



# THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

EDITOR: THOMAS E. MARSDEN; ASSOCIATE EDITOR: PATRICIA MARSDEN

WWW.NJSALUTE.ORG

## AMERICANISM

Rob Lasky

In September the Detachment of New Jersey will hold its annual POW/MIA Watchfire in Seaside. This is a solemn ceremony to light the path for those servicemen and women captured or missing in action not yet repatriated here on our home soil.

In years past, it has been misunderstood that we also hold flag retirement ceremonies and many have brought their unserviceable flags for proper disposal. Although we may hold one flag retirement ceremony for educational purposes during the 12-hour event, the Watchfire is NOT the appropriate venue for a mass flag retirement ceremony. Please do not bring unserviceable flags to the Watchfire as they will not be accepted.

Customarily flag retirement ceremonies are held each year on Flag Day, June 14; however, you may hold it any evening and involve the community around you. I am including a link to the script of the flag retirement ceremony which you may use in conjunction with legion post, local Boys Scout troops, even SAL and ALA Juniors.

It is important that we spread the education of how to properly dispose of unserviceable American flags with dignity. Go to <https://www.legion.org/flag/ceremony> or download a script in PDF form of the ceremony itself from the legion.org website: <http://www.alpost455nj.org/flagceremony.pdf>

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

Cmdr. Page has recruited me to bring back the SALute. I feel like The Land Before Time Dinosaur saying, "I'm back." BUT I need you and your help. I need officers, elected as well as appointed, commission and committee chairs, and the membership to submit timely articles and pictures. Please submit them to me at [saltom@usa.net](mailto:saltom@usa.net). Future deadlines are August 30, October 30, December 30, February 28, and April 30. The SALute is our detachment's newspaper. Copies are sent to your squadron commander and adjutant. Plus you can find the SALute online at [njsalute.org](http://njsalute.org).

## BITS & PIECES

The Detachment of New Jersey mourns the passing of Karen Talasanos, wife of VC Matt Thalasinis as well as John Gallagher, father of PDC Patrick Gallagher.... National Parade shirts are again a light-blue golf polo. Contact AL Dept. Adj. Baker for more information or to order.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

The schedule of meetings at the War Memorial Building, Trenton is set for August 5, October 14, December 2, 2017; February 10, April 7, 2018; Wildwood Convention June 6, 2018.

## THE ADJUTANT'S CORNER

I hear too many too Sons complain that their squadrons aren't getting detachment news. The AL offices cannot send out paperwork without addresses. Next time you go to a meeting, ask your officers if they have sent in their own officer report forms. Almost half of our state squadrons neglect to do this.

## MEMBERSHIP

Duke Haring

Congratulations to all the squadrons that won awards for 2017 membership, met or went beyond their previous years membership, and/or came close but still not over the top.

Remember membership is the life blood of our organization. We must retain last years members, sign up dual members, and recruit new members. Squadrons that are suspended for lack of membership, regroup to get back on track. Show our veterans that we have their backs.

Per-capita is still \$5 per member. Get the membership cards into Trenton, A.S.A.P. Please be aware as you sign up new members and accept transfers from other squadrons that there is a growing number of ineligible people being signed up throughout the American Legion Family not just the S.A.L. To me, this amounts to stealing from our veterans and must be stopped.

Be sure that the DD-214 eligibility papers showing service and discharge dates are in order then put them in your in a file. Remember that there are no social memberships in New Jersey. Do not give out membership cards to people who do not qualify just so they can drink at the canteen.



Carranza Service, Tabernacle



# Detachment Officers 17-18

## Commander:

C. David Page  
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## Vice Commanders:

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Matthew C. Thalasinis  
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## Adjutant:

Thomas E. Marsden  
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## Judge Advocate:

Jay Gillman  
*jaybird9760@comcast.net*

## Chaplain:

William Odom  
*bodom65@gmail.com*

## Historian:

Jack Murray

## Sgt-at-Arms:

Frank Curtis  
Rocky Grimshaw  
Fred Handy

## Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:

David Ogando  
Brandon Mushinski

## NEC:

Gary Nelson  
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## ANEC:

Lenny Free  
*greenlantern52@aol.com*

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## DETACHMENT COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

SAL Members,

My name is C. David Page. At our last convention in June, I was elected as the Detachment of New Jersey's Commander. I am very honored to be able to hold such a high office and represent the 9,500 plus members of the SAL. We all have a lot of work ahead of us to continue the advancement of the principles of the American Legion.

Please remember there is no rank among us. We are all on the same TEAM, TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE !! We who wear the Gold top covers are just the managers. I'm expecting all the detachment officers to jump in with both feet, get dirty and help and support all the squadrons. I do have a request from all. I would like to hear from the little squadrons from the top of the state to the bottom and all in between including the big ones.

Here are a few things that need work. Membership-- this year's membership was down. Re-member membership is our life blood. It's everyone's job to work on this. As soon as you receive the 2018 membership cards, please start renewing members. Retention is key to keeping us alive, and we need new members. Here's a thought. Let's see how many of us can go over the top by January 1. Wouldn't it be great to see the State of New Jersey reach 10,000 plus members?

Next is reporting. Every squadron works hard supporting the programs of the American Legion. Please keep records of ALL that you do. IT IS IMPORTANT. In the spring we get consolidated report forms. We need these filled out and sent in so our Legionaries can, at the Washington Conference, go in front of Congress and let our government know exactly what the Legion Family does for this country, its veterans, families, and communities. This past year we only received fifteen squadron reports and three county reports. There is 150 plus squadrons in this state. Personally I feel that our reporting was horrible. We as a team need to work on this.

Has anyone heard of the Detachment Son of the Year Award? Well, we have one. Last year we only received two applications. That's bad because every single squadron has a member that goes above and beyond. There should have been more than two applications.

Please, do not be offended or upset with what I said. I'm just passionate about the American Legion Family. Together we all will succeed in promoting and advancing the programs that we have. We are here to help and support each other. We all are brothers. Please feel free to contact your detachment commander or any of the detachment officers. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

For God and Country,  
C. David Page  
Detachment Commander  
CELL: (609) 724-5282  
EMAIL: d.p\_69@yahoo.com



## CALENDAR

National Convention	August 18-20, 2017
Membership Target (2018) - 10%	September 13, 2017
American Legion Centennial Fundraiser	September 23, 2017
Fall NEC and Detachment Commanders Conference	October 7-8, 2017
Membership Target (2018) - 25%	October 12, 2017
Detachment Meeting Trenton, 9:45 A.M.	October 14, 2017
Membership Target (2018) - 35%	November 15, 2017
Membership Target (2018) - 45%	December 13, 2017
Detachment Meeting Trenton, 9:45 A.M.	December 16, 2017
Detachment Meeting Trenton, 9:45 A.M.	February 10, 2018

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT SALUTE IS August 30, 2017**



## CONVENTION SPOTLIGHT

The Detachment of New Jersey hosted its convention at the Wildwood Convention Center on June 9. National guests in attendance were Bill Hill (MD), Larry Ford (MD), Andy Newmann (PA), and Kenneth P. Warner (PA). Award winners include:

### Americanism Donations

- |                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1st—Sq. 455 New Egypt    | 1st—Ocean Co.  |
| 2nd—Sq. 338 Leonardo     | 2nd—Bergen Co. |
| 3rd—Sq. 310 Little Ferry |                |

### Americanism Hours

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1st—Sq. 455 New Egypt | 1st—Ocean Co.      |
| 2nd—Sq. 338 Leonardo  | 2nd—Burlington Co. |
| 3rd—Sq. 166 Lakewood  |                    |

### Children & Youth Donations

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1st—Sq. 166 Lakewood        | 1st—Ocean Co.      |
| 2nd—Sq. 338 Leonardo        | 2nd—Burlington Co. |
| 3rd—Sq. 336 Burlington City |                    |

### Children & Youth Hours

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1st—Sq. 338 Leonardo | 1st—Ocean Co.      |
| 2nd—Sq. 166 Lakewood | 2nd—Bergen Co.     |
| 3rd—Sq. 346 Neptune  | 3rd—Burlington Co. |

### CWF

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1st—Sq. 338 Leonardo  | 1st—Burlington Co. |
| 2nd—Sq. 166 Lakewood  | 2nd—Ocean Co.      |
| 3rd—Sq. 286 Pine Hill |                    |

### Internal Affairs Donations

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1st—Sq. 338 Leonardo  | 1st—Ocean Co.  |
| 2nd—Sq. 371 Gibbsboro | 2nd—Bergen Co. |
| 3rd—Sq. 455 New Egypt | 3rd—Ocean Co.  |

### Internal Affairs Hours

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1st—Sq. 455 New Egypt | 1st—Ocean Co.      |
| 2nd—Sq. 371 Gibbsboro | 2nd—Burlington Co. |
| 3rd—Sq. 338 Leonardo  |                    |

### Membership, Category C

- |                        |
|------------------------|
| 1st—Sq. 57             |
| 2nd—Sq. 108            |
| 3rd—Sq. 415; 470 (tie) |

### Membership, Category B

- |                      |
|----------------------|
| 1st—Sq. 119 Dunellen |
| 2nd—Sq. 293 Warren   |
| 3rd—Sq. 5 Rahway     |

### Membership, Category A

- |                         |
|-------------------------|
| 1st—Sq. 321 Union Beach |
| 2nd—Sq. 493 Tuckerton   |
| 3rd—Sq. 232 Barnaget    |

### Special Olympics

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1st—Sq. 338 Leonardo | 1st—Ocean Co.      |
| 2nd—Sq. 365 Fairview | 2nd—Burlington Co. |
| 3rd—Sq. 166 Lakewood |                    |

### VA&R Donations

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1st—Sq. 455 New Egypt | 1st—Ocean Co.      |
| 2nd—Sq. 262 Audobon   | 2nd—Bergen Co.     |
| 3rd—Sq. 166 Lakewood  | 3rd—Burlington Co. |

### VA&R Hours

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1st—Sq. 455 New Egypt | 1st—Ocean Co.      |
| 2nd—Sq. 338 Leonardo  | 2nd—Bergen Co.     |
| 3rd—Sq. 166 Lakewood  | 3rd—Burlington Co. |

**Det Commanders Award**—AL Family Post 346, Neptune

### Ernie Wilson Scholarship

Stephen Pollio, Sq. 54 Freehold

**Jersey Boys State**—Most Delegates Sponsored by Sq. 338 Leonardo; by Co. Bergen; Most Financial Support Sq. 455 New Egypt

### Josh Dogs

1st—Sq. 371 Gibbsboro; 2nd—Sq. 129 Toms River

### Richard Phillips Lifetime Achievement Award

Global Terminal, Refrigeration Dept

### Son of Year

William Weinberg, Sq. 3 Westfield

### William H. Breen Scholarship

Stephen Fisher; Anthony LeSaux

### Membership Certificates

Squadron w 100 members first time—Sq. 142 Maywood

Squadron w largest increase (%)—Sq. 321 Union Beach

## OFFICERS & APPOINTMENTS

This year's delegates to the state convention voted in C. David Page Commander and Vice Commanders Jeffrey Hicks (Camden, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex), Henry Hasselhan (Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem), Edward Downs (Burlington, Hunterdon, Morris, Warren), Matthew Thalasinis (Essex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, Union), and Gregory Schaffer (Bergen, Hudson, Passaic, Sussex), and William Odom, Chaplain.

The appointments of Thomas Marsden Adjutant, Jack Murray Historian and Jay Gillman Judge Advocate. Francis Curtis, Rocky Grimshaw, Fred Handy Sgts.-at-Arms and David Ogando, Brandon Mushinski Asst. Sgts.-at-Arms were then approved on the floor. At the reorganization meeting following the close of the convention, Cmdr. Page named as commission and committee chairs:

**Americanism**—Robert Lasky

**Boys State**—Robert Lasky

**Children & Youth**—Thomas Marsden

**Child Welfare Foundation**—Joseph Korba

**Commander's Project**—Amel Balega

**Constitution/Bylaws**—Chuck Jandik

**Convention/AL Centennial Comm.** Jeffrey Hicks

**COTA**—Mark Dodds

**Ernie Wilson Scholarship**—Amel Balega

**Finance**—Robert Phillips Jr.

**Internal Affairs/Mentoring**—James Noble

**Internet**—Carl Albern

**Membership**—David Haring

**National Emergency Fund**—Lenny Free

**POW/MIA/Legislative/Watchfire**—Patrick Gallagher

**Public Relations/Community Affairs**—Henry Hasselhan

**Religious Emphasis/Sick Call & Relief**—William Odom

**Resolutions**—Lenny Free

**SAL College**—Kent Hehl

**SALute**—Thomas Marsden

**Son of Year**—Nicholas Wingler

**Special Olympics**—Nicholas Wingler

**VA&R**—Kent Hehl

**Ways & Means**—Dean Staknys

Norman Marlin serves as American Legion SAL Committee Chairmand Michael Burhart as Assistant Chair.



## 2017 BREEN RECIPIENTS ATTEND A. L. J. B. S.

Rob Lasky

June 12, Laurenceville: Two William H. Breen Memorial Boys State Scholarship recipients represented the Detachment at American Legion Jersey Boys State, and they did represent valiantly.

The first delegate, Stephen Fisher, hails from Tinton Falls, Monmouth County. Stephen attends the Marine Academy of Science and Technology in Highlands. He is a member of the physics team, TSA, and Key Club. He also plays for the Monmouth Regional High School varsity football team. He volunteers regularly at St. Leo the Great Church and for his local Relay For Life.

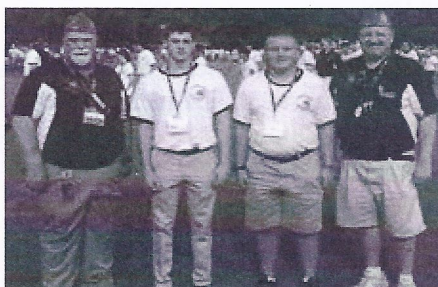
At his very first city meeting, Stephen was elected guide-on bearer and carried the colors of his city for the rest of the week. He was heavily involved in party politics and won his party's nomination for city councilman. He was instrumental in assisting his Boys State County in winning the 2017 ALJBS Best County Award.

When asked about his experiences, Stephen beamed, "When people describe ALJBS as a week that changes the future, it is an understatement. What I experienced this week wasn't just life changing; it was a rebirth. The person I was when I walked on to Rider's campus was a different person when I walked off.... It was an eye opening and uniting experience that brought our town closer and created a band of brothers that will extend past the boundaries of the Rider Campus. The moment the 940 delegates walked out of those dorms, we no longer were the future – we were the now." Stephen added, "The first day felt like three, and it felt great to get a good night's sleep."

The second delegate, Anthony LeSaux, lives in Edison, Middlesex County, and attends St. Joseph High School in Metuchen. He is a three-year varsity lacrosse player and studies physics and math. In his spare time, he volunteers as a peer mentor and at the NJ State Veteran's Memorial Home at Menlo Park in Edison. He has aspirations to join the Marines following in the footsteps of his grandfather and two uncles.

When asked about his experiences, Anthony shared, "My experience at ALJBS was very helpful and fun. On the first day, when we were all strangers, it was very easy to make new friends and feel at home. During my stay, I ran for guide-on bearer, ward leader, and county clerk. Unfortunately, I did not win any of these positions, but I realized that not getting elected did not mean I could not be involved.

The week at ALJBS really was a life changing experience. I got to meet great friends and learn so much about government and leadership."



## HENRY HASSELHAN, VC

Greetings, Fellow Comrades,

This past year I have been privileged to meet many legion, squadron, and auxiliary members from across the state and nation. I am looking forward to representing you at the Detachment of NJ for the year 2017-2018.

I am a retired Assistant Division Fire warden for the New Jersey Forest Fire Service covering the counties south of the Mullica River. My duties included training, fire prevention, and fire operations overseeing twelve full time wardens and appropriately 1,000 part time wildland fire fighters. Currently I serve on the NJ Forest Fire Type 2 Incident Management Team.

I am also a member of the USDA Forest Service Type 1 Great Basin Team, one of sixteen national teams that manage complex wildfire across the United States as well as all hazard response such as hurricanes, floods, and man caused disasters. I can be deployed anywhere in the country on moments notice for up to 21 days at any time.

After joining the SAL thirteen years ago, I was convinced seven years ago to take the reins of Squadron 311. I served as Commander for four years. During that time I started attending the Camden County SAL meetings where I accepted a position as sargent at arms. During Robert Phillips's term I accepted a position in the Detachment of NJ as assistant sergeant-at-arms. During Bob Bascou's term I served as vice commander.

I am currently serving as finance officer for Waterford SQD 311, Commander for Camden County Committee for the SAL, and Vice Commander for the Detachment of NJ, covering Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem counties.

One of my goals for 2017-2018 is bettering the communication within our organization through social media and direct interactions with the squadrons. As I represent you and your squadron, please let me know if there is anything that we can do to help you.

Please remember that membership is the key to our success.

## OUR ANEC

Lenny Free

Hello, Comrades,

I am the current Detachment ANEC Lenny Free. On May 5, 2017 the Spring NEC got underway and was well attended. Our detachment covered all commissions. I want to thank NEC Gary Nelson and the other members of the team for the opportunity to occupy the NEC chair and represent New Jersey on both days of the conference. It was a proud and exciting moment for me. Once again, "Thank you."

I have also been appointed by Commander Dave Page as NEF Chairman. I am very proud to be head of NEF and can't wait to get started. I will be sending out a letter that will include what we do and this year's goals.

