



The SAL-ute

The Newsletter of the Detachment of New Jersey

WWW.NJSAL.ORG

WWW.NJSAL.UTE.ORG



Detachment Officers

Volume 51 Issue 3

April 2014

Commander:

- Amel Balega

Vice Commanders:

- Bob Bascou
- Edward Downs
- Thomas Flaherty
- 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 Dimmick
- Jim Newby Jr
- Matthew Thalasin

NEC

- Gary Nelson

ANEC

- Joe Korba

SAL Chairman

- Norm Marlin

Josh Dog: Reaching out

The detachment of New Jersey Sons of The American Legion set out this year to raise funds to purchase 100 Josh Dogs. We have exceeded that goal this year, but as long as any child has to face the fear of surgery, we can never have enough Josh dogs.

The philosophy of "Josh" dog project is to help comfort children going through a surgery.

The "Josh" dog program, aligns with one of the four Legion pillars to support children and youth. Sons of The American Legion have four pillars, and they are Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and children and youth.

When the detachment of New Jersey learned of a 4 year old child fighting Leukemia in

North Carolina, Commander Amel Balega along with Chairman Jackson Coles had a Josh Dog expressed to this young boys bed side, delivered by Past National Commander Steve Laws (2002-2003).

American Legion Auxillary President Charlene Mc Conville received a Josh Dog for her grandson Marcus who was admitted into the hospital suddenly in Tennessee, where he was diagnosed with chronic asthma.

Josh is reaching sick children and assuring them "I'll be ok"

Each package costs \$40.00 and includes a hypo allergenic plush golden retriever, a 32-page hard cover book, and dog house packaging that provides an easy to tote, temporary home for Josh. Contact Jackson

Coles to make a donation to this program and comfort a sick child.

Please make checks payable to Detachment of NJ, Jackson Coles, 207 Walnut Creek Lane, Toms River NJ 08753



ALA President Charlene Mc Conville receives a Josh Dog for her Sick Grandson in Tennessee

Vice Commander Thomas Flaherty



It is with great pride the Detachment of New Jersey welcomes it newest Vice Commander :

Thomas Flaherty:

Thomas is past Bergen County Commander 2012-2013, Past Vice. Commander for Bergen County 2009-2011, Past Sq. 310 Commander 2008-2009. He has also held numerous offices in his squadron over the years including :

Historian, Chaplain, Service Officer, Vice Commander and college scholarship

chairman

Thomas was awarded Sons of the American Legion "Son of the Year 2012-2013",

As Detachment Vice Commander, he will continue to promote the Commander's Project, Membership, and the good of the sons throughout, Essex, Middlesex, Union, and Monmouth counties.

Detachment Visits Chaplains Hill

By Tony Clappsy
Detachment Sgt @ Arms

Arlington Cemetery: Members of the Detachment of New Jersey Sons of the American Legion gathered on chaplains hill to pay homage to the courage chaplains who embodied the true meaning of For God and Country. A wreath honoring these mens sacrifice for our country was placed at the monument for the Jewish chaplains.

A sleek, granite memorial inscribed with the names of 14 Jewish Chaplains who died while in military service now stands beside memorials to their Roman Catholic and Protestant brethren on Chaplains Hill at Arlington National Cemetery.

But this was not always the case.

Ken Kraetzer, a Sons of the American Legion member from New York who first brought the absence of a Jewish chaplains memorial in Arlington to light several years ago. Kraetzer and Robinson were the principal figures in launching the campaign to compose a Jewish memorial alongside existing ones dedicated to fallen Roman Catholic, Protestant and World War I chaplains. And a resolution endorsing the Jewish Chaplains

Memorial was adopted during the Legion's 93rd national convention in Minneapolis.

"I called the Jewish War Veterans after discovering that (Goode was not recognized at the cemetery)," Kraetzer said, "and they put me in touch with Jewish chaplain Rear Admiral. Harold Robinson. I like to say we have been on a nearly three-year mission ever since." The campaign to create the new stone and plaque ultimately required an act of Congress.

The formal dedication for the Jewish Chaplains Memorial will be Oct. 24, 2011 at Arlington's Memorial Amphitheater.

The first chaplain's name on the memorial is Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, one of four chaplains who died Feb. 3, 1943, off the coast of Greenland aboard the transport ship Dorchester after it was torpedoed by a German submarine.

Over the years, memorials were placed at Arlington National Cemetery for

Washington, Poling and Fox, but not for Goode. There was no monument to recognize Jewish chaplains. Memorials were dedicated to all the chaplains who died in World War I, another to honor Protestant chaplains who died in World War II and another that memorialized the Roman Catholic chaplains who had died in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.



IMPORTANT DEADLINE INFORMATION

Detachment and National Resolutions
must be submitted by

April 11th 2014:

Send to :

Jay Gilman

246 Jefferson Avenue

Magnolia, NJ 08049

Membership Update

By Patrick Gallagher
PDC/ Membership Chairman

We have good news, the New Jersey Sons of the American Legion has hit the 80 % target date . We need about 2000 members to go over the top. So everyone needs to really push the Membership throughout the detachment.

The New Jersey SAL needs your help to keep the members growing: our goal this year was 9600 members. I think we can hit it . We just need to keep bringing in the members. Get

the word out, ask your post and unit members if their son and brothers are members of the Sons of the American Legion? Also Don't forget your Post members can be dual members if their fathers had served, so don't overlook this powerful resource.

Put up a flyer in the local Post Office, Library, Quick Check , Wawa, Walmart wherever you can.

If you need help with this, call department head quarters they will help get the

info with this . Or give me call or email me . I will try to help.

Finally don't keep renewal cards in the post, squadron, and units get them in to the Department ASAP.

If you have questions about membership please give me a call or one of the detachment vice commanders for your area that info is on www.njsal.org

April is Children and Youth Month

By Andy Malson
Detachment Vice Commander

Across our Nation the American Legion has designated April as Children & Youth Month. Children & Youth is one of the four pillars on which the American Legion was founded. Supporting our Children & Youth is vital in keeping our Nation strong.

The American Legion formally designated April as Children Welfare month in 1938. That designation was later changed to Children & Youth month in recognition of the Fourth Pillar on which the American Legion was founded. A suggested New Release provided by the American Legion national headquarters statesThe American Legion's national theme for April is Children & Youth Month is "Children ... Our Most Precious Natural resource."

The Detachment of New Jersey has established a Children & Youth Commission in the constitution and bylaws. This

Commission is currently chaired by PDC Michael Arner. This Commission supports and organizes the Children & Youth committees established in our bylaws. In addition, other committees have been established by the Detachment Commander to support Children & Youth. The established Children & Youth Commission committees are Child Welfare, Young Citizen's Award and Special Olympics. This year Commander Balega has established the Josh Dog committee.

April is the Month to consider what you can do to as a member and / or officer of your Squadron, County or Detachment organization to support the Detachment committees dedicated to our Children & Youth.

The Chairmen of the 2013-2014 Children & Youth Committees are:

Child Welfare Foundation

Chairman
Andrew Malson:
malson@njsal.org
For more information log onto www.cwf-inc.org

Special Olympics

Chairman
Steven Rodriguez
rodriguez@njsal.org
For more information log onto www.specialolympics.org

Josh Dog

Chairman Jackson Coles
coles@njsal.org
For more information log onto www.joshandfriends.com

Please contact these Chairmen directly and ask how you can support them in achieving their goals.

Remember Children Are Our Most Precious Resource!

Commander Project

The detachment began the year with hopes of working with the department and the Auxillary in furnishing a number of rooms at Veterans Haven North, 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.

Our project is going strong, thanks to numerous donations throughout the state, the Sons of the American Legion have earned over \$22000 dollars toward our goal. This could not have been accomplished without the hard work of the

Detachment Vice Commanders, who have been going out and promoting the project to the individual counties and squadrons.

We have made great strides so far, but we have not finished the year yet. There is still 3 more months in which to gather additional resources and help achieve and surpass our expected goals for the project.

We are asking that each Squadron and County try to raise the appropriate funds to furnish at least one room with a donation of \$1500. However, no donation is too small, some of the smaller squadrons may not be able to furnish a complete room. Do not let that dissuade

By **Dan Dimmick**
Project Chairman/ Asst Sgt @ Arms

you from making a donation, every bit helps to change the life of a resident at Veteran's Haven North.

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.

The Flag Amendment

Legion family members are encouraged to contact their U.S. representatives and urge them to sign on as co-sponsors of the recently introduced flag amendment. Click here to contact your elected officials

The American Legion is urging all concerned citizens, veterans and their families to "rally once again 'round the flag" and contact your senators and representatives, encouraging them to become co-sponsors of this legislation.

In 1989, the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark, but erroneous, decision in Texas v. Johnson (5-4 vote) overturned 200 years of American tradition and laws by declaring that the people no longer had a right to protect the American flag. The court ruled flag burning was pro-

tected "speech" as defined by the First Amendment, and invalidated laws in 48 states and the District of Columbia.

Only a constitutional amendment can protect the flag. Rather than fearing such a constitutional amendment, members of Congress concerned about supporting the amendment should embrace it. It is a profound demonstration of the feeling of the American people, and is the people's time-honored way of correcting erroneous constitutional interpretations of the Supreme Court. The proposed flag-protection amendment is no infringement on the Bill of Rights; it is instead, a wonderful exercise in the popular sovereignty the Bill of Rights was designed to protect.

Contact your legislators and urge them to co-sponsor the amendment.

From the Editor

Next Issue will be our convention edition.

The editor is requesting all office nominees submit a brief bio, so the detachment can get to know who the detachment candidates are.

It is planned that additional copies of the Salute will be made available at the convention center as well as the standard mailing and web version.

Deadline for all article submissions is proposed for may 15th. This will allow adequate time to get the articles to the printer in time.

It has been an honor to work on this project the past several months. It could not have been done without the support of the detachment .

Boys State

THE AMERICAN LEGION



Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government.

At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative

sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs.

American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State are the premier programs for teaching how government works while developing leadership skills & an appreciation for your rights as a citizen. As a participant in the program boys and girls, will run for office, learn public speaking, create and enforce laws and actively participate in all phases of creating and running a working government in this exciting and fun summer program.

The detachment will be sending two boys to boy state this year, one from Cumberland, and one from Essex county

If your squadron is able to sponsor a boy to Boy State or young lady to Girls State, please do. It's a great program that they will never forget. The cost to send one boy is \$250.00; which is not a great amount considering all it includes. If your Post, Squadron or Unit is not able to sponsor a child, you may solicit finds from an outside group (a local business, the Elks, etc...).

The Boys State committee is trying to push the number of boys at boy's state this year to 1000 boys. Last year's count was 960 boys. If we pull together we can do it. There is more information on the national website about "What is Boys State" as well as numerous videos on YouTube regarding the subject.

This and That



Gary Nelson paying his respects to a friend and post Commander from Fairview 365 along with members from the Detachment



Commander Balega honors three veterans who took part in this year's Honor Flight at his Testimonial dinner



Robert Bascou Andy Malson and Joseph Korba. Graduated American Legion Advanced College Course at Annual Legion College



Detachment of New Jersey Supporting Bergen County at the Annual Dinner Dance



Camden County Members received pendants for their support of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation .

National Update

By Gary P Nelson
PDC/NEC

The following are dates to remember .

(March/22-24)
National Commander's Home-coming. 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



Consolidated Squadron Reports are coming

Sons of The American Legion members, your Americanism Commission thanks you not only for the faith and commitment you have demonstrated, but also for your continuous work and devotion to the programs and principles of the SAL.

It is now getting close to that time to report all of the Americanism activities your squadron has performed this membership year on the Consolidated Squadron Report Form. This is one of the most important documents your squadron is required to complete each year. Yes, this document is used for national awards, but the report is also used to tally the volunteer hours and donations of the Sons of The American Legion.

Consolidated Squadron Reports will be mailed to Squadron Adjutants.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER TESTIMONIAL DINNER HONORING NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT COMMANDER 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

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY TESTIMONIAL LUNCHEON HONORING DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHARLENE MCCONVILLE

Sunday April 6, 2014 12:00 PM

NEW JERSEY MOTOR SPORT PARK
8000 Dividing Creek Rd
Milville, NJ 08332

\$35.00 per Person
Cash Bar

Convention Shirts Pre-order

Fellow SAL comrades
It's that time to order your shirt for the 2014 Detachment Convention.

It will be a red short sleeve button down shirt. The SAL logo and "Detachment of NJ" on one side, and your name, position and years on the other side. I will attempt to send a picture of a sample as soon as I have one.

Please provide the following information by this Friday, 3/28 so that we can start to get the shirts made. You may contact me via phone, email or through Facebook to give your shirt info. Payment may be submitted for your shirt after 3/28 per Detachment Vice Commander Flaherty. The price for the shirts is still being figured out however I don't see it being more than \$35.00. That will be communicated as soon as I have that information.

For God and Country,

Mark J Dodds

Detachment Sergeant at Arms/ Ways & Means
Chairman.

Stolen Grave Markers

At Post 194 Toby Houseworth take care of the Veteran Graves Markers and Flags in Florence New Jersey. There are about 500 in all. In the past few years we have had many of our Veteran Markers stolen and or vandalized. Through the help of local Posts an Freeholder in Burlington County we were able to replace most of them.

However there are still 6 WW1 markers which need to be replaced. It is in honor of our veterans who have passed that we are asking for the support of the detachment to help gain the means to replace these missing markers.

The Legion Family at Post 194 would appreciate any help you can give us to Honor our Veterans. Contact Toby Houseworth at borntogolf3@gmail.com for information to donate to this project.