



THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

On Sunday, February 6, the Legion Family filled the Cathedral in the Air, Lakehurst N. A. S. Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons had come together to remember four chaplains who gave their lives so that others might live. Rev. Clark V. Poling, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Rev. Fr. John P. Washington, and Rev. George L. Fox went down with their ship, the *Dorchester*, during WWII. Their faith and leadership proved an act of heroism that saved their comrades. pm

POLAR BEAR IN POINT PLEASANT

On February 27, the Annual Polar Bear Plunge organized by New Jersey Law Enforcement for Special Olympics brought 2,600 participants to Jenkinson's Pavilion, Point Pleasant Beach. The event brought in nearly \$600K in individual pledges and sponsor donations. Since its start twelve years ago over three million dollars has been donated.

Vice Commander Jim Lightcap (Sq. 133, Gloucester) was one of the participants plunging into the 38-degree calm but cold Atlantic waters. Jim's \$675 from the Sons and another \$500+ in personal pledges make this Special Olympics fundraiser a huge success.

Thank you, Jim, for leading this Children and Youth program forward. A lot of kids with special needs will be touched by the efforts of people like you. pm

SAL LEADERSHIP COLLEGE

The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of New Jersey, will hold its annual SAL Leadership College sessions April 9 at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt. James Noble remains as College Chairman. Kent Hehl is the Basic Course Chair and Mike Arner, the Advanced Committee Chair. Pm

MEMBERSHIP

2004 closed at 8,561. As February closes, it's great to see 25 squadrons over the top and 2005 membership already at 7,298. It's time for everyone to work on those 27 squadrons with no paid membership and those twelve suspended squadrons. The Detachment welcomes its newest squadron, #57 Waldron, into the ranks. pm

BITS AND PIECES

Legionnaire Joe Gugliuzza (Monmouth County) visited the recent detachment meeting and announced he is the leading candidate for Department Commander 2005-2006..... A. L. Adviser Sean McCormack has picked the Sons' Finance Committee. His appointments are Gary Nelson, Kent Hehl, Sean Howarth, Carl Alber, Spike Abrams, and Mike Arner. Det. Cmdr. Gary requested that he post meetings on the internet so the membership can attend.

The Battle of the Bulge ends on April 2....\$16,985 has been donated towards the Commander's \$40,000 Project goal....Son of the Year forms and Young Citizen's Award applications have been mailed to squadrons....Mickey Burhart would like pictures and articles for this year's scrapbook sent to him at Historian@NJSAL.org.

Bill Breem is home convalescing....John Gallagher is out of the hospital.... Frank Jiosi has been under the weather....Jim Noble has knee surgery upcoming....Carl Alber and Mike Arner have been selected for the National Management Institute....A new website for the SALute is up and running. Check out NJSALute.org to see what's going on in the Detachment of New Jersey. You will find both the current and back issues (2001-2005) of the paper in its archives. pm

THE EDITOR'S DESK

Every item listed above deserved its own article yet nobody chose to put something down on paper. Remember that this is everybody's newspaper and has an 8,000+ member staff. Anybody can e-mail an article or picture to saltom@usa.net, snail mail it to 151 Queen Ann Road, Brick, N. J. 08723, or fax it to 732-255-4091. There is no I in team. The SALute needs help from somebody. Please let the body be you. tm

LEGION COMMANDER'S TESTIMONIAL

The American Legion will hold a testimonial dinner on April 23, 2005, at the Regency House Hotel in Pompton Plains for this year's Commander Jim Viliard. Contact Post 390 Denville for further information and reservations. pm



DETACHMENT OFFICERS 04-05

Commander:

Gary Nelson
commander@njsal.org

Vice Commanders:

Joseph Colontone
vccolontone@njsal.org

Sean Howarth
vchowarth@njsal.org

Spike Abrams
vcabrams@njsal.org

Frank Jiosi
vcjiosi@njsal.org

James K. Lightcap
vclightcap@njsal.org

Adjutant:

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

Judge Advocate:

Thomas E. Marsden
ja@njsal.org

Chaplain:

John Gillman
chaplain@njsal.org

Historian:

Michael Burhart
historian@njsal.org

Sgt-at-Arms:

Kermit Riley
Brett Stadtler
Bill Schimminger
Rainer Soto

Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:

K.J. Esposito
Kevin Ritz

NEC:

Thomas E. Marsden
nec@njsal.org

ANEC:

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

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers,

First, I would like to start off with some good news. We are at an all time high for both Special Olympics and the Detachment Commander's Project. We still have long way to reach our Commander's Project goal of \$40,000. We are roughly at \$19,000 now. Please go out and promote this as our organization is all about veterans and community.

Child Welfare Chairman Mike Arner requests that all donations be in to him by the third week of April. That way he can take the checks to the N.E.C. at the end of April.

V.A.& R. Chairman Frank Jiosi has set up two more parties. Vineland is on March 12, 2005, at 1:30 P.M. and East Orange is on March. 26, 2005, at 2 P.M.

Detachment Commander's Project Chairman Bob Valania is announcing the official weigh-in of the Commander's "The Battle of the Bulge" at the next Detachment meeting April 2, 2005.

Past Detachment Commander Kent Hehl, Chairman of Ways and Means, is looking for money from the people who took Convention pins.

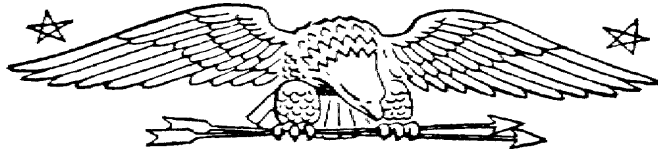
Past Detachment Commander Ken Esposito, Chairman of Membership, reports that we are close to 90%, but we must keep on trying to get the people who did not renew and push for new members. Remember we want to obtain 10,000 members for the year 2005.

Also, a reminder: S.A.L. College is on April 9, 2005, in the usual spot in Sea Girt. The judging for the Ernie Wilson, Jr. Scholarship will be on April 26, 2005, at Post #31. Son of the Year, Young Citizen's Award, and Essay Contest deadlines are coming up soon. Make sure you send in your year end reports. This is very important not only to the Sons of The American Legion but also to The American Legion. Both need to have these records.

Once again, if anyone needs to contact me, I can be reached at (201) 943-6500 (office) or (201) 370-1365 (cell).

For God and Country,

Gary P. Nelson
Detachment Commander



DATES TO REMEMBER

Detachment Meeting, Trenton	April 2
Department Presidents Dinner	April 2
CWF Week	April 3-9
SAL College	April 9
Detachment Commanders Dinner	April 10
Spring NEC, Indianapolis, IN	April 20-May 1
Department Commanders Dinner	April 23
Mother's Day	May 8
Armed Forces Day	May 21
Memorial Day	May 30
Locustwood Memorial Service	June 5
SAL Convention, Wildwood	June 10
Flag Day	June 14
Father's Day	June 19
High Point Memorial Service	June 26

PLANS FOR 2005 CONVENTION ONGOING

Pat Gallagher

More color guards should register for parade competition, so watch for registration forms. Also, be sure you have a placket in front of your color guard. Honoring Our Military Services will be the 2005 float theme. The Joint Committee is looking for commercial ads. It has approved the SAL to have its own ribbons.

Because of the building going on in the Wildwoods, check with your hotel about reservations. If you have any questions, please contact me. My phone number is 732-513-3468. My e-mail has changed to LUCY1975@optonline.net or gallagher@njsal.org .

SOLDIERS FOR SOLDIERS

Sean Howarth

“Soldiers for Soldiers”--what is this program and how does it work? “Soldiers for Soldiers” is a program that benefits all military forces and all veterans with military service. Your squadron can help and benefit.

Two Air Force active duty personnel started the program. Sgt. Kenneth and ALC Fallon O'Brien collected empty ink jet cartridges and used cell phones both on and off their military base. Within one month, with little effort, they raised \$500 for the American Legion.

Squadrons can register to participate in the collection program through Legion.org website links to PicInk. Squadrons that register may serve as collection locations. Each participating one will receive individual credit for collection efforts and also be recognized by National.

PicInk will pay \$1 per inkjet cartridge and \$3 per cell phone. It will pay for the shipping of all inkjet cartridges and cell phones from the squadron with a downloadable pre-paid UPS label which is available on line.

PicInk will donate this money on behalf of the squadron to the American Legion National Headquarters. Contributions will be split among the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, the American Legion Emergency Fund, and the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund.

The best thing about this program is that it benefits so much but doesn't cost a dime.

MEMBERSHIP ROUNDUP

National Vice Commander Linda Perhan traveled up and down the state for our Legion Family's Membership Roundup. Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons got the chance to visit with her at Post 139 Lynhurst's pancake breakfast, Post 252 Williamstown's luncheon, and Post 148 Heights-town's afternoon get together. What a great way for Cmdr. Vialard, NEC McKernan, and Membership Chairman Burhart to show off the volunteer organizations! pm



CHILD WELFARE NEEDS A BOOST

Michael Arner, CWF Chairman

The contributions for CWF are down. Last year we raised over \$12,000. This year we are hovering at \$6,600--only half of last year's total. Our goal this year is \$15,000. I would like to see us reach it. Every squadron should have received a letter asking for donations. We hope every squadron can donate this year to help us reach goal.

The Child Welfare Foundation depends on posts, squadrons, and units to provide the much needed moneys that fund this program. We count on you to help CWF reach its goals every year. We would like to receive your donations by the third week in April so we can present them at the Spring NEC on April 30, 2005.

We would like to thank Squadron 159 for its donation of \$262. Thanks, guys, job well done. Thank you all for your continued support.

SUPPORT AMERICA'S TROOPS

The Department of Defense suspension of the “Any Service Member” mail program, unsolicited mail, care packages, and donations remains in force. Those wishing to show support can refer website www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bulletin/2004/pb22138.pdf for current guidelines.

Find out more about available programs to show support of our military at www.defendamerica.mil. One popular one is the Dallas-based Army and Air force Exchange Service “Gifts from the Homefront” program. (Its \$10 and \$20 gift certificates can be used as cash for personal items for any soldier, or if wished, designating recipient.) Another is “Help Our Troops Call Home”. (Its calling card has the lowest per minute rates and more talk time than all other international calling cards.) tm

AMERICANISM

Sean Howarth

The American Legion's new flag education DVD “For Which It Stands” is already showing brisk sales at National Emblem Sales.

The DVD, a multi-media instructional resource for school flag education programs is a video that can provide flag instruction to students. It is consistent with state education standards in civics education for upper elementary and middle/junior high school classes.

“For Which It Stands” features a 20 minute program, a comprehensive teacher's guide, and a presentation script for volunteer presenters. It covers flag etiquette, its care and display, a display on patriotic holidays. It goes into the Pledge of Allegiance and exercising the “Citizen's Oath” through its recitation. It also touches upon citizenship with instruction in U. S. and state constitutions, patriotism, and what is good citizenship.

The video is available for \$7.95 plus shipping. Is this DVD in your school? It's the best flag education video there is.

FYI

If you can, check out The American Legion Public Relation Division pr@legion.org article on ALPNVC Joe Ward and veterans helping veterans.

* * *

Legislator Chris Smith was recently removed from his House Veterans' Affairs Committee. During his tenure veterans benefited and things got done. Let Trenton know what you think about about this change. While you are at it, let your senators and congressmen know how you feel about the Flag Amendment that's coming up again. Both New Jersey senators, Jon Corzine and Frank Lautenberg, recorded NO in the past and, while 11 of its 13 representatives voiced YES, D-10's Don Payne and D-12's Rush Holt recorded NO.

Next time these men run for office, they want your votes. Look at how they stand on the issues that mean something to you. Make your statements loud and clear to all political candidates. After all, they are supposed to represent you, the people. Then get out there and vote. Sen. Corzine has already announced he will run for governor and use his personal wealth to campaign.. tm

ON THE BALLOT

Caroline Kovalski, Past Auxiliary President, New Egypt Unit 455, will be vying for the office of National Chaplain. The Detachment of New Jersey supports her in her bid for office. Good Luck!



AREA STATESMEN GET TOGETHER

National Vice Commander East Thomas Smallcomb (New York) celebrated his Homecoming as the Eastern Area gathered in Vestal, New York, February 18-20. Sons of the American Legion representing our state were Cmdr. Gary Nelson, NEC Tom Marsden, ANEC Carl Alber, Sgt.-at-Arms Brett Stadler, PDC's Ken Esposito and Rich Phillips, Mike Arner, and Pat Gallagher. Representatives from Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia were also in attendance. tm

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

February 27-March 2, states as far away as Alaska and as close as our home state converged upon Washington. Delegations went to the Capital to voice their concerns about issues like funding VA programs and passing the Flag Amendment. Our state got a chance to meet leading candidates. Legionnaire Tom Bock (Colorado) was guest of honor at New Jersey's Dinner. SAL Bill Sparwasser (Maryland) spoke to the Ladies.

With America still at war after three and a half years, the laying of the wreath by Cmdr. Villiard and Pres. Kraus at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier hit close to home. Then it was on to a memorial service at the gravesite of Brigadier General William Doyle, National A. L. Commander, in which NEC Tom Marsden represented the Sons.

Jersey made a special stop at the WWII Memorial. It prays for the safe return of the blue star soldiers deployed in foreign lands and on the homefront. tm

Top: Eastern Area Gathering, February 21, 2005, Vestal, NY

Bottom Left: Past National President Elsie Bailey with New Jersey's Candidate for National Auxiliary Chaplain.

Bottom Right: Our Legion Family in Arlington National Cemetery, March 1, 2005, Paying Homage to Past Legion National Commander Doyle

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS APRIL 30, 2005.