



The SAL-ute

The Newsletter of the Detachment of New Jersey

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Detachment Officers

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Commander:

- Carl Albern Jr.

Vice Commanders:

- Bob Bascou
- Edward Downs
- Thomas Flaherty
- Andy Malson
- Robert Philips Jr

Adjutant:

- Jeff Hicks

Judge Advocate:

- Jay Gillman

Chaplain:

- Mark Dodds

Historian:

- Patrick Gallagher

Sgt-at-Arms:

- Jackson Coles
- James Newby Jr
- Matthew Thalasinios

Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:

- Tony Clappsy
- Dan Dimmick
- Anthony Libatore

NEC

- Gary Nelson

ANEC

- Joe Korba

SAL Chairman

- Norm Marlin

Detachment Commander Carl Albern's Message



Commander Carl Albern Jr
2014—2015
Detachment of New Jersey

Hello to all my fellow members of the Detachment of New Jersey. We have come to the start of a new year, and I commend our squadrons for the work that they have done in the past to make the programs of the Detachment of New Jersey successful. As a past chairman of the Internet Committee, I really pushed to have our Detachment officers and chairman use communication tools that are available in order to keep our membership apprised of our goals and the progress towards those goals. I look forward to working with our new officers and committee chairmen as we again work on helping the veterans and children of the Garden State.

This year, my Commander's Project is to purchase a passenger van for Veteran's Haven North. I had the opportunity to speak with Sean VanLew, the superintendent of Veteran's Haven North, and he expressed the need for another vehicle for their facility. Veteran's Haven is a place where homeless veterans can go to get help getting back on their feet. Both Veteran's

Haven South and North do what they can to aid these veterans, and any help that the Sons of the American Legion can give to them is appreciated. Commander's Project Chairman Dan Dimmick and I will hopefully have details for the project, including the goal amount for the passenger van and get them distributed to squadrons soon.

The Detachment Vice Commanders have hit the ground running, and are visiting our squadrons to talk about the membership and the programs. Please consult any of our officers for help with any of the programs of the Detachment, or help with membership. That's why we are here. I intend to update the Commander's page on the Detachment website frequently in order to keep everyone informed.

In the last several months, we have seen distressing news about the treatment of our veterans by the VA medical system. Some vets have died while waiting to get an appointment with a VA doctor. The National American Legion website has continuing coverage regarding the issues plaguing the system and continues to update the page frequently. Crisis centers have been held at various locations throughout the country to allow veterans to get assisted by service officers for their medical issues. Congressional hearings will hopefully lead to reforms of the VA to eliminate this backlog and emphasize the care of our veterans over performance statistics. Please be sure to listen for any proposed legislation to help our veterans in this regard.

By Commander Carl Albern Jr
Detachment of New Jersey Historian

Remember that any work you do to help our veterans and children is reportable on the Consolidated Squadron Report forms. This past year, only 21 squadrons and 2 counties submitted their CSR forms. We can do better. These forms are more than just for awards judging. Each year, the American Legion National Commander addresses Congress, and brings the compiled statistics from all these submitted forms with him. It shows those in Congress what we do to assist in helping our country. Please keep track of your time and donations for filling out the CSR this year. Help our organization show the members of our government what we are doing to assist our veterans and children.

At the next National Convention in August, our new National Commander for the S.A.L. will lay out his goals for the year. I hope that the Detachment will be able to help achieve those goals this year. We'll have more information following the convention this year.

For God and Country,

Carl Albern, Jr.



Detachment Of New Jersey 51st Annual Convention

Delegates from squadrons throughout the state of New Jersey gathered in Wildwood this past June for the 51st Annual Sons of the American Legion Convention; where the accomplishments of the past year were celebrated, and a new Commander, Carl Albern Jr, was elected to guide the detachment for the next 12 months.

Along with Commander Albern, 5 vice Commanders; Bob Bascou, Edward Downs, Thomas Flaherty, Andy Malson and Robert Phillips Jr were sworn into office. Their jobs: to promote the principles of the Sons of the American Legion throughout the state, promote membership and the commanders project.

Mr Mark Dodds assumes the position of detachment Chaplain, with focus on religious emphasis.

Other appointed positions within the detachment offices include PDC Jay Gillman as Judge Advocate, Mr. Jeff Hicks as Adjutant, PDC Patrick Gallagher as Historian. Sergeant at Arms: Jackson Coles, James Newby Jr, and Matt Thalisinis. Assistant Sgt at Arms: Tony Clappsy, Dan Dimmick, and Anthony Libatore.

A successful year was summed up with the presentation of awards throughout the state.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY 2014 AWARD WINNERS

ERNIE WILSON SCHOLARSHIP :

awarded to **Matthew Stevens Sq#139.**

SON OF THE YEAR 2014 :

awarded to **George Platoni Sq#1.**

COMMANDER'S AWARD :

awarded to **Tom Shallow, George Flasinski, Lenny and Debe Free.**

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY C (0-49)

1st Place: Squadron 5
2nd Place: Squadron 128
3rd Place: Squadron 391

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY B (50-99)

1st Place: Squadron 3
2nd Place: Squadron 209
3rd Place: Squadron 166

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY A (100+)

1st Place: Squadron 252
2nd Place: Squadron 346
3rd Place: Squadron 129

VA&R DONATIONS

1st Place: Squadron 455
2nd Place: Squadron 155
3rd Place: Squadron 129

VA&R HOURS

1st Place: Squadron 338
2nd Place: Squadron 129
3rd Place: Squadron 455

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

1st Place: Squadron 338
2nd Place: Squadron 524

3rd Place: Squadron 455

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

1st Place: Squadron 338
2nd Place: Squadron 133
3rd Place: Squadron 372

AMERICANISM DONATIONS

1st Place: Squadron 120
2nd Place: Squadron 338
3rd Place: Squadron 455

AMERICANISM HOURS

1st Place: Squadron 129
2nd Place: Squadron 102
3rd Place: Squadron 8

CHILDREN & YOUTH DONATIONS

1st Place: Squadron 388
2nd Place: Squadron 336
3rd Place: Squadron 133

CHILDREN & YOUTH HOURS

1st Place: Squadron 338
2nd Place: Squadron 129
3rd Place: Squadron 365

BOYS STATE PARTICIPANTS

Robert paige: Cumberland County
Malcolm Luck: Essex County

Congratulations to all award winners.

Many of these awards are determined by information submitted on the annual CSR report. In order to be eligible for these awards, the Consolidated Squadron Report must be received by the detachment in May, prior to convention.

STAY INFORMED

Send in your Officer Reports

Doing so will allow the Detachment to update your Squadron with regular mailings, newsletters, forms and access to MySAL.org.

Special Olympics

There has been many big sporting events in New Jersey this year. NHL Draft, Jets and Giants regular season (including a Tebow to Met Life return in Sept.), Guinness International Champions Cup Soccer, maybe a Red Bulls MLS playoff run, the return to the playoffs for the Devils, the last run for Big East rivals Seton Hall and Rutgers, and oh yes, The Super Bowl.

As great as these events are none are as impactful as what transpired in June, at sites across the State. More than 3,500 Special Olympics athletes from throughout the United States had gathered to compete in 16 sports, before tens of thousands of spectators and volunteers.

The 2014 Special Olympics USA Games for the first time will celebrate the Special Olympics movement while promoting the ideals of acceptance and inclusion through sport and highlighting the abilities of athletes with intellectual disabilities in New Jersey.

The event, which had been billed as the largest and most diverse of its kind ever, showcased the athletes competing, but also served as a platform to expose to the largest media and brand audience possible all that Special Olympics does for the loves of thousands.

As part of the Children and Youth Pillar of the American Legion, we as the Sons of the American Legion are proud to be supporters of this event, raising over

\$10, 000.00 in donations for this event.

The detachment committee would like to thank all of you for your support of this great organization. Without your dedication and generosity to Special Olympics NJ, we wouldn't be able to have anywhere near the success we have over recent years. We are extremely proud to announce that our NJ team took the gold in soccer, basketball, and volleyball in the recent National Special Olympics. Thanks again for your unyielding support.



Special Olympics

65th Annual High Point memorial Service Held

June 29th, the American Legion held its 65th Annual memorial Service at the High Point Monument. The monument which was designed as a lasting tribute to "Glory and Honor and Eternal Memory of New Jersey's Heroes by land, sea, and air in all wars of our country," stand at the highest point in the state of New Jersey, and provides a birds eye view of the Kittatinny Mountains.



"By day the grayish-white granite shaft will gleam from afar as a horizon landmark to guide the eastbound flier heading toward New York City. By night, or in foggy weather, the memorial will be equally serviceable to the aviator, for from the tip-more than 2,000 feet above sea level-will shine a powerful fog-piercing beacon light."

A procession of flag marches up to the base of the monument, as the public stood proud with hands on their hearts, to honor the New Jersey veterans who had given their lives for our country.

At the top of a 200 stair climb, the officers of the Department of New Jersey's American Legion were joined by

the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion, to salute the service men and women who had passed. After greetings and speeches were given by the delegation, wreathes were laid at the base of the monument. All stood in respectful silence as a gun salute was fired and taps was played.



Commander Carl Albern Jr, brings greetings from the Detachment of New Jersey's Sons of the American Legion.

Emilio Carranza: Fallen Airman honored

A tragedy in the New Jersey Pines near Chatsworth in 1928 has become the foundation for a program of goodwill between nations—a program largely inspired by the efforts of Mount Holly Post 11 of the American Legion.

One fateful day in 1928, a dashing young airman, Captain Emilio Carranza of the Air corps of the Army of Mexico, received the ovation of huge throng gathered in New York to bid bon voyage on his non stop flight to Mexico City.

Carranza had been commissioned by his government to undertake a goodwill flight to the United States. Wherever the young captain journeyed, he was received with enthusiasm and won friendship of thousands, both for himself and for the great republic he was representing.

Captain Carranza had made the glorious flight and now was ready to return home. All went well for a short time, then over the barren pine country of

southern New Jersey, a violent storm arose and the silver wings dipped for the last time. Unseen by thousands of his new friends, the gallant captain crashed to his death.

When news of his passing reached the county seat town, the Mount Holly Post quickly mobilized its resources and set out on a 25 mile trek to recover the young airman's body and pay him due honor. A path had to be cut through the dense underbrush in order to carry Captain Carranza's body out. The wreckage of the plane, so well known a site over many American cities, was strewn over many acres.

In this desolate spot was born the Post's program of international amity.

When they returned to Mount Holly, the Legion mounted an Honor guard around the body and was later joined by officers of the US army until his remains were removed by representatives of the Consulate General of New York. A detail

of Legionnaires accompanied the body to Mexico City.

When the casket left Mount Holly for its last journey, it was draped with the United States Flag from Mount Holly Post 11. That flag hangs today in Mexico's School of Aviation.



Commander Carl Alber Jr, and Detachment Officers lay a wreath at the memorial of Emilio Carranza .

From the Editor:

I am very proud to inform everyone that The SAL-ute will be receiving a National Award at this year's Convention in North Carolina. Job well Done !

The continued success of the SAL-ute relies on support and article submission from the detachment of New Jersey.

Last year we produced 4 issues, this year we hope to reach 6 issues and continue to produce the same if not a higher quality publication.

Submissions can be emailed directly to me via the email address tony713c@gmail.com .

This and That



Commander Carl Alber Jr, Mike Arner, Andy Malsen, Tom Marsden and Joe Korba attend Squadron 338's "Day at the Races"



Veteran's Haven South BBQ with Bob Phillips Jr, Commander Carl Alber Jr, Debe Free and Auxiliary Vice President Doreen Gallagher



Car and Craft show at Post 310 Leona.



Past National President Linda Newsome visits with Commander Carl Alber Jr at Squadron 346's installation

Josh Dog finds over 80 new homes.

The scariest thing a child can experience is being away from home, suffering with an illness or the fear of an upcoming surgery. For some its their first experience away from home. For others its an ongoing battle.

The Detachment of New Jersey, following the principles set upon by the American Legion, has had a very successful year with the Josh Dog Program, under Chairman Jackson Coles guidance.

On July 20th, the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of NJ delivered over 40 Josh dogs to the children who reside at Children's Specialty Hospital in Mountainside New Jersey. Children's Specialized Hospital is the preeminent provider of pediatric rehabilitation services and the largest pediatric rehabilitation health system in the United States. The hospital serves children affected by brain injury, spinal cord dysfunction and injury, premature

birth, autism, developmental delays, and life-changing illnesses.

All hands came out to support the program, and help touch the lives of these very brave children.

The following week, and additional 30 Josh dogs found homes with children being cared for at the Jersey



Words can not describe the joy and comfort provided by receiving a new friend like Josh.



All Hands on deck: Jackson Coles leads the way to deliver Josh Dogs to Children in need with: [Robert Bascou](#), [Gene O'Grady](#), [Tara Goldstein](#), [Len Free](#), [Kim Geisler Flaherty](#), [Thomas Flaherty](#) and [Debe O'rourke](#).

This and That



Dedicated to the gold star mothers of Bergen County. From Detachment Vice Commander Thomas Flaherty and his wife Vice President Of Unit 310 Auxiliary Kim Flaherty With Len Free and Debe Free .



Joe Korba National Commander Joe Gladden and Andy Malson at the 52nd NJ Detachment of New Jersey Convention Parade.

Deadline for pictures and articles for the next Edition of the Salute is September 15th.

Help prevent delays in distribution by submitting articles in WordDocument format within the time frame.

Unfortunately late and low submission of information has delayed this issue to go to print . Anyone with tips or topics for future article may also contact the editor with submissions.

Thank you again for your support:

Tony Clappsy :Editor

By Lenny Free

24th Annual Watchfire

As the sun slowly set on the night of September 20, the beach at Seaside Heights was bustling with activity. Following a 24 year tradition, the men comprising the Detachment of New Jersey's SAL were busy setting up for their annual Watchfire Vigil.

Once the giant bonfire was ignited, special guest gathered to address the importance of keeping the faith that our young men and women serving will return home. That countless soldiers from the great wars have endured imprisonment or been lost yet not returned home. It is in honor of these braver heros that we sit vigil all night long. The fire raged on like a beacon leading them home.

Like moths to the flame, people walking the Boardwalk took note of the large fire and stood in silence in respect. Many unaware of the suffering that our POW/MIA's maybe have suffered fighting for the freedoms we take for

granted.

As the night waged on, the detachment continued its solemn vigil. As the hours passed the temperatures began to drop, the weather which had been clear most of the day began to falter as storm clouds gathered over head.

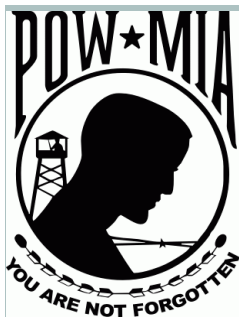
As part of the nights affair, a flag retirement ceremony was performed. Old tattered and unusable flags of our nation, which had been flown and respected were given proper disposal by fire. These flags were inspected by Commander Carl Albern Jr and retired. Gathering masses, included several young navy men who happened across the event, all took part in disposing of the flags gathered year long at various American Legion Posts throughout New Jersey.

As the first drops of rain began to fall the numbers of onlookers began to dwindle. Commander Albern, Vice Commanders Robert Bascou, Robert Phillips

JR, and the committee stood true to their purpose and kept the fires of hope burning all night long. The elements were against them. The rain came down in droves but still they these men waited for dawn, embracing the cold rains. They had chosen to keep the fire burning despite the weather.

Our POW/MIA's would have been subjected to far worse during their captivity, it is this fact that kept the detachment true to their cause throughout the night.

September 21st had been deemed POW/MIA Recognition Day, but for the family and friends of those POW/MIAs who are still unaccounted for, which includes over 130 New Jersey soldiers who entered the Korean War, approximately 48 New Jersey men who went to fight in Vietnam, and 4 Still unaccounted for during the Cold war, the recognition is made everyday.



**ONE
MORE
ROLL**
By Joe Coffee

We toast
our hearty
comrades
who have
Fallen from
the skies,

and were gently caught By God's
own hand to be with Him on high.

To dwell among the soaring
clouds, They've known so
well before, from victory Roll to
tail chase, at Heaven's very door.

As we fly among them there we're
sure to Hear their plea, to
take care of my friend, Watch
your six, and do one more roll for
me.

