In December, the Post and Squadron participated in Wreaths Across America, placing wreaths on the graves of veterans, along with donating \$300 to the Belleville Historical Society to offset the cost of the wreaths. Another \$200 was donated to Wreaths Across America Foundation. This donation covered the thirteen wreaths placed in the Brigadier General William Doyle Cemetery in Wrightstown. (website: wreathsacrossamerica.org/our-story)

In January, the Post and Squadron purchased eight cases of Girl Scout cookies to be sent overseas to our troops, from local Girl Scout troops 21022 and 20462. These cookies are said to be one of the most anticipated care packages from home.

Also in January, a \$500 donation by the SAL was made to the Fisher House Foundation. A matching donation brought the total to \$1000.



Blessing of the wreaths before Post and Squadron 105 members placed them at the graves of Veterans.



Wreath placed at grave of John Barrett, Civil War Veteran, Co. A, NJ Volunteers, at St. Peter's Cemetery in Belleville.



At the Rio Grande Stand Down in January, are (L to R) SAL Camden County Commander and Cherry Hill Squadron 372 Commander Josh Seib; Monmouth County Vice Commander Bill Odom, Union Beach Squadron 321; and PDC Patrick Gallagher, Neptune Squadron 346. This event works with Veterans in need with the Veterans' Employment, Homelessness, and Education Commission. Some of the many tents and displays are pictured to the right. Three other events had been held in the Atlantic City area, with more planned once restrictions from the pandemic are lifted.



Santa at Veterans Haven South,
Winslow NJ.



SAL Henry Hasselhan
labeling gifts.



Post 311 Family packing gift bags

A little Christmas cheer was brought to Veterans Haven South by members of the American Legion Family. Spearheaded by Waterford Township Post 311 Family, Christmas dinner and gift bags were prepared, and delivered to the residents of Veterans Haven South on Christmas Day. There was even a special visit by Santa to greet some of the residents and help deliver food and gift bags. The gift bags were assembled with items donated that included cookies, candies, personal items, winter caps, ball caps and Wawa gift cards. The food was all home cooked and included ham, baked ziti, collard greens, corn bread stuffing, venison, and deserts. The following American Legion Families contributed to this great event:

(continued next page)

Jane Babli Coordinator Post 311, American Legion Department of NJ, Sons of the American Legion Detachment of NJ, American Legion Auxiliary Department of NJ, Post 17, Post 72, Post 423, Post 286, Post 371, and Post 493.

We thank you all for your contributions.

For God and Country
Santa Claus
Henry F Hasselhan
Detachment of NJ Vice Commander



Sons of The American Legion All-U-Can Eat Pancake Breakfast



When: Sunday,
February 14



Where: American Legion Post 401
148 Major Rd, Monmouth Jct, NJ

Time: 8—11 a.m.

MIMOSA Specials

Menu: Pancakes (plain, blueberry,
chocolate chip), sausage, coffee, tea, juice



Tickets \$8 in advance;

\$10 at the door



For tickets & Information
See Bartender or Call Post at 732-329-9861

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

PREAMBLE TO THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as “Sons of The American Legion” for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the association of our members and our forefathers in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

Some Random Shots:



Belleville Post 105 Commander Joseph Cobiانchi places Flags during the retirement ceremony.



SAL Sq. 105 Commander and Detachment Vice Commander Steve Sangemino at Flag retirement.



Chaplain Bud Magathan, SAL PC Gary Crawford, and Commander Scott Conklin at Flag retirement at Neptune Post 346.



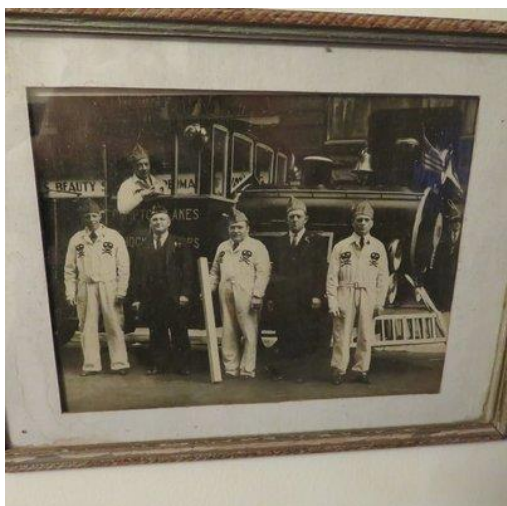
Steve Mercier, Ravi Persad, and Scott Higgins at Belleville NJ ShopRite during Flag Fundraiser. 1700+ Flags were given out, raising money for various projects of Post and SAL 105 Belleville.



Wreaths Across American, Arlington in the snow.



Truckloads of wreaths and so many volunteers to place them.



(Left) Pompton Lakes Post 235, 40&8 street locomotive. (Right) Voiture Locale 39 40&8 train of St. Paul, MN. Many of these were built on truck chassis and used for parades. Some of these parade trains used original 40 & 8 box cars outfitted with rubber tires, while other cars were accurate replicas.

Read the article on the next page about the Merci Trains and the 40 & 8 Society, once part of the Legion.



Decorated 40 & 8 box car.



American Doughboys ready to move.

The organization (also known as "La Société") can trace its roots back to 1920, when Joseph W. Breen and 15 other members of the American Legion, who were veterans of World War I, came together and founded it as an honor society for certain Legion members. They envisioned a new and different level of elite membership and camaraderie for leaders of the American Legion.

The title "40 & 8" comes from the box cars that were used to transport troops to the front in France. Each car had the emblem 40/8 stenciled on the sides, which meant that it could carry 40 men or 8 horses. These cars were known as forty-and-eights. They were seen by the troops as a miserable way to travel, and the new organization was thus called the 40 & 8 in an attempt to make some light of the common misery they had all shared.

In 1929 it was described as "the fun-making organization of the American Legion."

In 1959 the 40 & 8 became independent of the American Legion when the Legion's National Commander, Martin McKneally, discontinued the 40 & 8 as an organization within the American Legion for having racially discriminatory membership requirements. In 1973 the 40 & 8 modified their membership rules to prohibit racial discrimination. The Society required its members to also be members of the American Legion until 2008

(en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forty_and_Eight)

The Merci Train, also known as the French Gratitude Train or the Forty-and-Eight, was the 1949 Europe-US response to the Friendship Train. Composed of 49 cars and filled with "gifts of gratitude", the Merci Train arrived in New York City on February 3, 1949, and was divided among the 48 states with the remaining car to be shared by the District of Columbia and Hawaii.

(en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merci_Train)

Although known for their WW1 use, many cars survived into WW2, used to transport both troops and prisoners.

43 of the 49 cars are known to exist. Five have been destroyed or scrapped, including New Jersey's car, destroyed by fire. Colorado's has been missing since 1954 and is presumed to have been destroyed.

Contributors to this issue:

Commander Matt Thalasinis, Sq 232

Thomas Marsden PNVC Sq 348

William Odom, Sq 321

Patrick Gallagher PDC, Sq 346

Carl Alber Jr. PDC, Sq 346

Rusty Myers Sq 105

Gary Crawford Sq 346

Got news? Send your reports and .jpg pics to: njsalute@gmail.com

Is your Post open? Let us know what events are happening and what else is going on.

Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage . . .



THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

