



THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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WWW.NJSALUTE.ORG

LEGION FAMILY INVITATION

To: Past SAL Detachment of NJ Commanders
Detachment Officers
County & Squadron Commanders

Dear Friends:

Please let this letter serve as an invitation from Past SAL Detachment Commander Michael Arner, Past Department President Shirley Fabian and myself for all to attend the long awaited dedication and unveiling of our combined project "The Companion".

Through generous donations by many of the SAL Squadrons, Counties, and members, this project has finally become a reality and was recently completed and installed.

The unveiling will take place at the Chapel at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Saturday, September 12, 2009, beginning at 10:00 A.M.. The cemetery is located at 350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ, 08562.

I hope you can join us for this brief ceremony and unveiling of this commissioned sculpture, whose meaning and beauty will bring comfort to those who pass through the Chapel. Light refreshments will be served in the Chapel prior to the unveiling.

On behalf of Past SAL Detachment Commander Michael Arner, Past Department President Shirley Fabian, and myself, we hope to see you this day and extend our sincere thanks for your support of our project.

For God & Country,
Chuck Robbins
Past Department Commander

BITS AND PIECES

Past Department Commander Warren Davies has passed away. He sadly will be missed. Condolences go to wife Kay.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

This is all you wrote. It's up to you. Just what are you going to do for the next issue?

BONFIRE SIGNALS WESHALL NOT FORGET

No watchfire has ever been canceled or postponed. Keeping that in mind, please mark your calendars accordingly. The 18th Annual POW/MIA Watchfire will be held Friday, September 18, 2009, dusk to dawn. The date of the watchfire coincides with National Remembrance Day.

Be with the Detachment of New Jersey on the Boardwalk and Hering Avenue, Seaside Heights to honor the 88,000 missing servicemen from all wars who have not yet made it back home. A memorial service as well as flag retirements is planned. Shore Boro has again volunteered to serve as host post.

For more information contact POW/MIA Chairman Thomas E. Marsden at 151 Queen Ann Road, Brick, New Jersey 08723 (mail) or saltom@usa.net (e-mail). Although donations are being accepted, there are no fees.

NATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE

Be with the Detachment of New Jersey's delegation to the 38th Annual National American Legion Convention August 21-28, 2009. New Jersey's official hotel is Courtyard by Marriott Downtown. Shuttle service is being provided. Official registration begins August 20 at which time the exhibits will be open. Sons meetings are scheduled for August 21 through 23 with the parade August 23.

Local attractions include the city, Fort Knox, Churchill Downs, cruises, and distillery tours.

From here things move westward ho, 2010's convention will be in Milwaukee August 27-September 2; 2011's, Minneapolis, August 26-September 1; 2012's, Indianapolis, August 24-30; and 2013's, Houston, August 23-29.

MEMBERSHIP

As of June 30, 2009, Detachment of New Jersey membership stood at 8,770 with 10 of 21 counties over the top. Although 2010 cards are already out, 2009 membership is still being taken. If every squadron in our state signs up just one more member before the end of this year, we can beat 2008's 8,908.



Detachment Officers 09-10

Commander:

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Vice Commanders:

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Phil Boyd
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William Chwalyk
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Harold Houseworth
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Judge Advocate:

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Chaplain:

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Historian:

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Sgt-at-Arms:

Kermit Riley
Edward Downs
Matt Bieda
William Lanham

Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:

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Kevin Ritz

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ANEC:

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



With the 47th Annual SAL Detachment of New Jersey Convention completed, at this time I thank the delegates and the Detachment of New Jersey for instilling their faith in me as being their next Detachment Commander. I congratulate Jim Lightcap for the courageous campaign he ran against me and the elected officers on their successful campaigns for election. We will have a great year!

On Flag Day, June 14th I attended a Flag Disposal Ceremony at my home Post #370 in Magnolia. In attendance were local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who had a part in the ceremony. They presented the ceremonial flag to be disposed with the honor that our flag deserves. For that I thank them.

Recently I attended the Boys State Commencement at Rider College. Even though it was very hot, what a great experience it was! The enthusiasm of the graduates was not hampered by the heat. In fact when Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Christopher Christie spoke and was awarded an honorary jacket, the graduates yelled for him to put the jacket on. He did so with a little bit of trouble since the jacket was about two sizes too small.

On June 28th I attended the Memorial Service at High Point. I thank all the officers and PDC's who were present. This is a very solemn occasion that needs to be conducted with the utmost respect since it is for the veterans who have served both alive and deceased.

Lastly I would like to talk about the Detachment Commander's Project for this year. We are joining with the Department Commander's Project of donating gift cards to the families of those who are serving in the National Guard from New Jersey through the Family Readiness Group of New Jersey. Remember charity starts in your own backyard. With the way the economics are today, we need to help these families whatever way we can. Do what you can and donate whatever you can. There is no goal for this project. The goal is give what ever you can to those families in need.

In closing, I would like to say let's have a great year. See you at the Detachment meeting on August 15th.



Dates to Remember

Detachment Meeting, Trenton
National Convention, Louisville, KY
Watchfire, Seaside Hts.
Detachment Meeting, Trenton

August 15, 2009
August 21-23, 2009
September 18-19, 2009
October 24, 2009

AUGUST 31, 2009 NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE RECAP

Rob Lasky, Chairman

Lawrence Township:

As nearly 3,000 statesmen, legion dignitaries, parents, family and friends crammed the stifling hot Alumni Gymnasium on the campus of Rider University for the 64th commencement of American Legion Jersey Boys' State, two occupants were all smiles despite the heat, Eric Wei and Dylan Kaplan.

Eric Wei, sponsored by Moorestown Post 42, had elected the 64th governor of ALJBS one day earlier, Thursday, June 25th. However, an unprecedented election for a lieutenant governor had also taken place. That honor went to Jackson Post 504's Dylan Kaplan. He is the first-ever lieutenant governor in ALJBS and New Jersey history. Wei and Kaplan ran together on one ticket.

New Jersey will be electing its own governor/lieutenant governor ticket for the first time in November. The duties of the Lieutenant Governor are not clearly defined by the New Jersey Constitution. Still the young men of Boys State successfully put it into effect.

According to the state Constitution, the lieutenant governor is next in line should the governor not be able to complete his term. Additionally, the Lt. governor is to be appointed as head of any state department except that of attorney general without State Senate approval. Governor Wei appointed Lt. Governor Kaplan as his Chief of Staff.

The ALJBS legislature passed four bills: increasing the limits of the use of the chemical Bisphenol-A, a polymer used in the manufacturing of plastic bottles; defining "civil union" to be the same as "marriage"; making death or inheritance taxes unlawful; and giving a two-percent state income tax break to all volunteer emergency responders. All four bills were passed on to the actual NJ State Legislature for their perusal.

There has been at least one bill in the past, one regarding recycling, that ALBS sent to Trenton from that eventually became a law from a version of the original bill.

The American Legion, Department of Illinois started Boys State in 1935 by to counteract pro-communist movements called "Young Pioneer Camps". It quickly spread throughout the country. Now, 49 states and the District of Columbia have Boys State Programs. Hawaii is the only state that does not participate.

Boys State is a week-long college-like leadership seminar that promotes patriotism and teaches politics at the local, county and state levels by having each delegate become a citizen of a mythical city and county in a mythical 51st state.

For more information about American Legion Jersey Boys' State, visit website <http://www.aljbs.org> the official website. This year's session ran June 21-26 with initial registration of 820 delegates comprised of the elite of junior classes throughout the state.

LEGION RIDERS

The American Legion Riders Post 19 Bayonne participated and captured first place at the American Legion Parade Saturday, June 18, 2009. The event culminated the annual American Legion State Convention held in Wildwood, New Jersey. Pictured (L to R) are Mike "Willy" Wilson, Craig "Chwey" Chwalyk, Jim "Chief" Noble, Will "Wolf" Chwalyk, Krystle "Baby Girl" Jester, Debbie "Da Boss" Noble, Roberta "AC" Buchanan, Ralph "Pope" Hodkinson, Tom "Buck" Buchanan, Frank "Da Pope" Cangiano, Scott Klien, and Carl "Cabby" Klien.



SQUADRON 119 ON THE MOVE

Donald J. Warton, Sq. 119 Commander

S. A. L. Dunellen Squadron 119 held its second annual spring pig roast with the usual picnic foods and lots of entertainment for the children. Everyone seemed to enjoy himself or herself especially with the day's decent weather. Its Sons used the fund-raiser to help make repairs and paint the downstairs rental hall for its post. It is now a group on the move, supporting the veterans at Menlo Park Retirement Home, troops overseas, and the local community.

2009-2010 OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS

Elected Vice Commanders (with County Assignments):
Amel Balega, Jr.--Bergen, Morris, Passaic, and Sussex.
Phil Boyd--Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem.
William Chwalik--Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Somerset.
Toby Houseworth--Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer, Warren.
Joe Korba--Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean.

Appointed:

Adjutant – Don Amey
Judge Advocate – Gary Nelson
Historian – Rob Ritz
Sergeant at Arms Emeritus – Kermit Riley
Sergeant at Arms – Ed Downs
Sergeant at Arms – William Lanham
Sergeant at Arms – Matt Bieda
Assistant Sergeant at Arms – Carl Kline
Assistant Sergeant at Arms – Kevin Ritz

Commission and Committee Chairs:

Americanism--George "Spike" Abrams
Boys State--Rob Lasky
Children & Youth--Mike Arner
Color Guard--George "Spike" Abrams
Commander's Project--Phil Boyd
Constitution & By-Laws--Carl Albern, Jr.
Convention--Joe Korba
CWF --Steve Catena
Ernie Wilson, Jr. Scholarship--Amel Balega, Jr.
Essay Contest--Phil Boyd
Finance--Gary Nelson
Flag History & Dedication--Toby Houseworth
Internal Affairs--Jim Noble
Internet--Carl Albern, Jr.
Legislative--Kent Hehl
Membership--Dave "Duke" Haring
Public Relations & Community Affairs--Jeff Hicks
POW//MIA--Thomas E. Marsden
PUFL--Jim Noble
Religious Emphasis--Brett Stadtler
SAL College--Kent Hehl
SALute--Thomas E. Marsden
Son of the Year--Dean Staknys
Special Olympics--Steve Rodriguez
Spinoza Bear & Josh Dog--Jim Lightcap
VA& R--Frank Jiosi, Jr.
Ways & Means --Joe Korba
Young Citizens Award--Steve Catena

2008-2009 PROGRAM AWARDS (1-3 Place)

Americanism--Sq. 338, 91, 365
Child Welfare Foundation--Sq. 455, 338, 348
Children & Youth--Sq. 338, 133, 129
Community Service--Sq. 455, 352, 131
Ernie Wilson Scholar
VA&R--Sq. 455, 338, 348
Special Olympics, Sq. 133, Tom Marsden Committee for NVCE,
James Noble
Son of the Year, Don Sikorski, Sq. 129
Young Citizen--Tucker L. Dorf, Walter P. Dorf III

2008-2009 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Category C (0-49)--Sq. 227, 423, 396
Category B (50-99)--Sq. 252, 352, 243
Category A (100+)--Sq. 129, 170, 348

2007-2008 SON OF THE YEAR PASSES

Rob Lasky

Whiting, NJ, July 16, 2009:

It is with heavy heart I report the passing of 2007-08 Son of the Year Michael Popp at the age of 72. Mike had been in failing health for nearly a year. "Popp", as he was called, was the oldest member of Squadron 455, New Egypt, Ocean County.

Michael Popp served as squadron chaplain for two terms (2007-2009). He was one of the most dedicated squadron and Post 455 family members. He volunteered his services from bingo to the monthly breakfasts and everything in between. He once volunteered at a food tent over 24 hours straight for a "Relay For Life" event.

It was such dedication that piqued the interest of the Son of the Year committee last year. Popp was visibly touched when receiving his award at the convention center in Wildwood. On July 21, his Squadron and Post 455 Legion Family held a special ceremony in his memory during the calling hours.

"Popp", you will sorely be missed.



DETACHMENT MEETINGS

Dates for the official S. A. L. Detachment of New Jersey meetings in the War Memorial Building, Trenton, have been set for August 15, October 24, December 5, 2009; February 14, April 10, 2010 and the Convention in Wildwood June 11.