



# THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

EDITOR: THOMAS E. MARSDEN; ASSOCIATE EDITOR: EDWARD MARSDEN  
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## YOUNG ATHLETE PROGRAM

On June 3-5, thousands of volunteers, families, friends, and spectators manned the New Jersey Special Olympics Sports Complex, Ewing to cheer, sponsor, coach, and spread the word about Special Olympics. It now includes the Young Athlete Program, a new program specially designed for children ages 2 1/2 to 7.

PDC Luc Marsden (2002-2003) sent his father to represent him at the event. Tom presented organizers with a \$344 check in the name of Luc and the Detachment.

Five-year-old Chris Gray, a lifelong member of the Sons, participated in an expo demonstrating skills like jumping, kicking, throwing, catching, and balancing. Anyone not there can not imagine what laughter and glee competition gives to disabled little ones. pm

## BOYS STATE

Seventy years ago Illinois Legionnaires created Boys State to ward off pro-communism freedom camps and groups similar to the Nazi youthbund. Their idea was to give the nation's youth pride and the desire to preserve democratic government. The idea spread from state to state. Now nationally 25,000 high school juniors annually participate.

New Jersey began its own program sixty years ago. This year it instructed 940 young men from June 18-23 at Rider College, Lawrenceville. SAL Adviser Bill Breem was there volunteering as he has done for the last 20 years. The Detachment lauds this dual member for demonstrating the true spirit of Americanism. People like him are the foundation of the Legion Family and Boys State. tm

## CONVENTION CALL HAWAII

The Sons will have 43 delegate votes at the American Legion National Convention. Meetings are scheduled for Honolulu's Convention Center, August 19-25. Plans for the parade have changed several times, but official word is there will be one.

With a 74 to 85° temperature and .5 inches rain typical for August, weather should be great on the island. Points of interest on Oahu include 112 miles of coast, 100 beaches, Pearl Harbor, Mighty Mo, the National Cemetery of the Pacific, Chinatown, Punchbowl Crater, Diamond Head, Foster Botanical Gardens, Hawaiian Maritime Center, Iolani Palace, Bishop Museum, Waikiki Aquarium, Honolulu Zoo, and Fort DeRussye. tm

## CHILD WELFARE

Fellow Sons:

As many of you know by now, Mike Arner stepped down as chairman of the CWF Committee after the state convention and picked me to succeed him. I am truly honored to be given the chance to help kids.

I'd really appreciate your ideas and suggestions on how to make 2006 a reality. Your hosting something--perhaps a 50-50, a chinese auction, a car wash, a bingo, a barbecue, a karaoke party, or a spaghetti dinner--would be one possible way to get out there and have some fun, earn money, and not just dip into the budget.

This year the Sons of the American Legion donated \$17,462, an all time high. New Jersey is #1 in the East with \$2.06 per member. Following former Chairman Arner's successes will be a challenge but together, Fellow Detachment, County, and Squadron Members, we can pull it off.

The SAL is counting on its members, established counties, and 150+ registered squadrons to fill the pot of gold somewhere over the rainbow. Contact me by snail mail at 151 Queen Ann Road, Brick, N. J. 08723, by e-mail at emarsden@gmail.com, or by phone at 732-255-4091.

For God and Country,

Edward T. Marsden, CWF Chairman

## LEGACY FUND

National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus endorses a discount-donation partnership plan between Lincoln Mercury and members of the Legion Family nationwide. Posts have information on this program which is slated for July 1- September 30.

Purchasers of Lincoln Mercury vehicles will receive cash back discounts as Lincoln Mercury donates funds to the Legacy Fund. The American Legacy Scholarship is set up to help the children of servicemen lost in the continuing war on terrorism. tm

## MEMBERSHIP

The July 8 membership report from National shows the Detachment in 18th place. It is at an all time high of 8,815. It's renewal rate of 89.64% is #1 among the 55 detachments. New Jersey should have reached the July 20, 2005, 105% target by the time Sons read this. Fantastic job! To everyone who played a part in reaching this, you deserve congratulations for a job well done. pm



## DETACHMENT OFFICERS 05-06

**Commander:**

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**Vice Commanders:**

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**Adjutant:**

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**Judge Advocate:**

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**Chaplain:**

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**Historian:**

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**Sgt-at-Arms:**

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Brett Stadtler  
Kevin Ritz

**Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:**

K.J. Esposito  
Robert Hehl

**NEC:**

Thomas E. Marsden  
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**ANEC:**

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

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sean Howarth, Detachment Commander

Let me start by thanking all the Delegates at the convention for the prestigious honor that you have bestowed on me by electing me as your Detachment Commander for 2005-2006. It was a privilege and an honor to stand before you Friday, June 10th and take the oath of office and promise that I will do my best to make you proud.

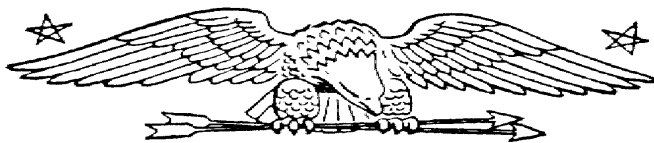
I thank the Brooklawn Memorial American Legion Post #72, The Sons of The American Legion Squadron #72 and the Camden County Sons of The American Legion for their endorsement, support and confidence, I am truly grateful.

I would like also to congratulate the slate of officers that have been selected, as they will be the TEAM that will carry on the SAL programs. The Sons of The American Legion have done a lot in supporting the programs in the Legion Family. We have placed high importance on preserving our American Tradition and values, improving the quality of life for our nations's children, caring for veterans and their families, and most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship and have always assisted Legionnaires with Legion Family programs. This year our Team will go "SALing Into The Future" and continue this great tradition.

Past Detachment Commander Nelson, I applaud you in an outstanding year of service, in your leadership with your TEAM, you have broken records in membership and raising money for the SAL programs. I can only hope with this years' TEAM, will go "SALing into the Future" and will reach and surpass the standards you and your TEAM have set.

The SAL project this year is to help the children in the state of New Jersey through the Children's Miracle Network, a program that we are already involved in to help the medical challenges that our children face today that include cancer, trauma, heart, lung, muscular diseases birth defects, Aids and many other health-related issues. 100% of all funds raised will stay local in the New Jersey hospitals. This project will assist our kids in the services that they need and will not be judged by their ability to pay.

I look forward to an outstanding year and again thank everyone for giving me this opportunity to serve you and The Detachment of New Jersey.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

National Convention, Hawaii	August 19-25
Labor Day	September 5
First 2006 Membership Target 10%	September 14
POW/MIA Watchfire, Seaside Hts.	September 16-17
Fall N.E.C.	October 1-2
2006 Membership Target 25%	October 13
2006 Membership Target 35%	November 16
2006 Membership Target 45%	December 14

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## THE READER'S FORUM

Cmdr. Sean, Fellow Sons:

It's great reading about the success after success that has come to Detachment. Cmdr. Nelson's Commander's Project for veterans in Paramus became reality because Detachment worked together, united. Cmdr. Gary's badge said it all: "There is no I in team." I know the Commander together with his PDC's, his executive board, and his officers, elected and appointed, made '04-05 what it was.

Back when I was a candidate for commander, I met with the Commander's Advisory. (The group had been formed in 1998-1999 as a leadership resource.) Boy, did they ever ask me questions after the April pre-convention Trenton meeting! I gave them answers; they gave me suggestions.

I'm glad I had them. They got me to think. I knew I wanted their confidence, and consensus mattered. I never felt they were trying to take over my duties. I did not resent their seeing another side. I weighed carefully what they said. Never did I "yes" then turn around and do something else.

I'm proud to now be a member of the Commander's Advisory myself. Being honest and open is the only way to get things done right. Things work out where there is trust and respect.

I applaud the involvement of three young men, KJ Esposito, Kevin Ritz, and Joseph Ruggiero in Detachment. I'm thrilled to see membership at an all time high with the number of counties still growing. Steven Rodriguez did a great job with Special Olympics collecting more than \$4,400.

Thank you, Mike Arner, for your efforts in the CWF. I'm confident you'll still be out there involved somehow in a program which I know you believe in. (Mike, I still owe you a dinner.) Since Cmdr. Ed's 1999-2001 Commander's Project, you helped the Sons raise \$57,518.

I congratulate all those elected. I'm looking forward to getting my convention minutes in the mail.

For God and Country,  
PDC Lukasz A. Marsden, 2002-2003

## CONGRESS MUST ACT

Representatives Scott Garrett (R-5), Mike Ferguson (R-7), Steve Rothman (D-9), Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11), and Robert Mendez (D-13) all co-sponsor H. J. Res. 10, the proposed constitutional amendment stating, "The Congress shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." Please contact them to thank them for supporting the flag amendment.

Right now the senators in Washington from New Jersey have not pledged their support for S. J. Res. 12, a similar bill. Their phone numbers can be found by calling the U. S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. They are your elected officials. Be sure to let them know just what you think. tm

## 2005-2006 CONTACT INFO

The names of commission and committee chairmen named at the reorganizational meeting were not received as the paper went out for printing. However, the schedule for regular S. A. L. meetings at the Trenton War Memorial Building is August 13, October 15, and December 10, 2005; and February 4 and April 1, 2006 at 9:30 A. M. with the Wildwood Convention set for June 9, 2006. tm

## WATCHFIRE

Do you know that 78,000 Americans remain unaccounted for from World War II, more than 8,000 from the Korean War, 1,855 from Vietnam, 120 from the Cold War, and one from the first Persian Gulf War? The third Friday in September is National POW-MIA Recognition Day. The message to the world still remains: *You Are Not Forgotten*.

The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of New Jersey, will hold its 14th annual watchfire honoring more 88,000 unaccounted for POW-MIA's. The event will be held on the oceanfront at Hierung Avenue and the Boardwalk, Seaside Heights, September 16-17 from 7:00 P. M. to 7:00 A. M.

Legion Family, relatives, friends, consider this your personal invitation to stop at the all night vigil. Let's all take a moment to remember those missing. Of course, all who would like, are invited to stay.

Events between dusk and dawn begin with the color guard presentation followed by the Pow-Mia Chair Dedication, the setting of the Pow-Mia Table, the explanation of the Pow-Mia Flag Close Up, the lighting of the ceremonial fire, and flag retirements. Of course, there will be songs, poems, prayers, and guest speakers.

There is no cost for attending the Watchfire. NO ALCOHOL is allowed, but food and drink will be available free of charge. Individuals, squadrons, and counties, wishing to donate supplies, food, or refreshments can do so. After the closing ceremony, Shore Boro Post 351, Seaside Heights, invites everyone to a dutch treat ala carte breakfast.

For more information, contact Chairman Tom Marsden via mail at 151 Queen Ann Road, Brick, N. J. 08723, phone 732-255-5939 or e-mail saltom@usa.net.

Let us never forget. Bring them home. tm

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

During convention, a Son complained that the SALute has too many pictures. Officers and committee chairmen need to submit articles. The editors should not have to write the paper. They get it ready for publication--collecting articles, correcting, and laying out--so the paper truly represents its readers.

Please do your part before you criticize. The SALute is published bi-monthly, six times a year. All material submitted must be in prior to each deadline (8/31, 10/31, and 12/31/05; 2/28, 4/31, and 6/30/06). tm





## STATE CONVENTION

The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of New Jersey, was honored to have American Legion National Commander Thomas Cadmus come to its convention. He praised the Sons and Cmdr. Nelson for the Commander's Project helping vets, and its achievements in Membership, Child Welfare, and Special Olympics.

S. A. L. National Vice Commander East Thomas Smallcomb was there too. He lauded the membership for its leadership and accomplishments. Leading Candidate for S. A. L. Commander Bill Sparwasser sent a letter explaining his absence, stressing New Jersey could call on him at any time.

Final credentials showed fifty squadrons preregistering 512 delegates with another 84 registering at the convention. In uncontested elections, Sean Howarth became commander and Bill Swimminger, chaplain. In the race for vice commander, Mike Arner, Joe Colontone, Frank Jiosi, Spike Abrams, and Jay Gillman won on the popular ballot.

National Resolution NC 1-05 reads: Section 3. In the National Convention, each Detachment shall be entitled to three delegates and one additional delegate for each five hundred member, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer of The American Legion, thirty days prior to the meeting of said National Convention, and whose registration fees, as fixed by the National Executive Committee, for its total authorized delegate strength, have been paid; and to one alternate for each delegate.

When it was brought to the floor for a vote, everyone except one Son voting, rejected it. Delegates cited cost to small detachments and the inability of an individual to attend on his own as possible problems. They were also concerned about the decrease in the number of delegates for each state. New Jersey regularly sends large delegations with full delegate strength. tm



*From left to right*

National American Legion Commander Thomas Cadmus;  
Buffalo Soldier Charlie Walker With SAL VC Thomas Smallcomb;  
SAL Son of the Year Dan DeRose, Bergen County Sq. 415;  
The Passing of Command

## THE ELECTION PROCESS

Tom Marsden, Convention Judge Advocate

I was told that 50% of those who voted in the election of the five vice commanders marked their ballots incorrectly. There was much confusion about how the slips should be marked and how many votes could be recorded for each candidate. Where possible the judges tried to figure out the intent of the voter.

We need to make up a clear set of instructions in any contestable race and have on display a sample ballot correctly marked for the next convention. We also need to follow our own rules and run elections in order--commander, vice commanders, chaplain, then NEC and ANEC so the loser of a contested race is not excluded from running for another office, something our constitution and bylaws does allow. tm

## BITS AND PIECES

Mike Arner has been assigned Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Somerset Counties; Joe Colontone-- Hunterdon, Morris, Union, and Warren Counties; Frank Jiosi-- Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Sussex Counties; Spike Abrams--Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties; and Jay Gillman--Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, and Ocean Counties....The Ocean County SAL officers and all the squadrons of Ocean County congratulate Don Earley, Sr. for becoming Ocean County SAL Commander.... tm

6 Year Son Chris Gray Age 5, Helps Open New Special Olympics Program;  
Sal Past Chairman Bill Bream Continues to Volunteer at Boys State;  
Sq. 133, Woodbury, 2005, Colorguard Champs;  
SAL in Parade Giving Out over 1,200 Flags to Spectators



**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS AUGUST 31, 2005.**