



The New Jersey **SALute**

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

Volume 57, Issue 4

March 2021

**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of New Jersey
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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
Finance Officer	PDC Dave Page
Historian	PDC Carl Alber Jr.
Nat'l Exec Comm	PDC Len Free
Alt Nat'l Exec Comm	PDC Robert Phillips Jr.
SAL Chairman	Anthony Gladden

Got news? Email to: njSALute@gmail.com

Commander Matthew Thalasinis



Commander's Corner

March 1, 2021

Greetings!

I hope this finds everyone well as we look ahead to our next few months, which include the next SAL Detachment of NJ meeting, to be held Saturday, April 10, 2021 via virtual conferencing. Details to attend this meeting can be obtained through your county's DEC or, if needed, the Detachment Vice Commander who overlooks your county. Our Detachment is moving forward in a variety of projects and awards which include the following:

**THE DEC PROJECT*:*

NJ has 21 counties, and a total of 17 of the available 20 counties that have SAL Squadrons have representatives. We now have 15 DEC's, acting as Interim DEC's, acting as County representatives. We still need 4 more counties to have representatives as soon as possible to be in place before our June Convention.

**AWARDS:*

Applications are being accepted for the following awards; contact information is provided for each as well:

Ernie Wilson Jr. Memorial Scholarship: Amel Balega Jr.

abalegajr@verizon.net

Son of the Year: Dave Page: d.p.69@yahoo.com

Young Citizen's Award: Bill Murphy: Bmurphy1229@aol.com.

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***LEGION COLLEGE:**

The American Legion College offers an SAL Beginner course and an SAL Advanced course, as well as courses for Chaplain, Legion Basic and Legion Advanced. Applications for Legion College are now being accepted. Spots are very limited, so those interested should sign up ASAP. Please contact PDC Kent Hehl for information at kehehl@aol.com

***CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS:**

The Detachment of New Jersey supports many causes at the community, state and national level as situations arise. The agencies we support, as well as our Committee Chairmen and their contact information, are listed below.

Child Welfare Foundation (CWF): Mark Natale... natale175@gmail.com

Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA): Greg Shaffer... shiftyshaff@gmail.com

Special Olympics: Nick Wingler... nicholasjwingler@gmail.com

National Emergency Fund: Dean Staknys... cstk14@verizon.net

Detachment Commander's Project: Dave Page... d.p_69@yahoo.com

***COMMANDER'S MAJOR EVENTS ITINERARY:**

Revised: March 1, 2021

***Saturday, April 10, 2021:

Virtual Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of NJ Meeting; 9:30 start*Saturday, April 24, 2021: Legion College

*Friday, April 30, 2021 through May 2, 2021:

Spring NEC

***Thursday, June 10, 2021: Friday, June 11, 2021

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New Jersey Convention August 27 to August 30: National Convention, Phoenix, Arizona

Stay healthy and safe; practice social distancing and wear masks.

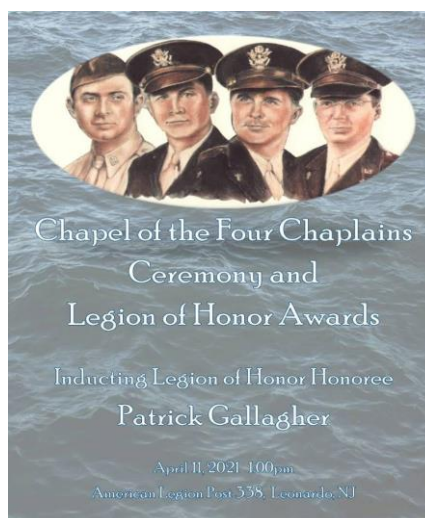
For God and Country,

Matthew C. Thalasinis, Commander

Sons of The American Legion

Detachment of New Jersey 2020-2021

Detachment Elections are coming soon. If you wish to be featured in a special edition of the **SALute**, please email a picture and 100 word bio to njSALute@gmail.com. JPG pictures work best.



Congratulations to Pat Gallagher and Tom Marsden! Ceremony April 11, 1:00 pm, at Leonardo Post 338.

WHAT'S GOING ON...

APRIL 3: HAM DINNER TAKE-OUT, POST 455, 25 MEADOWBROOK LANE, NEW EGYPT NJ, 2:00 PM.

APRIL 9: AC STAND DOWN MOBILE, VFW POST 679, 275 WILMER, GLASSBORO NJ, 8:00 AM.

APRIL 17: CHILI COOKOFF, ANTHONY WAYNE POST 174, WAYNE NJ, 1:00 PM.

APRIL 21: LOCAL VETERANS' STAND DOWN, VFW POST 335, 401 CENTENIAL AVE. CRANFORD NJ, (1ST PARKING LOT ON RIGHT)

The American Legion

102nd Annual Convention

June 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Parade Day

Yes, that's right, the time of year when more than 5,000 New Jersey Legionnaires, Auxiliary members & the SAL flock to Wildwood for this year's 102nd Annual Convention for four days of "Fun, Sun and Comradeship."

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

❖ Wed, June 9th – Registration Opens for all 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Legionnaire's final DEC meeting 3:00 p.m. Our own Service Officer, Ken Connors will be conducting a "Veterans Suicide Prevention Training Seminar" from 12:30 – 2:00 P.M.

❖ Thurs, June 10th – Convention Opens for the Legion, Auxiliary and the SAL. Miss New Jersey, Jade Glab, will be with us to sing the National Anthem to open the convention. Did I mention that Jade was also a former "Girls State Delegate?"

There will be Welcome addresses, Committee Reports and our Youth Champions present. This is "Your American Legion at work." The day ends with Nominations for Officers for the ensuing year.

Once again, this year we will have the DMV mobile van in attendance for all your motor vehicle needs. This year they will present both Thursday and Friday. There will also be a Vet Center van as well.

❖ Fri, June 11th – Final Committee Reports, Distinguished Speakers followed by Final Nominations, Election and the Installation of Officers for 2021-2022 Legion year.

❖ Sat, June 12th – Join Us for the 102nd Annual Department Convention Parade. The Parade "steps off" at 2:00 p.m. from 18th Street in North Wildwood to Bennett Ave. in Wildwood Crest. This year's Parade theme is sponsored by our American Legion Auxiliary.

"Celebrating 100 Years of Helping Veterans,

Military and Their Families"

“Legionnaires Capture Belmar”

September 1934



Proclamation (The Coast Advertiser, Friday, Sept 7, 1934)

WHEREAS, through the combined efforts of Herbert-Worthington-White Post 151, the American Legion, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Post, the Belmar Chamber of Commerce and the Borough Commissioners, a great effort was made in 1933 to make Belmar the scene of the New Jersey State Convention of the American Legion, and:

WHEREAS, this is the first statewide convention of such an important organization to so favor Belmar, and:

WHEREAS, this convention brings to our midst many distinguished guests of national reputation adding considerably to the importance of the occasion, and now therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED, that we call upon the people throughout the borough to take a personal interest in decorating their homes and places of business as a greeting to these distinguished guests and the Legionnaires, and:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we take an individual interest in the comfort and enjoyment of our guests and endeavor to make their stay in every way enjoyable, and:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the welcome we shall accord this distinguished organization may be one of lasting memory, and that we trust they may be returned to their respective homes in health, and safety.

JOSEPH MAYER, Mayor, THOMAS S. DILLON, AND THOMAS D. JOECK, Commissioners

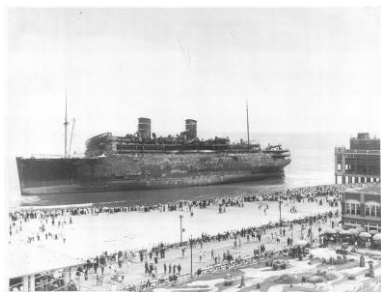
Visiting Legionnaires at Convention in Belmar NJ would be called to duty to assist in the Morro Castle disaster just three miles north of Belmar.

Early on September 7, 1934, the 509-foot passenger liner Morro Castle burned and washed up the next morning on the beach at Asbury Park. Out of 547 passengers and crew aboard, 137 died as a result of the fire or other injuries or by jumping overboard and drowning during a perfect storm situation, where a hurricane from the south met a nor'easter from the north. As expected, this disaster brought thousands to Asbury Park to view the burning spectacle.

Traffic was a nightmare. As radio announcers begged people not to come, cars jammed Routes 1, 9, and 35 from the Manhattan side of the Holland Tunnel all the way to Asbury, long before the Garden State Parkway and NJ Turnpike were built.

The NJ Department of the American Legion was holding its annual convention at the Herbert-Worthington-White Post 151 in Belmar, three miles south of Asbury Park. Attendees were pressed into duty helping to direct traffic, attempting to keep some order to the massive traffic jams.

Photos from the Editor's collection.



TRENCH RAILROADS IN WORLD WAR ONE

Full-sized railroads serving French positions in World War One were vulnerable to attack by enemy artillery so another answer to serve the front lines was needed. Rebuilding these railroads from damage took far too long. The French had used small-gauge railroads in industry and agriculture, far cheaper to build and maintain, and could be built and repaired in far shorter times. Roads could turn into muddy quagmires in no time, stranding trucks and horse-drawn wagons, while short sections of prefabricated narrow gauge track could easily be installed on rough surfaces. Ten soldiers could easily handle the 16-foot sections of track, making a rail line operational in short order.

Supplies including ammunition and other ordnance, along with food and water, and fodder for the many horses in use needed to be moved quickly. Soldiers needed to be moved in, and the wounded and dead had to be brought out. The smaller rail lines could be installed and maintained easily, keeping supplies in transit right up to the front line trenches.

Steam locomotives were initially used, but their telltale smoke often made them easy targets for the enemy. Many of these steamers were built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia. Internal combustion locomotives were built to assist the steamers in moving the small trains around. Many of these were built by American firms as well. Most of these engines weren't even as big as small automobiles, helping soldiers to literally pick up engines and cars that had derailed along the hastily built rough trackage.

Although tiny in comparison to their large railroad counterparts, these gas-powered "critters" weighed in at around three-and-a-half tons. Rail cars were around five feet wide and twenty-three feet long, and were mostly flat cars, although there were many boxcars and cars with square water tanks. Many of these cars were top-heavy and prone to derailment so most everything was hauled on flat cars if possible.

One such Veteran exists right here in New Jersey, at the NJ Museum of Transportation / Pine Creek RR in Allaire State Park of Howell. A locomotive built in 1914 by the J.D. Fate Company of Plymouth, Ohio found its way to France to work the trench railroads. (The company would be renamed the Fate-Root-Heath Company in 1919, and later became the Plymouth Company, named for the factory's location. (This Plymouth was not part of the Plymouth Division of Chrysler) This locomotive later came home and worked in the clay pits of the Oswald Brickworks of Cliffwood NJ, along with a 1919 Fate-Root-Heath unit and a practically identical 1920 Burton. The brickworks, clay pits, as well as the red brick smokestack were within sight of the Garden State Parkway Exit 129.

Unfortunately, the J.D. Fate unit is buried in a storage building and pictures are not possible at this time, although pictures are presented here to give an idea of what these "critters" looked like. Basic in design, they did what was demanded of them.



World War One trench steam locomotives built by Baldwin of Philadelphia PA. The track gauge was 1'11-5/8" between the rails, allowing for smaller engines and cars. The center photo is of a "Fairlie" double-ended steam engine built by Baldwin to specifications from a French designer and engineer named Fairlie. The photo at right shows the size differences as supplies are reloaded from standard-gauge boxcars.



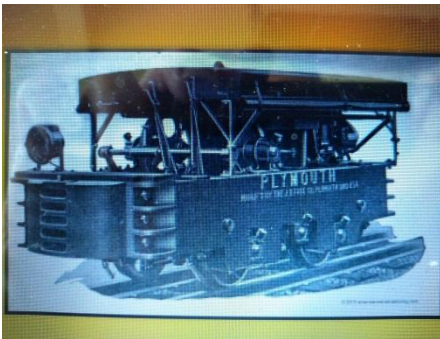
Troops ready to deploy to the front.



A trainload of doughboys.



Even Model T Fords were in use.



J.D. Fate Model AL-1, 3-1/2 tons. Some early units had "Plymouth" markings on the sides.



Similar Burton Model D, 3-1/2 tons. Close enough for patent infringement, designs were copied for war use.



Load of track panels ready to install. Ten soldiers could easily handle them.



"Critter" scale models.

Photos courtesy of www.american-rails.com / public domain / editor's collection.



1917 – Selective Service Act

- 24,000,000 men registered for the draft by the end of 1918.
- 4,800,000 men served in WW1 (2,000,000 saw active combat).
- 400,000 African-Americans served in segregated units.
- 15,000 Native-Americans served as scouts, messengers, and snipers in non-segregated units.



How did Army tanks get their name?

- Tanks got their name from a diversionary tactic. The Allied forces built the first tanks in absolute secrecy because they wanted to catch the Germans off guard. In order to conceal their plan, they told the workers building the weapons that the machines would be used to transport water on the battlefield.

Got news?

Email it to SALute editor Gary Crawford at njSALute@gmail.com. We don't know what's going on unless you tell us. A pat on the back, gloat if you must. Tell us what's going on.

Membership:

Looking over the Membership list as of Jan 22, 2021, at that point we appeared to be only about 62% of Members paid up. It's slowly rising but there is still work to do to bring back those delinquent in their dues. This has been a difficult year overall and we've lost Members due to Covid-19, financial problems, and other reasons. But there is still time to bring back those in arrears as well as recruiting new Members. Keep making those buddy-check calls and see how our Members are doing. If they are in need of assistance, we are there for them.

With the downturn in income, our Posts and Squadrons are feeling the pinch. Some are in danger of closing permanently. We don't want that. Our Veterans depend on the services our Posts and Squadrons provide to them.

"Umm, what's this do?"

When all else fails, ask your 11-year-old grandson for help. **SALute** editor Gary Crawford and his grandson Murphy Izquierdo working on this newsletter. Gary is Past Commander and current Vice Commander of Neptune Squadron 346 and was voted Detachment "Son of the Year" in 2003. His three grandsons are also Sons.

Gary is a published author, publishing books on local history as well as horror-fantasy fiction, and he blogs about George Carlin-esque things that annoy all of us. His work can be found at his website: www.crawsat.wixsite.com/garyscrawford.



FIND THE PDCs

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 CARLALBERN
 GARYNELSON
 JEFFHICKS
 LENNYFREE
 NICKWINGLER
 SEANHOWARTH

BOBBASCOU
 DAVEPAGE
 JAMESNOBLE
 JOEKORBA
 MATTHALASINOS
 PATGALLAGHER
 TOMMARSSEN

BOBPHILLIPS
 FRANKIROS
 JAYGILLMAN
 KENTHEHL
 MIKEARNER
 PHILBOYD

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.
 Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

20 of 20 words placed.

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



*Proud Possessors of a
 Priceless Heritage...*