



**The New Jersey**

# ***SALute***

***Official Publication of the Detachment of New Jersey, Sons of the American Legion***

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Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of New Jersey  
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<b>Vice Commander</b>	<b>Richard Hodum</b>
<b>Vice Commander</b>	<b>Mark Natale</b>
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<b>Historian</b>	<b>PDC Nicholas Wingler</b>
<b>Nat Exec Comm</b>	<b>PDC Len Free</b>
<b>Alt Nat Exec Comm</b>	<b>PDC Robert Phillips Jr</b>
<b>Sgt-at-Arms</b>	<b>Darryl Cunningham</b>
<b>SAL Chairman</b>	<b>Anthony Gladden</b>



## ***Commander's Corner***

It's been an absolute pleasure to visit all of the Squadrons, Posts, and Units and meet so many wonderful people. You have all made my term as your Commander a distinct pleasure and I certainly appreciate the hard work you have all done for our Sons of the American Legion. As someone pointed out, "I've been everywhere."

Vice-Commander Mark Natale and I made a presentation to National Commander Michael C. Fox for the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) and the National Emergency Fund (NEF) at the Spring NEC meeting in Indianapolis. These donations were gratefully accepted by the National Commander on behalf of these American Legion programs.

Collected at this meeting was over \$64,000 for all programs of the SAL. Collected were \$48,000 for CWF, \$8,000 for Operation Comfort Warrior (OCW) \$7,000 for the National Emergency Fund, and \$1,500 for the Veterans Children Foundation (VCF).

Thank you to all who have contributed and worked so hard on these programs.

### **Membership**

I know we stress Membership all the time but now is the time we need all Members to step up and not only recruit new Members but also need to get our Sons to renew their Membership. At one time right before the pandemic we were close to 10,000 Members. We need all hands on deck to revive our Membership. Speak to our former Members to pay 2022 Dues. Without these Sons our programs will suffer.

Contact Membership Chairman Robert Phillips Jr for assistance: [bpjrsal@gmail.com](mailto:bpjrsal@gmail.com).

For God and Country,

Henry F. Hasselhan

Commander, SAL Detachment of New Jersey

## *Leading Candidate for Detachment Commander* Mark Natale



Mark and his wife Lisa Waldron Natale have devoted so much of their lives to Leonardo Post, SAL, and Unit 338, as well as the American Legion Family of New Jersey.

Mark Natale has been a member of Squadron 338 in Leonardo for 8 years, qualifying through his father, Joseph Natale Jr., serving in the United States Air Force 1961-65. Mark served as Squadron Jr. Vice Commander for 2 years, Squadron Commander for 3 years, Detachment Vice Commander for 4 years and Chairman of the CWF for 3 years. On the Squadron level he has helped with Squadron and Post events as well as worked hard recruiting new members to the Legion Family of Post 338. On the Detachment level he has served on committees including The Child Welfare Foundation, the National Emergency Fund and the Special Olympics committees. Mark has worked hard on raising money for these great programs.

He is running for Detachment Commander for the coming year 2022-2023 and would like the support from the Detachment. As Commander, he would strive to have the Officers and Chairmen to perform their duties and better inform the Members about the Detachment of New Jersey. He looks to provide an example of leadership to our Chairmen and Officers and our Membership by challenging each one to charge one another and support each of them to make one cohesive unit - one great team - a true brotherhood that will take the Sons higher and farther than they have been. The journey continues in helping and serving our veterans and community, as well as our children and staying true to our principals of this great organization.



Lisa Natale deserves mention here for her unselfish work for the betterment of the Department of the Auxiliary and for her incredible donation of a kidney so someone else could live! The true spirit of the American Legion Family.

**From Union Beach Post 321:** Post 321 along with the Auxiliary and SAL members recognized Lisa Natale for her selfless acts of generosity. During the pandemic she **donated a kidney** for a life sustaining transplant procedure that put the life of her fellow man before her own. In doing so she demonstrated that she is a living example of the American Legion mission as stated in the Preamble to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community State and Nation.

Lisa is an active member of Post 338 Auxiliary as well as being involved on both the State and County levels. She volunteers in her community and has instilled these traits to her children who work in service to the public.

*New Jersey American Legion Family Leadings Candidates for 2022-2023*




Steven Fisher for Department Commander, Colleen Breen-Lopez for Department President, and Mark Natale for Detachment Commander.




2021-2022 Officers: SAL Commander Henry Hasselhan, Auxiliary President Jane Babli, and Department Commander Daniel Dunn at Dan's testimonial dinner April 25.

## Save the Date...



THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY & THE SONS of THE AMERICAN LEGION

Extends A "Cordial Invitation" to All  
Auxiliary Members, SAL's, Legionaries & Friends To Attend the  
**TESTIMONIAL DINNER**  
- HONORING -



*Jane Babli*  
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

*Henry F. Hasselhan*  
SAL DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

**Elizabeth's Ballroom**  
419 Highland Blvd.  
Gloucester, New Jersey 08030

COCKTAILS: 2:00 - 4:00 P.M.    4:00-6:00 P.M. CASH BAR

BUFFET DINNER, DESSERT TABLE

DONATION - \$50.00 Saturday June 25, 2022    2p.m. to 6p.m.

RESERVATIONS MANDATORY  
Dinner Reservations Must Be Received No Later Than Monday, June 13 2022

No Tickets Will Be Sold at the Door

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PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL RESERVATION REQUEST WITH CHECK TO:

Patricia Grimming  
108 Counts Court  
Marlton, NJ  
Phone: 856-983-0397

Please make checks payable to: *American Legion Auxiliary Camden County Commit* ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ COVERING \_\_\_\_\_ RESERVATION (S) FOR DINNER

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_ Post/unit/squad \_\_\_\_\_

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(LIST ADDITIONAL RESERVATIONS ON LOWER BACK OF THIS PAGE IF NECESSARY)

*From S.A.L. National Commander Michael C. Fox:*



### **Keep the drive going to reach and surpass 100 percent membership**

The Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion is coming up April 30-May 1. I'm excited to be headed back to Indianapolis to meet with the NEC as we continue to advance the SAL and its mission to support our veterans.

A reminder for those of you who won't be joining us in Indianapolis: you'll still be able to watch the proceedings on the *SAL Facebook page*.

Something else I'm looking forward to while I'm in Indianapolis: our next Flying Flags for Heroes event. We'll be heading to Crown Hill Cemetery at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 30, to place flags on the graves of the many Veterans laid to rest there. Among them are many past leaders of The American Legion. It's our honor to pay our respects to them.

We're approaching 200,000 flags placed nationwide. I hope you'll join us if you're in Indianapolis. And please share your events and results at the *Flying Flags for Heroes website*. <http://flyingflagsforheroes.org>

And let me also remind you, the 100 percent membership deadline is coming up, on May 11. Thirty-four detachments had reached the 90 percent membership goal on that target date of April 13; outstanding! But there's still more we can do. Please continue to reach out to bring back former SAL members, and find new members who may not be aware of all the great things the Sons of The American Legion are doing for veterans and their communities.

There is no limit to the amount of good we can do.  
We are the Sons of The American Legion.  
We are #SALSTRONG.  
God bless our veterans.  
God bless our military in harm's way.  
And God bless the United States of America.

Michael C. Fox  
SAL National Commander  
"Leadership through action, not through position"





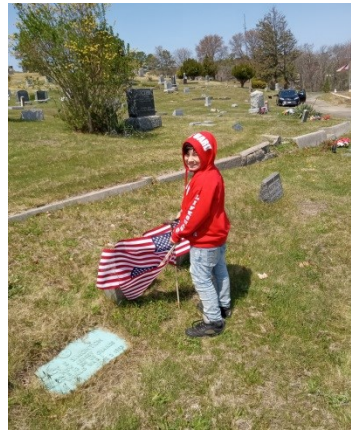
## **Flying Flags For Heroes. The project continues.**

As memorial Day approaches, more of our Legion Family, as well as other groups such as fire departments and EMT squads, law enforcement, schools, churches, Scouts, individuals, and other groups are decorating the graves of veterans. The quest is to decorate ONE MILLION graves this year throughout the US. It CAN be done!

In Monmouth County NJ alone, there almost 44,000 veterans' graves listed. That's right, forty-four thousand. If forty thousand have Flags placed upon them, we are well on our way toward the national total. A quick tally, assuming around the same amount interred in each of the 21 counties of New Jersey, would bring our state's total to over 800,000 Flags placed!

National Commander Michael C. Fox reported at the NEC Meeting on 30-April, 200,000 Flags had already been placed nationwide.

Please keep a count of Flags you and your group place. Be sure to email PDC / ANEC Bob Phillips with your amount and any pictures you take to: [bpjsal@gmail.com](mailto:bpjsal@gmail.com) so he can list them on the [www.flyingflagsforheroes.org](http://www.flyingflagsforheroes.org) website.



Why wait to get started?

**SALute** Editor's grandsons James and Murphy placing flags at Mt. Prospect Cemetery in Neptune on 25April2022. SAL Members of Neptune Sq. 346.

**UPDATE:**

***The Flying Flags Project, by proclamation, will now be an annual nationwide program!***

## ***Preston Sharp and Flying Flags***



Preston C. Sharp, of Squadron 521 in Redding, California helped establish Flying Flags with SAL National Commander Michael C. Fox. Preston traveled to New Hampshire to assist in decorating graves. As of these pics on 14-April, Preston placed flags in cemeteries in 42 of 50 states. His next stop was Maine.

States he has visited so far, with his Flags & Flowers campaign, the nonprofit he established. Check his Facebook page for updates: Preston C. Sharp / Facebook.



*Join our Crusade to place One Million Flags*

## New Jersey Detachment at the NEC Meeting in Indianapolis, 30April and 1May



Commander Henry Hasselhan receives diploma for National Management Institute II course from Commander Fox.



DVC Mark Natale receives diploma from Commander Fox for completing National Management Institute Training 1.



Commander Henry presents a check to the National Emergency Fund from the Detachment of New Jersey.



DVC Mark Natale presents a check to the Child Welfare Foundation from the Detachment of New Jersey.





DVC Mark Natale with Past National Commander Joseph W. Gladden and PDC Carl Alber Jr.



With Past National Commander Greg (Doc) Gibbs.



The New Jersey Crew at the Slippery Noodle Blues Bar. Clockwise: Gary Nelson, Matt Thalasinis, Jim Noble, Henry Hasselhan, Bob Phillips Jr., Pat Marsden, Tom Marsden, Lenny Free, Carl Alber Jr., Mark Natale.



Meeting time: Mark Natale, Carl Alber Jr., Bob Phillips Jr., Henry Hasselhan

## *Around the State:*

From Adjutant Tim Sharpe and Rev. Bill Odom, Union Beach Sq. 321:



*Union Beach Post 321 Commander William Shultz reads proclamation honoring Lisa Natale with SAL Commander Phil Ganz presenting a special award.*

Post and Squadron 321 held a celebration for Lisa Waldron Natale for donating a kidney to a complete stranger. Lisa was not a match to the person needing the kidney but another person was a match and Lisa's kidney used for yet another recipient. Legion Commander Post 321 William Shultz read a proclamation, and Commander Phil Ganz treated Lisa and her husband Mark to dinner at the Belford Bistro. The event was attended by Monmouth County Legion Commander Mary Jo Burkhard and Monmouth County SAL Commander Carl Alber Jr. as well as husband Mark Natale, the leading candidate Detachment Commander, and their son Kevin.

The Squadron also held a benefit to distribute eggs for an Easter egg hunt for families on the Elks property receiving \$500 in donations. The elections were completed with installation on May 1.

Squadron 321 is starting a new committee on Suicide Awareness and Prevention whose major role will be distributing stuffed Elks dolls named "Theodore the Elk" which will be given to children at Hackensack Meridian Hospital - Bayshore Holmdel Crisis Unit. The Elks dolls are being distributed is a project from both The Sons of The American Legion and the Elks organization as part of April Children's Health Month.





From DVC Greg Shaffer, Wayne Sq. 174:



At their meeting on 9Feb, (Left) Wayne Squadron 174 Commander Michael Smith presented checks to Detachment Commander Henry Hasselhan for the Commander's Project, (center) to Dean Staknys for the National Emergency Fund,, and Mark Natale for the Child Welfare Foundation. Pictured (right) are Mark Natale, Detachment Vice Commander Greg Shaffer, Henry Hasselhan, Richard Smith, and Dean Staknys.



On 10April, Wayne Post 174 held a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Due to chilly weather, only a few people showed up, but Greg Shaffer had his grandson and a member of a local Cub Scout Troop help with the ceremony. Both boys learned a little about the reason for retiring our Nation's Colors and how to properly retire the Flag.

*At SAL College, 23-24 April, Sea Girt NJ:*



(Left) SAL College Chairman Kent Hehl, graduate Bernie Kofot, Detachment Commander Henry Hasselhan, Carl Alber Jr., and Nick Wingler. Carl and Nick were instructors for the Advanced Class. (Right) Kent Hehl, class graduate, Commander Henry, Basic Class Instructors Tom Marsden and Jim Noble.

The next SAL and Legion College schedule will be announced in January. SAL graduates who complete SAL Basic and Advanced can take Legion College and Chaplain courses. Stay tuned.

From Rusty Myers, DEC and Adjutant, Belleville Squadron 105:

*3Apr: Post 105 American Legion and Sons of the American Legion of Belleville donate \$2,000 to the Department Commander's Project.*



Belleville Squadron 105 with \$1000 check, along with Post 105 and their check for \$1000, toward Department Commander Daniel Dunn and his Commander's Project.

See the Belleville Times news article on the next page:



## American Legion and Sons of the American Legion donate to Commander's Project

Special to NorthJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

At a meeting of the Essex County Executive Committee on St. Patrick's Day at Belleville Post 105, American Legion Post 105 and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105 donated \$1,000 each to the Department and Detachment of NJ Commanders Projects, which benefit veteran's programs locally and throughout the state.

Each year, the American Legion Department of New Jersey, the American Legion's state-level organization in NJ, holds a Commanders Project, which is a joint project between the Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion raising money for various projects throughout the state. With the American Legion being deeply rooted in one of its "Four Pillars" focusing on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, these annual Commanders Projects go a long way to making a remarkable difference in the lives of thousands of New Jersey's military and veterans each year.

In a letter to the American Legion Family throughout New Jersey, Department Commander Daniel Dunn, an Air Force veteran, wrote "... I have chosen a Department Project which focuses on the Veterans in need and Suicide Awareness, which I feel goes hand-in-hand. Working together with our Legion Family, we will be able to accomplish a lot of great things not only improving the lives of Veterans but saving them as well."

The state-wide 2021-2022 project goal was set at \$128,000 last year, which has since gone over-the-top.

"This project is what we do as an American Legion Family, helping Veterans in need" added SAL Detachment of NJ Commander Henry Hasselhan in a mailing to his squadrons of Sons.

Specific programs within the Commanders Project, in addition to funding for homeless veterans and suicide awareness programs for vets, includes among other goals purchasing service dogs for veterans, funding for Hoboken Post 107's Veterans housing, and technology supplies for residents of the Menlo Park Veterans Home making it possible for those who are visually impaired make phone calls.

At a meeting of the Essex County Executive Committee on 17 March at the Post 105 hall in Belleville, the Department and Detachment "Team Dunn" made their official visit to Essex County, with over 40 members of the Legion, the Auxiliary, and the Sons from the county in attendance. It was at this meeting, at the invitation of Essex County Commander Terence Scantlebury, that many of the posts, units, and squadrons presented their donations to the Commander's Project. Attendees were also treated to 120-pounds of corned beef and cabbage courtesy of Post 105, as the visit happened on Saint Patrick's Day.

"It was an honor hosting this event," noted Squadron Commander Steve Sangemino on Facebook. "Shout out to

See DONATION, Page 8

## Donation

Continued from Page 2

[American Legion 1st Vice Commander] Walter LaBar for all the fabulous food. It was a great night for Post 105." The sentiment was echoed by Post Commander Joe "Tow Joe" Cobiainchi.

"Thank you all. What a great turnout for team Dunn visit," further noted Detachment Commander Hasselhan via Facebook.

Post 105 then presented Department

Commander Dunn with a check for \$1,000, and SAL Detachment Commander Hasselhan received a \$1,000 donation from SAL Squadron 105 as well. Members of the Post and the Squadron took photos with their state commanders and the 'big check' afterwards, proudly showing how they played their part in helping to make the Commander's Project reach its goal. As veterans, sons, and grandsons of servicemen, it is our goal to not only honor the service and sacrifice of the veterans of the past, but to thank and to care for the veterans of the present and future.



Post and Squadron 105 Honor Guard at Opening Ceremonies at Belleville High School.



25April: BASKING RIDGE and EAST ORANGE, NJ – *Sweet dreams are made of this.*

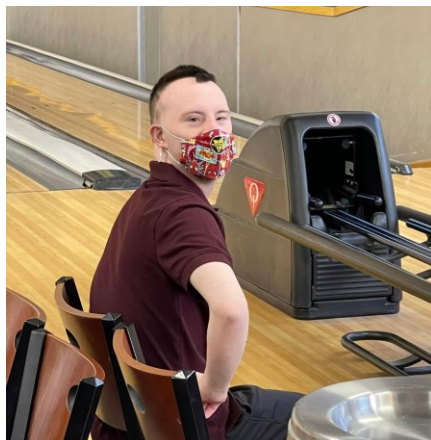
The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Detachment of New Jersey Children and Youth Commission, along with Girl Scouts from two North Jersey troops, helped to satisfy the sweet tooth of Veterans in the VA hospitals at both Lyons and East Orange with a drop-off on 18 April2022 of over \$1,000 worth of Girl Scout cookies.

“As the chairman for this year, it was important to me that we run some sort of program which could get the kids involved with our vets”, stated Rusty Myers, SAL Detachment Chairman for the Children and Youth Commission based out of Squadron 105 in Belleville, NJ. “It just so happens I’m in a family of Scouts, and my daughters and wife are very involved in Girl Scouts. At a Squadron level, my kids are very involved with the Legion – and they have gotten a lot out of that. This project was a way to share that experience with other Scouts, while doing something nice for our veterans.”

The hope is that each bite of a Somoa or a Trefoil (or better yet, a Thin Mint) cookie reminds these veterans of how much the American Legion Family and Girl Scouts appreciates their service and sacrifice, and at the same time emphasizes to the Scouts their obligation to do what we can as Americans to give back to our New Jersey Vets

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PDC Nick Wingler volunteered by representing the SAL to the Special Olympics, where two SAL Members competed in a bowling Division Tournament in Toms River on March 5<sup>th</sup>. .



LtoR: Christopher Gray, from Brick Squadron 348, and Kieran Wingler from Lakewood Squadron 166. About 250 bowlers competed in two divisions. Christopher, grandson of PNVC Tom Marsden, and Kieran, son of PDC Nick Wingler, both won Gold in their divisions.

Losing 22 Veterans a day to Suicide is unacceptable!



Help Is Out There!

If you or someone you know is considering suicide, please contact the national Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), text “STRENGTH” to the Crisis Text Line at 741-741 or go to [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)



## SAL donations to CWF top \$9 million



Mark Nave, Chairman of the SAL Children’s Welfare Foundation Committee, thanks the SAL at the NEC meeting for their hard work and donations. “Nine (million) is fine, but so is a perfect



ten!” he said, stressing that the work isn’t over. Looking on are Dennis Boland, (left) president of the CWF, and Jim Noble (right).

### ***Upcoming and Ongoing Events. Support your local Post / Squadron / Auxiliary***

**Neptune Post 346 - \$9 dinner specials every Saturday, plus limited grill menu, \$2 ice cream sundaes.**

**Kitchen opens 4:30. 21 Gully Road, Neptune, just off Hwy 33 and GSP Exit 100.**

#### ***Upcoming Events:***

MAY: 1 – American Legion Riders Open House & Stamp Tour Kickoff, Post 289 West Milford.

5 – Cinco de Mayo – Post 105 Belleville.

7 – Memorial Tree Planting for John Bezerra (Post 105) Owens Park, Nutley.

8 – Mother’s Day Raffle Drawing, Post 253 Spotswood.

12 – Ribbon cutting for “Wall of Heroes”, Howell Twp Municipal Complex 10 AM.

14 – 25-year Time Capsule Opening, Post 346 Neptune.

15 – Passaic County AL Aux Leadership Fund BBQ, Post 289 West Milford.

15 – Grand Re-Opening, Post 306 Middlesex.

20 – Alex Chernick’s May Visit, Post 54 Freehold.

21 – Jack’s Rockin’ Country Band, Post 105 Belleville.

22 – Firing Over the Graves of local cemeteries, Post 346 Neptune.

22 – Prevent Veteran Suicide Program, Post 174 Wayne.

28 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Memorial Day Pig Roast and BBQ, Post 129 Toms River.

30 – Memorial Day. Fly flags at half-staff sunrise to noon, full staff afterward. Many local events planned state-wide

JUNE: 3 – Spaghetti Dinner – Squadron 338, Leonardo.

4 – Gathering of the Chapters of the Legion Riders, 3 Tier Poker Run, state-wide.

8 – 11 – NJ American Legion Convention at Wildwood

9 – 1K Awareness Buddy Walk, Wildwood Convention Center.

12 – 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Warriors Motorcycle Run, Post 170 Rochelle Park.

25 – Testimonial Dinner for Commander Henry Hasselhan and President Jane Babli, Elizabeth’s Ballroom, Gloucester (see flyer and reservation form on Page 4)

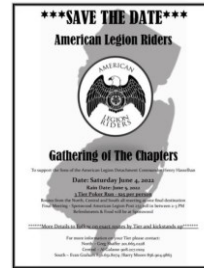
30 – NJ Veteran Suicide Talk , Brookdale Community College Arena, Lincroft.

JULY: 16 – Annual Pig Roast, Squadron 310 Little Ferry.

AUG: 22 – Neptune SAL Squadron 346 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing, Colts Neck.

Have an event you wish to have listed here? Send info to [njSALute@gmail.com](mailto:njSALute@gmail.com). We won’t know if you don’t tell us.





## The Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of all Wars, associate ourselves together as “**Sons of The American Legion**” for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in all Wars; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our friendship, by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit, all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country; inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our friendship, by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit, all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.



For those generous enough to contribute to the **SALute**, please text or email me your pictures and information. Anything posted on Facebook tends to become buried or disappears before I can get to it. Email is best: [njSALute@gmail.com](mailto:njSALute@gmail.com).

As always, let us know what's going on. Your events, reopening after the pandemic, elections and installations, anything you wish to have known, please keep sending them in. If sending group photos, PLEASE list who the people are. The editor does know a lot of the Legion Family members, but certainly not all of them. Check spelling of names as well.

You might have noticed that the **SALute** has increased in size, from what was once a mere four pages to issues now with pages in the teens. That's because of submissions to the newsletter, what you have been sending in. Keep it up! And thank you!

Gary S. Crawford PC, **SALute** Editor, current VC, Neptune Sq. 346.

Contributors to this edition of the **SALute**:

Detachment Commander Henry F. Hasselhan, Atco Sq. 311.  
PDC Patrick Gallagher, Neptune Sq. 346.  
PDP Doreen Gallagher, Neptune Unit 346.  
DVC Mark Natale, Leonardo Sq. 338.  
PDC Carl Alber Jr., Neptune Sq. 346.  
PNVC Thomas Marsden, Brick Sq. 348.  
PDC Nicholas Wingler, Lakewood Sq. 166.

DVC Greg Shaffer, Wayne Sq. 174.  
DEC Rusty Myers, Belleville Sq. 105.  
Adj. Tim Sharpe, Union Beach Sq. 321.  
Rev. William Odom, Union Beach Sq. 321.  
1stDVP Colleen Breen-Lopez, Totowa Unit 227.  
Historian Gary Cooper, Am. Legion Dept. of NJ.  
[www.legion.org/sons/](http://www.legion.org/sons/)

Thank you all for your contributions! Keep on sending in your information. Let us know what's going on at your Squadron. We won't know if you don't tell us.



*Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage...*