



The SAL-ute

The Newsletter of the Detachment of New Jersey

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Detachment Officers

Volume 51 Issue 2

February 2014

Commander:

- Amel Balega

Vice Commanders:

- Bob Bascou
- Edward Downs
- TBA
- Carl Kline
- Andy Malson

Adjutant:

- Jeff Hicks

Judge Advocate:

- Tom Marsden

Chaplain:

- Bob Philips Jr

Historian:

- Lenny Free

Sgt-at-Arms:

- Tony Clappsy
- Jackson Coles
- Mark Dodds

Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:

- Dan Dominick
- Jim Newby Jr
- Matthew Thalasinios

NEC

- Gary Nelson

ANEC

- Joe Korba

SAL Chairman

- Norm Marlin

Commander's Project: Veteran's Haven North

Atop the scenic mountain in Glen Garden New Jersey stands Veteran's Haven North. With its tranquil surroundings, state of the art facility, and specialized staff, Veteran's Haven North boasts the perfect combination for a highly effective and efficient transitional housing program for homeless veterans.

Under the direction of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Veterans Haven North is a safe haven where 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.

Veteran's Haven North is comprised of a diverse team of professionals specializing in psycho-social rehabilitation, social services, addictions, vocational rehabilitation, and nursing.

All treatment is individualized with the purpose of attaining realistic life goals and instilling hope and wellness to maximize community reintegration. Our vision is to provide services to the veterans guided by principles of excellence and quality. In addition to our specialized team, there is a Veterans' Service Officer on premises to assist veterans in obtaining entitlements.

Veteran's Haven North has been selected as this year's Commanders project.

The intended goal is to furnish 100 rooms at Veterans Haven North with a bed, dresser, desk, chair, and night stand. The approximate cost is \$1500 per room.



Residents at Veterans Haven North are provided with shelter, food, transportation, case management, life skills training, community reintegration. Each eligible veteran can stay at Veteran's Haven North for up to 2 years. Upon completion, veterans should be able to return to their communities as productive, self sufficient citizens with a steady income and ability to live and function at a high level.

In ensuring that this project is a success, we are asking that each Squadron and County try to raise the appropriate funds to furnish at least one room.

Some suggestions are a spaghetti dinner, 50/50, or gift auction. Some Squadron's may not have the funds to sponsor a complete room, but all donations regardless of value are welcomed and appreciated.

For each Squadron or County donation of \$1500 or more, a room plaque will be inscribed with the donor's name. As these plaques will be prominently displayed for all veterans and visitors to see, we would like to see all of the Detachment of New Jersey represented to

show how we help our veterans who have given so much for us.

Currently the detachment has collected approximately \$15,000 dollars towards this projects, a good start but we still have a way to go to reach our ultimate goal. To make a donation; please make checks payable to SAL Detachment of NJ with Commanders Project in the memo line. Mail to: Commander's Project 207 Walnut Creek Lane Tom River 08753.n If you have any additional questions regarding Veterans Haven North or the Commander's Project:

Please contact Dan Dimmick
Commander's Project Chairman
@ 848-333-2828.



For God and Country: The Four Chaplains

By Tony Clappsy
Detachment Sgt @ Arms

On February 2nd, while many were getting amped up for the super bowl game later that evening, the men and women of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion joined together at the **Cathedral of the Air - Lakehurst, NJ**, to honor the 4 chaplains who sacrificed their lives for their comrades in service to "God and Country" that fateful day when the *Dorchester* was sunk by German submarines 71 years ago.

The annual service was presided over by Rev. Robert Horn, Chaplain, The American Legions, Department of New Jersey.

Lt, Brett Sabella, USN Chaplain, JBMDL honored the congregation to the opening invocation.

Col James Hodges, USAF Commander JBMDL welcomed all and began the memorial service, where Department Vice Commanders each gave tribute to each of the 4 chaplains.

Facilitator: Raymond Miller, DVC
Rev, George Fox: Salvatore Torre, DVC
Rabbi Alexander D Goode

Harry Ettlinger, Commander Jewish War Veterans, Dept. NJ

Rev. Clark B Poling James Conroy, DVC
Rev, Johnny Washington Darryl Reid, DVC



and faiths were different, although Goode, Poling and Washington had all served as leaders in the Boy Scouts of America. They met at the Army Chaplains School at Harvard University, where they prepared for assignments in the European theater, sailing on board *USAT Dorchester* to report to their new assignments.

On February 3, Captain Hans Danielsen had been alerted that the coast guard sonar's has detected German subs in the area. Because German U-boats were monitoring sea lanes and had attacked and sunk ships earlier during the war, Captain Danielsen had the ship's crew on a state of high alert even before he received that information, ordering the men to sleep in their clothing and keep their life jackets on. "Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable."

At 12:55 am the *Dorchester* was struck by a torpedo in the North Atlantic. Panic set in among the men on board, many of them trapped below decks. The chaplains sought to calm the men and organize an orderly evacuation of the ship, and helped guide wounded men to safety. As life jackets were passed out to the men, the supply ran out before each man had one. The chaplains; Reverend George L. Fox, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, the Reverend John P. Washington, and the Reverend Clark V. Poling removed their own life jackets and gave them to others. They helped as many men as they could into lifeboats, and then linked arms and, saying prayers and singing hymns, went down with the ship.

Some 230 of the 904 men aboard the ship were rescued. Life jackets offered little protection from hypothermia, which killed most men in the water. The water temperature was 34 °F (1 °C) and the air temperature was 36 °F (2 °C). By the time additional rescue ships arrived, "hundreds of dead bodies were seen

floating on the water, kept up by their life jackets. According to some reports, survivors could hear different languages mixed in the prayers of the chaplains, including Jewish prayers in Hebrew and Catholic prayers in Latin.

Congress also attempted to confer the Medal of Honor on each of the four chaplains, but the stringent requirements for that medal required heroism performed "under fire," and the bravery and ultimate sacrifice of these men did not technically qualify, since their actions took place after the torpedo attack. Therefore, members of Congress decided to authorize a special medal intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor. This award, the Four Chaplains' Medal, was approved by a unanimous act of Congress on July 14, 1960, through Public law 86-656 of the 86th Congress. The medals were presented posthumously to the next of kin of each of the Four Chaplains by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Ft. Myer, Virginia on January 18, 1961.

In 2006, National Executive Committee of The American Legion, at the Legion's 88th National Convention in Salt Lake City, passed a resolution urging Congress to revisit the issue of awards, and award the Medal of Honor to Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington.

In 1988, February 3 was established by a unanimous act of Congress as an annual "Four Chaplains Day. Some state or city officials commemorate the day with official proclamations, sometimes including the order that flags fly at half-mast in memory of the fallen chaplains. In some cases, official proclamations establish observances at other times.



It is sad that many students today are unaware of the sacrifice made by the 4 chaplains, and the fate of the *Dorchester*.

The *Dorchester* was a cruise ship converted for Military service in World War 2, a liner designed for 314 passengers and 90 crew would now be able to carry slightly more than 900 passengers and crew. On January 23, 1943, the *Dorchester* left New York en route to Greenland, carrying four chaplains and over 900 servicemen as part of a 3 ship convoy. Most of the military personnel aboard were not informed of the ship's ultimate destination.

The four men were relatively new chaplains who all held the rank of first lieutenant. They included Methodist minister the Reverend George L. Fox, Reform-Rabbi Alexander D. Goode (Ph.D), Roman Catholic priest the Reverend John P. Washington, and Reformed Church in America minister the Reverend Clark V. Poling. Their backgrounds, personalities,

Commander's Message: A Focus on Membership



Commander Amel Balega
Detachment of New Jersey

During these cold winter months I wish everyone well.

The Sons of the American Legion, support veterans and their families, promote patriotism, Americanism and programs that benefit

our country's youth. The way we can do all these things is through membership. Membership is the life's blood of this organization, without it, we cannot perform our responsibilities to our forefathers and veterans who have fought to secure this great country.

It has been a pleasure to visit with many of the squadron's throughout the state, as well as participate in Bergen county's VA&R Bingo at the East Orange VA hospital, the For God and Country Service on February 2nd Honoring the 4 chaplains, and all the work we do for our veterans including our current project to furnish 100 rooms at Veteran's Haven North in Glen Garden NJ. We have had a busy year and we are not done yet.

As of January's membership report, there are 31 squadrons which have zero members paid in to date. For whatever reason these squadrons either have members who paid their dues and it had not

been submitted, or they just haven't applied themselves. This reflects on the entire organization. It is up to all of us to see that these squadrons are submitting their paperwork correctly.

If your squadron had not submitted an updated Officers report for 2013-2014 term you will not be update on events. If membership registrations are below 10 members for your squadron, your charter will be suspended and your voice cannot be heard in support of our veterans and organization. I urge you to pool your resources and submit your paperwork. If your squadron is unsure of how to fill the paperwork out, contact membership chairman Patrick Gallagher, (848) 992-4337 or via email: njsalgallagher@gmail.com he will gladly work with you to resolve any questions on this platform.

Zero Membership Squadrons

Atlantic County:
Sq. 81 & 295.
Bergen County:
Sq.'s 206, 226, & 272.
Burlington County:
Sq.'s 115 & 336.
Camden County:
Sq. 56.
Essex County:
Sq.'s 140, 152, & 299.
Gloucester County:
Sq. 424
Hudson County:
Sq.'s 18 & 282.
Hunterdon County:
Sq. 159
Middlesex County:
Sq.'s 62, 248, & 263.
Morris County:
Sq.'s 59, 242, 312, 421, 484, & 351.
Passaic County:
Sq. 8
Salem County:
Sq.'s 75 & 297
Somerset County:
Sq. 293
Union County:
Sq. 5
Below 10 Members Squadrons
Sq.'s 118, 31, 148, 45, 459, 273, 121, & 35

Detachment of New Jersey Special Election to be held Feb 8th

Detachment Commander Amel Balega Jr (sq.227; Passaic County) has declared a vacancy in the **elective office of Detachment Vice Commander**. This vacancy came about following the acceptance of Vice Commander Donald R Early, Sr.'s (Sq.455; ocean County) resignation from his office at the Saturday, December 14, 2013, regular Detachment meeting.

In accordance with the Detachment of New jersey's Constitution and Bylaws (Article I, Section 3), **a Special election be held to fill the vacancy of Detachment Vice Commander at the War Memorial Building in Trenton, NJ, on Saturday February 8, 2014**, which will coincide with the date of the next Detachment meeting. The meeting shall commence at 9:45 AM in the TEC Room located in the basement of the War Memorial Building.

Candidates for this office are **required** to provide proof of eligibility for the Sons of The American Legion in accordance with the Detachment of New Jersey Bylaws (Article

By Jeffrey E Hicks
Adjutant Detachment of NJ

VI, Section 6).

The Detachment Judge Advocate Thomas E Marsden, PDC, PNVC (Sq.348; Ocean County) has declared that, at a minimum, a letter of endorsement from the candidate's squadron MUST be submitted prior to the February 8th election.

Proof of the candidate's eligibility and other endorsement letters (County Legion, and county S.A.L., if established) are required to be filed within 21 days of the election.

Paperwork Must be submitted to :
Detachment Adjutant Jeffrey E Hicks
152 Main St
Southampton, NJ 08088-8872

And

S.A.L. Chairman Norman R marlin, jr.
3300 New Jersey Ave., Apt. #508
Wildwood, NJ 08260

Josh Dog Update

It is an honor that I can announce that as of February 1st 2014, The Josh Dog Committee, under the chairmanship of Jackson Coles has collected \$4015.00 dollars towards the program.

We have been able to obtain 100 Josh Dogs I'll be OK gift packages, for sick children in hospitals. Each package costs \$40.00 and includes a hypoallergenic plush golden retriever, a 32-page hard cover book, and dog house packaging that provides an easy to tote, temporary home for Josh.

Thank you to everyone who help support this project. If you have not made a donation you still can, contact Jackson Coles with your donations.,



Phone App For Detachment Website

By Carl Albern
Internet Committee Chairman

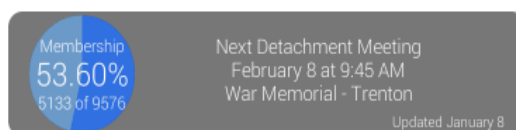
These days, the Internet is a major source of information for people, providing news and ways to stay in contact with people, and lots of people are using their smartphones as their primary means of accessing the Internet while on the go. The Detachment of NJ has had a website to communicate important information for nearly two decades, now, but to start moving into this era of information on the go, the Detachment Internet Committee, chaired by Carl Albern, Jr., has been working on a mobile app for the Detachment that integrates with the Detachment website.

This app enables you to "take it with you" when it comes to information related to the Detachment, including upcoming Detachment meetings, current membership statistics, Officer and Committee Chairmen reports, front page announcements and a featured story. The app makes it convenient to get the latest information available from the Detachment website with a minimum of taps on your Android mobile device.

Presently, the app is in beta-testing with several of the Officers and Chairmen of the Detachment. Any reported bugs and issues are being

fixed to make the app as useful and bullet-proof as possible. Right now, with the app, you can add Detachment meetings directly to your device's calendar. From the membership pages, you can pull up specific squadrons, and get their current membership percentages and address. If you have Google Maps on your device, with one or two taps, you can open a map centered on the squadron you're viewing and begin navigating to it from your current location. The Featured Story was added to the latest version, debuting with a reprinting of the SALute article detailing Detachment Commander Amel Balega's and PDC Lenny Free's Honor Flight trip to Washington D.C. with 2 N.J. WWII veterans to visit the WWII Memorial and other monuments in our nation's capital.

The hope is that this app will be made available for download from the Detachment website soon, so that any member of the Detachment can benefit from having this information on the go.



Detachment of New Jersey SAL College Advanced Course

The Detachment's annual SAL College will be held on March 29, 2014. The two courses that are offered are designed to aid members and officers in the running of their squadrons and counties.

The Basic course gives attendees detailed information on the programs, procedures and paperwork you will face when administering a squadron or county. The instructors look to provide you with the means to maintain your membership, correspond with other levels of the organization, and handle the paperwork sent from the Detachment or Department.

The Advanced course is based upon subject matter taught at other member training courses throughout the SAL. Courses such as the National Management Institute (N.M.I.), taught annually at the National Executive Meetings and the Executive Seminar taught at the Eastern Region's unofficial get-together. The instructors of the Advanced course are all N.M.I. graduates, and structure the Advanced course to concentrate on teaching you skills to manage your time, communicate better as an officer or chairman, learn to deal with issues during your work, and public speaking. Students in the Advanced course work to-

gether in groups and use their knowledge of the organization and its procedures to face example challenges that nearly every squadron or county officer faces during their time in office. Students will give and receive constructive criticisms of their work, and build on experiences of their own and others to produce solutions for the organization, such as fundraisers or events, using skills in time and resource management and communication.

The Advanced Course is available to all members who have completed the Basic SAL College course. Forms for both the Basic and Advanced courses can be downloaded from the Detachment of New Jersey website.

A \$50.00 enrollment fee will be required for each class, in the event of less than 15 registrations the advanced class will be cancelled.

All registered students will require an active 2014 membership card and a photo identification.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 3, 2014

NO SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER

S.A.L. Detachment of New Jersey

NEWS REPORTS

Featured Story

Honor Flight Experience

Special Election at the February 2014 Det. Meeting

The Sons of The American Legion (SAL), Detachment of New Jersey Commander Amel Balega, Jr. has ordered a "Special Election" for Detachment Vice Commande...

16th Annual SAL College

Sal College will be held Saturday, March 19th at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt, NJ. Mailings are out, make copies and bring...

From the Editor

Once again I would like to personally thank everyone who has submitted photos and articles for this issue of the salute.

Including but not limited to :

Commander Amel Balega,

NEC Gary Nelson

PDC/PNVC Jim Noble

PDC Lenny Free; Detachment Historian

PDC Patrick Gallagher; Membership Chairman

PDC/ANEC Joseph Corba;

Committee chairmen:

Andy Malson, Carl Albern, Dan Dimmick, Jackson Coles.

In order to keep this publication going, regular updates from committees are welcome. If your squadron, or county is having an event, feel free to send information to the salute.

Submissions are best submitted in word format. If you are uncomfortable and feel you can not write an article but want to submit something, Feel free to call me. We can get it done together.

As we are trying to get the Salute out to each Squadron via post office mail, Submission deadlines will be moved up in order to co-ordinate with department mailings.

Therefore submission deadline for the April issue is March 15th.

Email submissions to Tony713c@gmail.com

201 - 388-1939



**DETACHMENT COMMANDER
AMEL BALEGA JR.
TESTIMONIAL DINNER**

Saturday March 15, 2014 6:30 PM

REGENCY HOUSE

140 State Route 23
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

\$45.00 per Person

Cash Bar 5:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Must Reserve by March 1st
Please make check to
Passaic County American Legion/Amel Balega

Reservation form is available on the detachment website:
http://www.njsal.org/Forms/Balega_testimonial.pdf

Mail To Pat Ruggiero P.O.Box 222 Little Falls, NJ 07424-0222



**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
TESTIMONIAL DINNER HONORING
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT COM-
MANDER
JAMES E AMOS JR.**

Sunday April 27, 2014 6:30 PM

ALMOND TREE MANOR (John Dolak Post)

RT.519 & 319 E Central Ave
Alpha, NJ 08865

\$40.00 per Person

Cash Bar
Meet and Greet 1:00 PM
Family Style Dinner 2:00 PM

Must Reserve by April 13, 2014
Please make check to
Warren County American Legion

Mail Reservation and Check to :
Linda Olezek 409 Willow Grove St. Hackettstown NJ 07840

This and That



Commander Balega's Visit to Ocean County



VA & R Bingo Party at East Orange VA Hospital

Events

Sons of the American Legion College:
Held at National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt NJ
March 29th
Registration due : March 3, 2014

Burlington County
Testimonial Dinner
March 8th, 2014
Charley's Other Brother

\$37.00 per person
RSVP Feb 21, 2014

Camden County
Testimonial Dinner
March 9th, 2014
Adelphia Restaurant

Lyon Hospital
VA & R EVENT:
April 19, 2014
Lions Hospital

2 pm

Bergen County
Dinner Dance
March 2, 2014
The Graycliff

\$40.00 per person
RSVP Feb 17

Atlantic County
Testimonial Dinner
April 5, 2014
Frog Rock Golf & Country Club

\$35.00 per person
RSVP March 29, 2014

Bayonne Post 19
Comedy Night
Feb 15, 2014
Bayonne Post 19

\$30.00 per person

Upcoming Event?
Send information to the Salute:
Email: Tony713c@gmail.com

National Update

By Gary P Nelson
PDC/NEC

The following are dates to remember .

- (March/22-24)
National Commander's Homecoming. Hunt Valley Inn,
Baltimore Maryland
2. (March/23-26)
Washington Conference
Hilton Hotel, Washington D.C.
3. (March/31)
Deadline for anyone to be on
any National Committee.
4. (April/4 -5)
Eastern Regional Unofficial
Gathering & Testimonial,
Shelton Connecticut
5. (May/2-4)
Spring N.E.C.,
Indianapolis, Indiana
6. (June/11-14)
National Commander Joe
Gladden official visit to N.J.
(Wildwood)
7. (August/22-24)
National Convention,
Charlotte, North Carolina
8. (October/10-12)
Fall N.E.C., and Detachment
Commander's Conference,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

If you have any questions feel free
to call N.E.C. Gary Nelson at (201)
370-1365 or E-Mail me
at gpnelsoncos@juno.com



Child Welfare Foundation Update

By Andy Malson
Detachment Vice Commander



The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Inc. (CWF) was created by the American Legion in 1954. Dedicated to the " Betterment of All Children " the foundation has awarded over 12 million dollars to worthy organizations since its founding.

The foundation ' s foremost philanthropic priority is to provide other non-profit organizations with the means to educate the public about the special needs of children across the nation.

I am proud as Detachment of NJ CWF Chairman to report that the Sons of the American Legion have been the largest and most generous donors to the foundation since its inception.

During his term as National Commander in 2012-2013, Jim Roberts announced his "Drive for Five " campaign. His goal was to have the SAL reach 5 million dollars in accrued donations to the CWF across our Nation. The Detachments worked together and reached this goal of 5 million by contributing over \$500, 00 that year!

The Detachment of New Jersey has been a leader in contributions to the CWF for many years. As of January 1, 2014 the Detachment of New Jersey is currently in 4 place in the nation. It is my goal

as CWF Chairman to have the Detachment of NJ be one of the top 10 contributors in the nation this year.

Please consider encouraging your Squadron to make a contribution of at least \$ 1 per member this year. An easy way to facilitate contributions from your members is to "Pass the Hat "

at any Squadron meetings or functions.

Another way to contribute personally is to become a member of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation ' s Child Action Team. To become a "CAT " member an individual must review materials and learn the goals, mission and history of the Foundation. Upon completing and submitting an examination, accompanied by a personal donation of \$25, you will receive a National recognition pin and certificate issued in your name.

The CWF administrative year runs from June 1 thru May 31st. Contributions must be received by the Detachment on or before 25 May in order to be processed. Please mail your contributions in the form of a check payable to the :

CWF, Inc

Mail to:

Andrew Malson

PO Box 155

Somers Point, NJ 08244.

For more information on the Child Welfare Foundation or for a grant application log onto www.cwfinc.org

Son of the Year Award

By Dean Staknys
SOTY Committee Chairman

Every squadron has one or a few members who you will see assisting at every Post, Unit and Squadron event , often running some on their own and also helping out with community events and fund raisers. Maybe it ' s the member who maintains the grounds or helps repair the roof of the Post. They are promoting the principles and ideals of the American Legion both within and outside the organization and make for outstanding examples of SAL. members. As a way of recognizing the efforts of such Squadron members in the State, the Detachment of NJ each year has a program/award known as Son of the Year. The past winners who have received the honor, which many of you know personally, have been and continue to be exemplary SAL members.

This year ' s applications have been available since September on the njsa.org website and were mailed to each Squadron as well. The deadline for

the applications is April 18, 2014.

The 2nd page of the application outlines the documentation required as to the members ' eligibility. At this point the candidate has to be in good standing for the year 2014. And please note, the time period for the achievements being used to support the application run from April 2013 to the present. Completeness and quality of the contents presented in the application will be considered as well as the actual achievements.

The Detachment encourages you to have those deserving Squadron members ' efforts be acknowledged by applying on their behalf for this year ' s Son of the Year award.

If you have any further questions or concerns please feel to email me at staknys@njsal.org Again, the application form may be downloaded from the