

THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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WHAT IS THE SAL?

At the 31st National Convention of The Sons of The American Legion held in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 23 to 25, New Jersey's only active Sons nationally elected officer, Ed Marsden gave his perspective of the SAL as follows:

We stand together as one brotherhood, serving veterans, bridging the past into the future, helping children. Because we believe in human rights and independence, we follow our fathers' footsteps. We are united in purpose and belief. We honor freedom, the foundation of democracy.

On the eve of our national convention, let us remember our history, our heritage. As we pledge to serve for God and Country, let us pray for our homeland, our flag, our Armed Forces. Let them remain safe and strong.

SQUADRON 166 LAKEWOOD #1

Americanism means enlightened and informed citizens. It encompasses youth programs like Boys State and Boys Nation, Legion Baseball, scouting, flag education, school awards, scholarships, oratorical contests, community service, and veteran recognition.

When Lakewood swept most state awards in Wildwood little did it know that its Americanism report would take first in the entire National SAL Eastern Area. Outgoing Commander Wingler accepted the plaque for New Jersey with 166 Son Tom Marsden in attendance.

Congratulations Squadron 166! The gold will be presented to the Eastern Area's top squadron at the next regular detachment meeting in Trenton in October.

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

Bergen County, New Jersey's Laurel Matthews, Past Auxiliary President and Outgoing Ladies NEC, was voted in as National Eastern Division Vice. Laurel's dedication and service shows in her accomplishments. She works to promote the Legion Family. She is a staunch supporter of Sons programs. She organized the last two Legion tee-shirt sales. She is responsible for transportation at President Bailey's homecoming. She's been there for us. Let's all help her out whenever we can.

REMEMBERING 9-11

The United States has been at war for almost a year now. It does not seem that one year has passed since that tragic day when terrorists claimed 3,000 victims. Patriotism is strong. Americans pledge together as one nation under God in spite of open opposition from extremists. People are displaying more flags than ever before.

Our armed forces deployed in foreign countries counter enemies hidden but deadly while our homeland deals with challenges across America. Evil always wants more. We have seen through history that there has never been a war to end all wars nor will there ever be one.

The events across America--in New York, Pennsylvania, Washington--may again happen. But we must not huddle in the darkness of ignorance nor live in the fear of death.

The work of the Sons is clear--to continue the programs of its Legionnaire forefathers. By helping veterans, their families, and children, we support liberty and, ultimately, world peace.

"THE LIGHT STILL SHINES"

by Hermon Adams

The Torch of Liberty still stands bright
While through the night, the spark seemed lost
With the dawn, we see her sacred light
Still burning and held high, aloft.

The glow of Liberty's fire still burns

Because of America's brave,

Many have fought and many still yearn

For what we'll fight to save.

The flame of Liberty ignites the soul

Of all who glimpse but a glimmer,

Instills in each of us courage untold

To nurture the flickering ember.

The Light of Liberty still brightly shines;

Without it all life is hollow!

Liberty's future and America's intertwine-

A beacon of hope for the world to follow.

MEMBERSHIP

New Jersey's Sons of The American Legion exceeded its 2002 Year-End goal of 7,149. Mr. Wingler, newly appointed Membership Chairman, has his work cut out for him so Detachment can achieve its target. Current reports show membership at 7,367, an all-time high.



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

DETACHMENT OFFICERS 02-03

Comrades:

From the moment the 31st National Sons of The American Legion Convention opened on August 23 until the National Auxiliary one ended a week later, Charlotte, North Carolina, was filled with excitement.

Steve Laws was elected SAL National Commander. The Sons are fortunate to have a true gentleman, family man, and accepted leader like him there for us and for the veterans. Steve is a doer and achiever with drive, dedication, and commitment to service.

In attendance were 863 delegates and 23 alternates from 46 detachments. 1,356 delegates and 37 at large officers and PNC's pre-registered. Those present included Nick Wingler, Jim Noble, Neal Newlin, Ed Marsden, Tom Marsden, Kent Hehl, Sean Howarth, Ted Howarth, Ed McCloskey, Gary Nelson, Richie Phillips, Carl Alber, Mike Arner, and me.

Chaplain Ed Marsden opened and closed all the SAL sessions with prayers for our country, our people, and peace. My Child Welfare Chairman Mike Arner presented a \$5,000 check from Monmouth County and another \$720+ from donations collected after Indy's May 31 deadline. Outgoing Commander Nick Wingler accepted the First Place Americanism plaque in the Eastern Area for New Jersey on behalf of Squadron 166, Lakewood.

Maryland swept almost everything away. It captured squadron, district, and detachment firsts in VAVS and Children and Youth. Its Essex colorguard won a dual championship in competition. Its detachment scrapbook took the honors. Bill Sparwasser, its leading candidate for National Vice-Commander East 2003-2004, received the Charles Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award.

John Kerestan announced the SAL signature program Child Welfare at an all time high with \$268,000 collected prior to Charlotte. (Another \$38,000 would later be given in donations from the convention floor.) Ken Blanchard announced National Membership is at 106%, the largest net increase ever—an all time high with 38 states are at their own all time high and 44 detachments over 100%.

Marie and Donny Osmund appeared at the American Legion Convention. Decades earlier they helped establish the Osmund Foundation, which evolved into the Children's Miracle Network, to get hearing aids for two kids. Sons PNC Dave Stevens explains CMN policy as treat first, but if unable to pay, service free.

Mike Deacon, Iowa, sang "Some Gave All" which the heroes of 9-11 certainly did. Kurt Orning, Wisconsin, performed "My Name Is America", memorializing a land challenged by tyrants but not broken or shamed. Both show-stopping vocals from our own made even dry-eyed men cry.

Badges, caps, tees, bars and, of course, pins were the big sellers at National Emblem Sales. Exhibitors has clocks, cups, tissue, pens, pencils, balls, sunglasses, magazines, tote bags and more there for the taking. Rascal supplied electric scooters to interested guests. Josh was there to greet passersby. I got to see prototypes of his pin under consideration. They should be available by the 2003 St. Louis, Missouri convention .

You would have been correct to say, "Marsden, you're all wet!", but the rain Sunday did not stop a few of us from stepping off with National in the parade. Dan McCole, Sue Griffiths, and Elsie Bailey, you made Jersey's Legion Family welcome. I'm glad I was able to be there for "2002--Elsie and you". Thank you, .

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

THE READERS FORUM

Any article printed in "The Readers Forum" is the opinion of the reader and not necessarily that of either the editors of the Salute or the Detachment itself. The newspaper takes no side--pro or con--on contents. Its editors allow space for opposing points of view.

I am hearing stories from around the state about life membership in our organization that I personally cannot believe. Life Membership is the highest honor any member can receive from his squadron. It should not be handed out like candy. It's an award to one's achievement and dedication to a squadron. It is an honor that should take many years to achieve; it should not be given out carelessly to anyone.

I myself am a life member in Squadron 339, Leonardo. Life membership was given to me after ten years service to my squadron. I continue to work within my squadron and county to preserve the ideals of the American Legion.

Life membership is a goal that one should set for oneself and work on to achieve. When life membership is given out carelessly to anyone who doesn't achieve it, it cheapens the award. I am not happy about that because it then cheapens my life membership which is not right.

No member should be able to transfer into a squadron and receive life membership as a condition. Life memberships for what a member has done for a squadron not what he is going to do.

Squadrons should make rules on how members can receive this high honor and stick to them. One condition should always be a number of years of continued service.

Michael Arner

CHILD WELFARE

Michael Arner

I am happy to be reappointed as Committee Chair. This year we are going to do great things in the state of New Jersey. I hope all squadrons support us like they did last year and help us raise needed money.

Spike Abrams, Sq. 133, Woodbury, is committee vice chairman. Serving on the committee are Amel Balega, Jr., Sq. 227, Totowa; Dean Staknys, Sq. 177, Old Bridge; and Ed McCloskey, Sq. 92, Wharton.

We will again be sending letters to squadrons asking them to pitch in and help. We will also begin a drive within the corporate community requesting support.

Some of the other things the committee will be working on include a miniature gold tournament, a glass mug promoting CWF, and some kind of fund-raising function.

CMDR. LUC AUXILIARY GUEST

Before a packed house of thousands, leaders in American Legion, Ladies Auxiliary, and Detachment of New Jersey walked onto stage. They were guests at the installation of National American Legion Auxiliary President Elsie Bailey.

Cmdr. Luc Marsden representing the Sons spoke of Miss Elsie's accomplishments and how she was the spirit of the Ladies Auxiliary across America. He praised her long-standing work and dedication to vets' programs saying, "Devotion, dedication duty; gracious, generous, giving ways; social consciousness, concern, and care for others--these qualities make Miss Elsie stand out among leaders as a great one." Then he saluted her.

STATE HOSTS HOMECOMING

Newly elected National American Legion Auxiliary President Elsie Bailey will celebrate her homecoming October 10 thru 13, 2002.

A busy Columbus Weekend is in the works for visitors. Prior to the formal dinner Saturday evening at the Sheraton, Eatontown, there will be a dinner Thursday at Neptune Post 346, and a luncheon Friday at Shore Boro Post 351. Arrangements are also in the works for tours of the Jersey coast and its lighthouses, a cruise around Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty, and a bus trip to Atlantic City.

Miss Elsie's theme is "America Pure Gold". Those who know her or have had the privilege of meeting her know she too is "Pure Gold".

102 MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Gary Jack

The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 102 in Linden held a rummage sale as a fundraiser for the Cerebral Palsy League. The Ladies Auxiliary was there helping out. A generous donation of \$925.98 will help programs for infants, children, and adults with developmental disabilities.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

At the present time lack of staff makes it impossible for the SALute to publish anything except finished articles. Please send your Legion Family news to saltom@usa.net.

All copy must be received no later than the deadline listed. Editors then proofread and layout the paper. For publication, every writer must identify himself; however, editors will withhold the name upon request.

SON OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Detachment of New Jersey proudly announces Sean Howarth, Sq. 32, Camden County, as the recipient of Detachment's first Son of the Year Award. Congratulations!

Detachment of New Jersey
Sons of The American Legion

Proudly Congratulate



New Jersey's

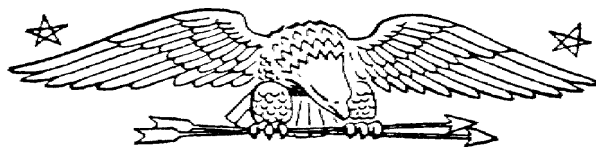
ELSIE BAILEY

on her installation as

National American Legion Ladies Auxiliary President

in Charlotte, North Carolina

on August 29, 2002



DATES TO REMEMBER

POW-MIA Watchfire, Seaside Heights, NJ.....	9/ 27-28/2002
Fall NEC, Indianapolis, IN.....	10/5-6/2002
Nat. Pres. Bailey, Homecoming, Eatontown.....	10/10-12/2002
For God & Country Service, Lakehurst, NJ.....	2/2/2003
Washington Conference.....	3/2-5/ 2003
Aux. Pres. M. McMahon's Testimonial	4/5/2003
Det. Cmdr. L. Marsden's Testimonial.....	4/12/2003 tent.
Dept. Cmdr. Mack's Testimonial, Woodbridge, NJ.....	4/26/2003
Informational Conference, Cherry Hill, NJ.....	4/25-27/2003
Spring NEC, Indianapolis, IN.....	5/3-4/2003
State Convention, Wildwood, NJ.....	6/12-14/2003

NEWSPAPER DEADLINE

All articles for the next issue are due no later than October 31, 2002.