



The New Jersey

SALute

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Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of New Jersey
171 Jersey St., Bld 5, 2nd Floor,
Trenton NJ 08611
www.NJSAL.org

Commander	Keith Barnes
Vice Commander	Richard Hodum
Vice Commander	William Murphy
Vice Commander	Charles Taylor II
Vice Commander	(Vacant)
Vice Commander	(vacant)
Adjutant	PNVC Thomas Marsden
Ass't Adjutant	DEC Russell Myers
Finance Officer	PDC C. David Page
Chaplain	PDC Matthew Thalasinis
Judge Advocate	PDC Gary Nelson
Historian	PDC Nicholas Winger
Nat Exec Comm	PDC Robert Phillips Jr
Alt Nat Exec Comm	PDC Henry Hasselhan
Sgt-at-Arms	Darryl Cunningham
Sgt-at-Arms Emeritus	Anthony Liberatore
SAL Chairman	Anthony Gladden
SAL Committee Liaison	Sophia Dmoch
SAL Committee	Michael Smith



BE THE ONE

NEVER FORGET OUR POW/MIAs

Make It A Good Day For Our Veterans

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You're Never Alone – Call 9-8-8 - Option 1

For God and Country,

Gary S. Crawford PC, Commander Neptune Sq 346, Adjutant
Monmouth County Exec Committee, Editor ***SALute***

njSALute@gmail.com

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The Freedom Flag, unveiled on the 20th anniversary of September 11th.

The Single White Star - Represents all those who lived and died for freedom. The Five White Bars - Around the star signify the Pentagon and organized protection of our freedom.

The Blue Background - Stands for all Americans united together for freedom.

The Top Red Stripe - Honors those who perished at the Pentagon including the crew and passengers on American Airlines Flight 77 and represents the bloodshed from the tragedy;

The Two Broad Red Stripes - Represent the bloodshed from the Twin Towers and those who perished on American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175



The Three White Stripes - Honor the rescue workers, fire fighters, police officers, Port Authority employees and others who worked tirelessly before, during, and after the terrorist attacks.

The Bottom Red Stripe - Signifies the bloodshed of the crew and passengers who died on United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania.

Officers and Committee Chairmen for 2023-2024:

Commander	Keith Barnes (58)	Americanism Committee	Matthew Thalasinis (232)
Vice Commander	Richard Hodum (166)	Children and Youth	Russell Myers III (105)
Vice Commander	William Murphy (348)	Internal Affairs	Thomas Marsden (348)
Vice Commander	Charles Taylor II (58)	Veterans Employment	Henry F. Hasselhan (311)
Vice Commander	(2 vacancies)	Veterans Service	Patrick Gallagher (346)
Adjutant	Thomas Marsden (348)	Boys State	Thomas Marsden (348)
Assistant Adjutant	Russell Myers III (105)	Child Welfare	William Murphy (348)
Chaplain	Matthew Thalasinis (232)	Children's Organ Trans	Gregory Shaffer (174)
Judge Advocate	Gary Nelson (147)	Constitution & Bylaws	Michael Arner (338)
Sergeant-at-Arms	Darryl Cunningham (58)	Convention Committee	Jeffrey Hicks (519)
Sgt-at-Arms Emeritus	Anthony Libertore	Commander's Project	Gary Nelson (58)
NEC	Robert Phillips Jr (262)	Ernie Wilson Jr Scholarship	Lenny Free (415)
ANEC	Henry F. Hasselhan (311)	Finance Committee	Carl Alber Jr (346)
SAL Chairman	Anthony Gladden (455)	Girls State	James Noble (17)
SAL Committee Liaison	Sophia Dmoch (310)	Internet Committee	Carl Alber Jr (346)
SAL Committee	Michael D. Smith (174)	Legislative Committee	Patrick Gallagher (346)
		Membership Committee	Jeffrey Hicks (526)
		National Emergency Fund	Dean Staknys (348)
Larry Bishop		POW/MIA Committee	Richard Hodum (166)
American Legion Dept. Commander:		Public Relations	Gary Crawford (346)
		SAL College	Kent Hehl (84)
Sharon Knight		SALute Committee	Gary Crawford (346)
American legion Auxiliary Dept. President:		Son of the Year	David Page (455)
		Special Olympics	Nicholas Wingler (166)
		Young Citizens Award	Matthew Thalasinis (232)

A Little Publicity Never Hurts:

News12NJ runs a segment featuring local entertainers. On August 10, a comedian was interviewed. Rob Epple told of doing a comedy show at Rahway Post 5 recently. While there, he learned of the work of the American Legion Family. He also found out that he was eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion, which he joined right then. In the interview, he spoke highly of the Legion and most of the interview centered on that. Nice to see these reports. Welcome aboard, Rob Epple!

Commander's Message:

I plan on having a productive and successful year working with the Legionnaires, the Auxiliary, and of course my brothers, the Sons of the American Legion. We, the Sons of the American Legion are hard, dedicated, and creative men with a plan to get the job done. Whether it be helping a Veteran in any way, assisting the Auxiliary, or doing some of the activities such as cookouts for Veterans, donations to the Veterans, and our famous Watchfire.

My Officers and I look forward to any challenges that come before us. While taking on these challenges, we will be thoughtful, precise to the point, and have fun getting our mission accomplished.

This will be a good year like no other because my motto is: "Make it a good day for our Veterans".

Keith Barnes, Commander, Detachment of New Jersey



Why I Am A Volunteer:

*I don't do it for money or fame, I don't do it for personal gain.
I volunteer to lend a hand, to the Veteran who served his land.
It's just to give a tithe of self, the job I do means more than wealth.
It's not for medals worn with pride, it's for the rewards I feel inside.
My rewards are tucked deep inside my heart, to let me know I've done my part.
In helping Veterans far and near, I am proud to be a volunteer.*

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION **BE THE ONE**



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

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From S.A.L. National Commander Chris Carlton:

(Written in July – 2023)

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

We're just a little over a month before we meet in Charlotte, North Carolina, for the 51st National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion. I look forward to seeing so many of you in Charlotte and celebrating the SAL and the entire Legion Family together.

In the meantime, I wanted to use this month's message to offer congratulations to those Detachments which have gone above and beyond.

July 1 was the target date for Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR). I want to thank the Detachment of Vermont, which achieved 100 percent CSR submission! That's a terrific achievement; thank you all for your hard work.

I'd also like to acknowledge the 13 Detachments that - as of July 13 - had achieved or surpassed the 105 percent membership target ahead of the July 26 target date: Hawaii, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Philippines, West Virginia, Georgia, Oregon, Nevada, Alaska, Michigan, Colorado, Arizona and Florida.

Update: As of the July 17 membership report, Washington and Virginia have also both surpassed the 105 percent membership target. Several others are also still very close to hitting the mark.

Update: As of the July 17 membership report, our overall membership stands at 373,962 - that's 101.68 percent of our membership goal for the year. Again, that's a credit to the concerted efforts at the squadron and detachment levels to bring in new SAL members as well as encouraging existing or lapsed members to renew their membership. Keep it up!



With passion and purpose.

Sincerely,
Christopher Carlton
Sons of The American Legion
National Commander

"Purpose is why we journey; passion is the flame that lights the way."

SAL sets new membership record

The American Legion

AUG 13, 2023

The Sons of The American Legion have set a new record for overall membership.

Through Aug. 10, membership in the SAL was at 375,743 members. The previous record high membership was 375,540, set in 2019.

“This record is a testament to the efforts our squadrons and detachments have made in both bringing in new SAL members and renewing those who have been SAL members in the past,” said SAL National Commander Christopher Carlton. “I’m so pleased that the Sons of The American Legion have come out of the challenges of the pandemic stronger than ever.”

SAL National Membership Committee Chairman Thom Skelley noted there have been numerous records set this year, including the number of Blue Brigade recipients (those with 30 or more newly recruited members), detachments that have achieved an all-time high in membership, detachments that have made 105 percent of their goal and detachments that have made 100 percent of their goal.

“We have four detachments that have earned the prestigious Triple Nickel Award: Colorado, Georgia, Michigan and South Dakota,” Skelley said. “The national report shows that all five regions have already surpassed their 100 percent goal and most impressively, the West Region that has not only achieved 105 percent of their goal, but have every detachment in the region at or above 100 percent.

“On behalf of the National Membership Committee, a huge thank you and congratulations goes out to every member, every squadron and detachment commander and adjutant, each of the five regional chairmen and the national vice commanders for accomplishing these outstanding feats,” Skelley added.

2023 CWF grant amount is an all-time high

The American Legion

AUG 17, 2023

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) awarded 17 grants for a record total of \$797,251 in 2023. It pushed the total amount awarded to over \$20 million since CWF’s inception in 1954.

Grants are awarded to youth-serving nonprofits to support programs, activities and research that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth. Grants are only given to entities that help U.S. children in a large geographic area; they are not awarded for day-to-day or special operating expenses.

Grant guidelines, application and donation information is available at cwf-inc.org.

The Sons of The American Legion are the single largest contributor to CWF, donating over \$9.5 million since 1988.

VETERAN SUICIDE Please publish to the entire Legion Family, thank you.

VETERAN SUICIDES – WE ARE NOT DOING ENOUGH! Slogans don't get it done – walking the talk by actions, attending education sessions, connection with all vets, and combatting homelessness (3x more likely to commit suicide), unemployment, criminal justice involved vets, food insecurity (thanks Mike Schaffer!), identifying and addressing PTSD and all mental health issues, is the path to help our vets. If you want to Be The One, address all these issues, and maybe we'll get it done.

The [2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#) indicated a decrease in Veteran suicides, with 343 fewer Veteran suicides in 2020 than in 2019; even though the Veteran population increased in 2020. The average number of Veteran suicides for 2020 is 16.8 a day. Veteran suicides are still occurring at a higher rate than that of non-Veteran U.S. adults, 31.7 per 100,000 Veteran suicides vs. 16.1 per 100,000 civilian suicides in 2020. While, thankfully, the number is not 22 a day, an average of 17 (16.8) Veteran suicides a day is still too many. But are these numbers all-inclusive and including OD's!

Additionally, suicides in the active-duty military increased in the first three months of 2023 compared to the same time last year, according to a newly released Pentagon report. The Defense Suicide Prevention Office revealed in its quarterly report that the overall number of active-duty suicides, 94, from January through March was up 25% compared to the number of troops, 75, who took their own lives in the first three months of 2022. Data includes all known or suspected suicides (both confirmed and pending) as of March 31, 2023.

The Army had the greatest increase in suicide deaths, from 37 to 49. The Marine Corps increased from eight to 14. The Air Force had one additional suicide compared to 2022 and there was no change for the Navy or Space Force, the Defense Department report states. The 94 active-duty suicides are the most that the military has seen since 97 were reported in the second quarter of 2021. Among reserve troops and the National Guard, the report said suicide figures did not change between the first quarter of 2022 and the same period this year. Pentagon data have shown a rise in military suicides in the past decade, including a significant spike in 2020 during the coronavirus pandemic, and the Defense Department has spent millions of dollars on efforts to try to prevent them. There is still a gradual increasing trend for suicide in the military over a 10-year period, and we need to see a sustained long-term reduction in suicide rates to know if we're really making progress. (Above a partial reprint.)

Come and join our physical efforts, along with the 3 VA Medical Centers serving NJ, 8 veteran service organizations, 2 State agencies, 4 county prosecutors, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and 4 other related organizations to get it done. We Are One, Get Together & Get It (KOVA) Done! Our next education session focusing on Whole Health was on July 13 at VFW Post 3117, 53 National Road, Edison, NJ from 0900 (registration), interactive session from 1000 – 1400. Also stay tuned for our 3rd statewide event, focusing on Whole Health as a “treatment” for suicide and for the entire family, on September 22, 2023, 1700 – 2000, at Allaire Farm, Wall Township, Monmouth County. Veteran suicide is a family affair!

For God and Country,

Bob Looby, Chairman,

Employment, Homeless & Education Committee

KOVA (Keep Our Veterans Alive) Designer

National Employment & Homeless Commission

Past State Commander

The American Legion, Department of New Jersey

908-894-0746



From Greg Shaffer, COTA Chairman – Detachment of New Jersey

To all SAL members:

As you all know I have been assigned to be the C.O.T.A. Chairman this year for the Detachment of New Jersey.

As Chairman, I am putting out a challenge to help raise money for this wonderful organization.

My challenge for each Squadron this year is to donate \$1.00 per member towards C.O.T.A. Can you imagine how much money we would raise?

Please donate what you can. Any amount given will help these children and their families.

You can look on their web site for more information: <https://cota.org>.

Checks should be made out to: Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New Jersey - On the memo line please put – C.O.T.A. Donation and Squadron #____

If you have any questions, please contact me at 201-665-0228, or email me at shiftyshaff@gmail.com.

Please mail the checks to:

*Greg Shaffer
56 Brookdale Road
Wayne, NJ 07470*

Thank you

*Greg Shaffer
C.O.T.A. Chairman
D.E.C. Passaic County*

Meanwhile, at Post 447 in Texas:

National Commander Chris Carlton was the second CWF contestant at the Pie in the Face fundraiser at George Johns Post 447, Round Rock TX.



Highlights from the Detachment Meeting held on 15-July at Brick Post 348:



(Left) Judge Advocate PNVC Gary Nelson (147), Commander Keith Barnes (58), and Adjutant PNVC Tom Marsden (348). (Center) SAL Chairman Tony Gladden (455). (Right) PDCs NEC Bob Phillips Jr. (262), ANEC Henry Hasselhan (311), and Chaplain Matt Thalasinis (232) at the Detachment Meeting at Brick Post 348.

The meeting was called to order in the usual fashion, with an invocation, a Flag Salute, a Moment of Silence, recognition of the POW/MIA Chair, and call to order by Commander Barnes.

Membership Chairman DC Jeff Hicks (526) reported that our Detachment reached the 101% mark, going over the top. The next mark to reach is the 105% mark. We now stand at 9546 Members, 333 short of last year's goal of 10000. Recruitment drives should continue. Membership Cards are in and it's time for renewals.

It was noted that SAL National Vice Chairman Ernie Laberge from Massachusetts attended both days of our Convention.

BE THE ONE will continue to be the Big Thing in the Legion Family. Do your part to save a Veteran.

COTA Chairman Greg Shaffer (174) wants to send a challenge letter to the Squadrons in the hope of \$100 donations from each toward COTA, one of the Legion Family's pet charities.

Legion Night at the Blue Claws will be on July 28, and Veterans from Menlo Park will be guests.

Vet Haven South's 21st Annual Pig Roast will be on July 30, according to Chairman PDC Kent Hehl. It is requested to bring \$25 or \$50 Wawa gift cards for the veterans, and any favorite homemade food dishes. RSVPs are requested.

Special Olympics Chairman PDC Nick Wingler reported that funds raised were \$24K, most from the Polar Bear Plunge. The Detachment alone raised over \$4000.

The Legion Family's Project for 2023-2024 is for the construction of a weatherproof enclosed game area at the Paramus Veterans Home. Legion Commander Bishop, ALA President Knight, and SAL Commander Barnes will head up this joint project, with the goal of an estimated cost of \$25K.

National Emergency Fund Chairman Dean Staknys (348) spoke of the NEF fund being depleted due to aid rendered to areas of New York and Vermont after severe flooding. Funds need to be replenished. Flyers and letters will need to be distributed.

The 2024 Convention in Wildwood will be on June 13-14.

Detachment Vice Commander and POW/MIA Chairman Rich Hodum (166) spoke of the next Watch Fire to be held on Sept 16, and that help is always needed for setup, cleanup, and breaking down the event. Attendance by the Lakewood ROTC and the Silent Drill Team is a possibility.

Even though there was a good turnout of 84 Members for the Basic Course at Legion College this year, Chairman Kent Hehl (84) said to talk up the courses for next year. Those who took the Basic Course are eligible for the Advanced Course next year. Info packets will be out in January.

ANEC and PDC Henry Hasselhan reported that his grandson, Henry 5th, acquired \$900 toward CWF (Child Welfare Fund) at the Convention, and at last count, has now collected \$2500.

SALute and Publicity Chairman Gary Crawford (346) reminded the Members to send news and photos to him at njsalute@gmail.com He reported for the Good of the Sons, that his Post 346 is planning a blood drive (with inspiration from Belleville 105's recent successful blood drive), and that for Memorial Day, almost 1600 flags were placed in six local cemeteries by the 346 Family. He's looking to compile a tally of all flags placed in New Jersey for next year.



National Convention at Charlotte NC, 25-27 August.



(Left) Incoming S.A.L. National Commander 2023-2024 Donald "JR" Hall. He is from Glen Burnie MD Squadron 40.
 (Right) NJ Detachment Keith Barnes receives Detachment Commander's Award.



Distinguished Guest Medal

Commander's Class. NJ Commander Keith Barnes seated fifth from left.



(Left) Incoming 2023-2024 National Officers. (LtoR) Sons of the American Legion Commander Donald "JR" Hall (MD 40), American Legion Auxiliary President Lisa Williamson (AK 57), and American Legion Commander Daniel J Seehafer (WI 157).
 (Right) Delegations from New Jersey and Arizona. NJ Detachment Commander Keith Barnes is third from right.



Belleville Squadron 105 received recognition at the Sons of the American Legion National Convention in Charlotte. They placed first in the membership and recruitment category for Videos of Service for the segment they did on FOX News a few months ago. They also received first place in the Snapshots of Service Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation category for a photo of them visiting and making a donation to Fisher House Bronx, and second in Americanism with a pictures of Second Vice Vinnie and Third Vice Commander Ricky during a flag retirement. They also had a few other pictures shown at the convention hall on the big monitors! Pictured are PDC Mark Natale, 2022-2023 National Commander Chris Carlton, and DEC Rusty Myers from Squadron 105.



6 Yr old Henry Hasselhan 5th (Atco Sq 311) (Pictured with dad Henry 4th) raised \$2,478 for Child Welfare Foundation (CWF). Henry was presented with a Distinguished Guest Medal from CWF Chairman Mark Nave.



Junior SAL and Auxiliary Members show their awards. The Maryland people take to the floor to celebrate Comdr Hall's installation. Commander Keith Barnes, DEC Rusty Myers, and PDC Mark Natale display Snapshot Awards.



(Left) PDC Jeff Hicks was honored and deeply humbled to be bestowed as a Distinguished Guest Medal of the 51st National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion, by National Commander Christopher Carlton. He was awarded for his efforts as a National Assistant Adjutant. (Center)) Brick Squadron 348 was awarded the National Children & Youth Best Regional Report. (Right) Welcome!

COTA Picnic at Rochelle Park Post 170



The COTA Picnic at American Legion Post 170 in Rochelle Park NJ on 6August. Detachment Commander Keith Barnes, SAL Commander Sq 174 Greg Shaffer, Post #1 Commander Richard Palka, Post 170 Auxiliary members Patti Diaz - President, Dale Behnke - Sgt. at Arms, Ardell Amundson - 2nd V. P., Roberta O'Dowd - Past President. It was a wonderful day raising money for The Children's Organ Transplant Association. Thank you to everyone who came out.

Get Started with COTA

The Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) can help remove the financial barriers to a life-saving transplant.

Know Funds are Secure
 COTA funds are not seen as income for transplant families and generally will not jeopardize participation in assistance programs.

COTA owns and administers all fundraising campaign funds. Gifts to COTA are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

The Friend Circle Supporting Transplants... For a Lifetime.
 800.365.7801 • COTA.org/DonorCard • COTAdonors.org

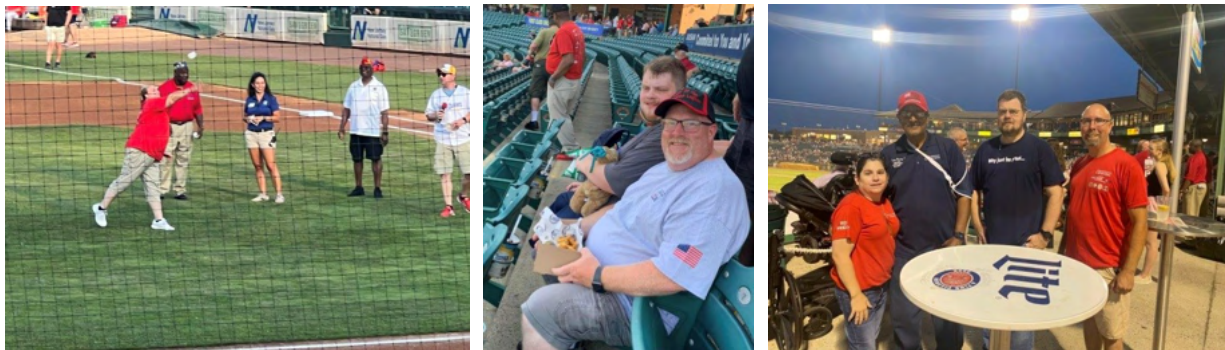
COTA funds may not be seen as income for transplant families. GoFundMe proceeds are considered taxable income by the IRS and may jeopardize participation in assistance programs such as Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security. Do you know someone facing a life-saving transplant who could benefit from COTA's assistance? Get Started with COTA ... For a Lifetime. #COTAHope

www.COTAGetStarted.org

At First Energy Park – Blue Claws on 28July:



(Left) The Color Guard from Brick Post 348 opens the ceremonies. (Center) SAL Commander Keith Barnes throws out a pitch. (Right) NEC Berley Hanna tosses in one.



(Left) ALA President Sharon Knight tries her luck. (Center) Nick and Kieran Wingler enjoy the game. (Nick claims he wasn't eating the fries) (Right) Doreen Gallagher, Victor Murray, Carl Alber, and Mark Natale at the game.



Eight Veterans and four Staff from Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home were our guests at the game.



*Neptune Post 346 Family at **Soldier On** Veterans' Home in Tinton Falls.*



Neptune American Legion Post 346 Family put on a cookout visit with bingo, cornhole, and karaoke on July 23, for the Veterans at **Soldier On** in Tinton Falls. The crew included: LtoR: Nancy Lewis, Linda Savino, Mary Jane Pozarycki, Peggy Bangert (front), Murphy Izquierdo (front), SAL Commander and SALute editor Gary Crawford, ALA PCP MC Boyle, ALA PDP Doreen Gallagher (front), Post Commander and DEC Wil Fetherman, Carol Lundy (ALA 266 Chaplain), PDC Patrick Gallagher, Unit 346 President Amanda Trail, and two resident Veterans. Out of about 60 Veterans, 40 came down to enjoy the visit and something to eat.



Vet Haven South, 30 July



(Left) Legion PDC Steve Fisher, SAL Chm Tony Gladden, SAL Commander Keith Barnes, and PDC Jeff Hicks. (Right) PDC Mike Arner, Past ALA Chaplain Lisa Natale, PDC Steve Fisher, PDC Mark Natale, and ALA Unit 336 President Tier Brittingham.



(Left) Just a “few” Aux ladies were there to help. (Right) Tradition holds that the roast pig is named for the previous Commander. In this case, the pig was called “Mark”.



Tricky Tray at 455:



I just wanna say, "Thank You", to the HIDDEN GEMS at McKaig-Test-Mullen American Legion Post 455, in New Egypt NJ. Yesterday (16July) we held our Annual "Christmas in July" Tricky Tray Event. To say it was a success would be an understatement. The members of MY 455 Legion Family, truly raised the bar again...from Anthony L. Gladden and Frank Landis.

Rahway Cemetery Ceremony honoring US Colored Troops - Civil War Veterans:



The Members Of
James E. Mackie, The American Legion Post 499
Dedicate This Plaque To Commemorate And Honor
UNSUNG HEROES OF THE CIVIL WAR
Listed As The United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.)
Buried In The City Of Rahway's Cemetery

NAME	COMPANY	REG./SHIP	DOB
Aaron, Simon	A	4th	1/10/1860
Dickerson, Charles	A	4th	Unknown
Dickerson, Spence	U.S. Navy	USS Fishless	8/17/1907
Edgar, John H.	A	4th	3/24/1869
Edgar, Mahlon	C	3rd	10/17/1835
Freeman, Ena	H	2nd	1/17/1878
Jackson, George	A	4th	3/19/1869
Jackson, Thomas R.	A	4th	9/2/1867
Jackson, William H.	G	29th	4/29/1816
Lewis, Anderson	B	11th	2/21/1815
McKinnis, Samuel	E	28th	6/13/1883
Parker, James	US Navy	USS Sabina	6/17/1869
Pippenger, Elijah	F	25th	9/17/1895
Randolph, Anthony	K	22nd	4/15/1906
Randolph, Evan C.	H	22nd	9/8/1897
Reeks, Nathaniel	US Navy	Unknown	1/8/1899
Robinson, Joseph C.	H	127th	10/29/1878
Robinson, Samuel L.	A	41st	2/25/1883
Scudder, Thomas B.	F	25th	6/12/1882
Stansburg, Charles	I	25th	2/19/1894
Taylor, Alpheus	K	22nd	3/26/1883
Thomas, William H.	D	41st	1/13/1898
Thompson, Amos	A	127th	Unknown
Thompson, Charles H.	F	25th	3/20/1881
Tunison, Francis	B	29th	1/10/1889
Voories, Jeremiah	US Navy		10/17/1880
White, George A.	F	25th	3/3/1895
Wood, Amos	H	127th	3/13/1881
Wyoff, Charles	D	25th	8/29/1876

Commander Larry Bishop, President Sharon Knight, NEC Berley Hanna, and SAL Commander Keith Barnes at Rahway Cemetery on 21July, in a ceremony hosted by Rahway Post 499 honoring US Colored Troops (USCT) Civil War Veterans. The cemetery, dating to 1724, holds the remains of 70 Revolutionary Soldiers, 299 Civil War Veterans, and 29 USCT members. More info and pictures of the event at TAPintoRAHWAY.com, and the cemetery's history at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/rahway_cemetery.

Snapshots Around the State:



Burlington Post 336 Commander, Ezell Jackson, Jr., Sr. Vice Commander Rosita Jackson, Auxiliary Past County Presidents, current Auxiliary County President and county member of Sons of American Legion staffing the booth at the Burlington County Farm Fair in Columbus NJ 21July.



Officer Installation at Mystic island Post 493.



2024 IS NOW
SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION
RENEW TODAY!!!

Camden County SAL Commander Chuck Ross and Post 262 Member Bill Adam man the table in Audubon 23July.



LtoR: PNVC Tom Marsden, Ocean County DEC Harold Francis, DVC Rich Hodum (in rear), Detachment Commander Keith Barnes, DVC Charles Taylor, PDC Matt Thalasinios, DVC Bill Murphy, and PDC Nick Wingler at the Ocean County Testimonial Cookout at Brick Post 348 22July.



PDC Nick Wingler receiving the 2023 Commanders award from now-Past County Commander Thomas Marsden at the Brick Post's Ocean County Testimonial Cookout.





Belleville 105's Flag Retirement Ceremony on 8July. (Right) Jake Myers salutes.



July 4th at Toms River Post 129.





VetDog Fundraiser at Wayne Post 174. (Center) Commander Mike Smith holds flag seat back donation. (Right) Mayor Vergano with Post Commander Mike Smith and SAL Commander Greg Shaffer.

Suicide Walk, Merchantville NJ, 23-June

"22 a day is 22 too many"

7th annual PTSD/Suicide Awareness Walk. Sarge's "22" Challenge - Walk to bring awareness to Veteran suicide in Merchantville, sponsored by Post 68. Legion Family Members from all over South Jersey took part in the event.



(Left) Marchers listen to remarks about the Walk.

(Right) Marchers and workers pose for a group photo.



Post 68 leads the Walk. (Center) Detachment NEC Bob Phillips Jr. carries a flag. (Right) 262 SAL Commander Chuck Ross and Chaplain Marty Widmer present a \$200 donation to Past Commander John Brouse for Sarge's "22" Challenge - Walk to bring awareness to Veteran suicide.

HIGHPOINT - 25 June



Department Commander Larry Bishop and Detachment Commander Keith Barnes address the attendees.



Immediate Detachment Past Commander Mark Natale speaks. ALA Department President Sharon Knight addresses those attending.

Commemorating Veterans of all wars, the High Point Monument dedication reads "To The Glory and Honor and Eternal Memory of New Jersey's heroes by land, sea, and air, in all wars of our Country."

The view from the highest point in New Jersey, at 1,803 feet above sea level, is a spectacular panorama of three states; New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

The monument is an additional 220 feet tall, with 291 steps leading to the highest viewing platform at the top.



The SAL Crew: (LtoR): PDC Carl Alber Jr., PDC Mark Natale, ANEC/PDC Henry Hasselhan, Commander Keith Barnes, NEC/PDC Bob Phillips Jr., SAL Chairman Tony Gladden, and Sgt-at-Arms Darryl Cunningham. (Right) Squadron 174 Commander and DEC Greg Shaffer (center) waits for his turn to read a passage from “In Flanders Fields”.



Commander Keith Barnes, President Sharon Knight, and Commander Larry Bishop after placing wreaths at the base of the High Point Monument.

346 Family At Ocean Grove's July 4th Parade:



July 4th parade in Ocean Grove with Neptune 346's Color Guard. (Left) Bill Szczytko, Captain Paul Hulse, and John Skislak. (Right) Greg Thompkins, Mike Kennedy, Capt. Paul Hulse, Dan Sanford, Bill Szczytko, Paul Williams, and John Skislak.

At The 105:



On 1-July, Post 105 hosted New York Blood Center's blood drive. Donors wore their red blood drop stickers.



**Sons of the
American Legion
Squadron 105**

★ 'The Belleville Briefing' ★
Email updates from the 105

On 2-July, the 105 crew visited Caldwell Post 185. News from Post and Squadron 105. Go to their Facebook Page to sign up: <https://www.facebook.com/SAL105NJ/>



105 in the news.



Belleville's July 4th celebration at the Old Dutch Reformed Church.





Commanders Towjoe and Steve enjoying the party. Santa entertaining the kids, and some of the goodies.



Puddle? Did someone say Puddle???



Santa and some of the kids.

Here are just a few pictures of our American Legion 105 Family 'Christmas in July' event on July 16th. Through this event, we raised thousands of dollars to fund our Christmas Coat and Toy Drive, helping out local families and doing our part to help make a [#BetterBelleville](https://www.facebook.com/SAL105NJ). Thank you to all the vets, Sons, ALA's, and friends who took part in everything from the planning, fundraising, and execution of the event. Job well done! (See the whole picture collection on SAL 105's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SAL105NJ>)



June 14th Flag Day at Post 331:



American Legion Post 331 honors Flag Day with Expanded Public Event

For the first time this year, the Stephen C. Ludlam Post 331 of The American Legion teamed up with the Middle Township Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps of Cadets and their instructor, US Coast Guard veteran LCDR Susan Blood, for the June 14th Flag Day ceremony in Stone Harbor. The day's events kicked off with a medley of patriotic music followed by welcoming remarks by Commander Tom McCullough. The key events of the day were The American Legion's unserviceable flag disposal ceremony, a narrated flag folding demonstration by the cadets, and the installation of Post, Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion (S.A.L.) officers by Department of New Jersey Executive Committee member, Joe Bisbing. The Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets were a key element of the day's program. During the flag folding demonstration, Cadet Bernat described the importance and meaning of each fold of the flag. The cadets also provided a color guard for the ceremony. The participating Middle Township high school cadets were: Aleida Bernat, Brett Mikołajczyk, Tatyanna Moffitt-Ivens, Robert Walker, and Philip Woodrow. The National Anthem was sung by Bob Rullo, Post 331 Finance Officer. Post 331 is located at 117th St and 2d Ave in Stone Harbor, NJ and is home for Avalon and Stone Harbor veterans while servicing veterans' needs throughout Cape May County.



July 4th at Audubon:



Murray-Troutt Post Family 262 in Audubon's 4th of July Parade.

8-July at the Carranza Memorial:



At the Carranza Memorial Ceremony on 9-June: LtoR: Detachment Vice Commander Charles Taylor II, PNVC Tom Marsden, Detachment Vice Commander Bill Murphy, Detachment Vice Commander Rich Hodum, Detachment Commander Keith Barnes, NEC Bob Phillips Jr., PDC Jeff Hicks, Detachment Sgt-at-Arms Darryl Cunningham, PDC Bob Bascou, PDC Mark Natale, Southampton Sq. 526 Commander Thomas Viscuso, Burlington County DEC Barry Conaway, and PDC Carl Alber Jr.

For a background story on Emilio Carranza, see Mount Holly Post 11's website: <https://www.post11.org/carranza.html>

The 96th Annual Capt. Emilio Carranza Memorial Service is over and Mother Nature cooperated by holding off with the downpour until well after the Ceremony. There were so many Speakers, Mexican Diplomats, Politicians and Township representatives that placed wreaths on the Monument. Notable Mentions were our friend Senator Jean Stanfield, Mt. Holly Township Council Women's Tara Astor and Kim Butkus, the Lovely Ladies of the Ballet Folklorico Mexicano en Nueva York, Luis Lopez, and a host of Service Organizations like the Free and Accepted Masons!



New Jersey's Veteran Resource Center. Programs, Events, so much more: <https://nj.gov/military/outreach/notices/20230703.html>

‘RAGS – WAR HERO’ (Inscription on his monument).

Rags (c. 1916 – March, 1936) was a mixed breed terrier who became the U.S. 1st Infantry Division's dog mascot in WW1.

He was adopted into the 1st Division in July, 1918, in the Montmartre section of Paris, France. Rags remained its mascot until his death in Washington, D.C., in March, 1936.

He learned to run messages between the rear headquarters and the front lines, and provided early warning of incoming shells. Rags achieved great notoriety and celebrity war dog fame when he saved many lives in the Meuse-Argonne Campaign by delivering a vital message despite being bombed, gassed and partially blinded.

His adopted owner and handler, Private James Donovan, was seriously wounded and gassed, and returned to a military hospital in the United States.

Members of the 1st Division smuggled Rags by train and ship from Brest in France to Fort Sheridan in Chicago. He accompanied James Donovan, who was placed in the Fort Sheridan Base Hospital, which specialized in gas cases. Rags made his home at the base firehouse and was given a collar with a tag that identified him as 1st Division Rags.

In early 1919, James Donovan died and Rags became the post dog, living in the firehouse and eating at various mess halls that he carefully selected. He was watched over by a number of soldiers on the post.

Rags was adopted by the family of Major Raymond W. Hardenbergh in 1920, moving with them through several transfers, until in Fort Hamilton, New York, he was reunited with members of the 18th Infantry Regiment who had known him in France. Rags was presented with a number of medals and awards.



In addition to his message-carrying skills in France during WW1, Rags had a number of other unique behaviors.

When Rags was first in the front lines and came under shellfire, he simply imitated the men around him who would drop to the ground and hug it tightly. Before long, the soldiers observed Rags hugging the ground with his paws spread out before anyone heard the sound of an incoming round.

The men soon realized that Rags' acute and sensitive hearing was telling him when the shells were coming well before they could hear them. The doughboys learned to keep their eyes on Rags, and he became an early-warning system for artillery shell fire.

During a rest period behind the lines, James Donovan taught Rags a method of dog saluting that Rags would use for the rest of his military life. Instead of extending his paw out to shake hands, as most dogs were taught, Rags would raise his paw a bit higher and close to his head.

For many years afterward, Rags would appear at the flag pole at various military bases for the retreat ceremony. As the flag was lowered and the bugle played, Rags could be seen saluting with the assembled troops. He was observed doing this at Forts Sheridan and Hamilton.

Another lifelong activity was Rags' daily tour of whatever army base at which he was living. Early on, he would identify the mess halls with the best food and most hospitable staff. He would visit them each day for treats, and most had a special water bowl placed out for him.

Rags died in March 1936, aged 20 years and was buried with military honors, and a monument was erected at the Aspin Hill Memorial Park in Silver Spring, Maryland near the Hardenbergh home.

Lest We Forget.

The “Jody” Cadence / Duckworth Chant, later known as the “Sound Off”

In 1944, at Ft. Slocum, N.Y., Duckworth, an ordinary buck private from Sandersville, Georgia, authored one of the most popular marching cadences in military history. At first, it was known as the "Duckworth Chant." It later gained fame as "Sound Off".

Sound Off

Ain't no use in goin' home
Jody's got your gal and gone
Ain't no use in feeling blue
Jody's got your sister, too.

Sound Off - One Two.

Sound Off - Three Four.

With those words, Willie Lee Duckworth made the journey from foot soldier to footnote in military history.



The monument to Willie Lee is located at the Washington County Courthouse Veterans Memorial, Sandersville GA 31082.

From the InfoAge “MARCONIGRAPH” newsletter:

We Got the RC12 Guardrail Aircraft - FINALLY!!!

The journey that started in 2020 and moved at a snail's pace for several years broke into a gallop in the past month as all the pieces finally came together!! A special thanks goes to the Garden State and Susquehanna Chapters of the Association of Old Crows (AOC) for their financial support, a great number of people at Lakehurst, and Jacob Bauer at US Army TACOM. Special thanks goes to the folks who made it all happen in less than five weeks!! This included Kevin Rembach from Lakehurst NAS, Kevin Warwick from Airtrex Aviation and the Warwick Company, Scott Snyder of Pedowitz Machinery Movers, Peter Rawson of Rawson Aviation Services, Vlad Kowaliwskyj and Larry Singer and others from the AOC. Still a lot to do to make this a wonderful exhibit of the great work done at Camp Evans!! We'll have a follow up article in our next newsletter. Stay tuned!!!

By John Cervini, photos by Dan Jacobs

We received a new resident: A US Army RC12 airplane. The aircraft was used in Airborne Signal Intelligence (SIGINT), part of the Army's CECOM Flight Activity, once based in Fort Monmouth before being relocated to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. Up to three of these craft would be used to intercept RF emissions to locate possible enemy signals. They had seen use in Germany and on the DMZ of Korea, and also saw wide use in Afghanistan and Iraq. They had been by far the most efficient and cost effective operation in the second half of the 20th Century, according to The InfoAge Science Center in Wall NJ, on the site of the former US Army Signal Corps Camp Evans, recently to the Department of Defense (DOD).

These aircraft, the military version of the civilian Beechcraft 365, were used since 1971 and recently retired in favor of newer equipment, now in use in Lithuania. This aircraft became surplus after use in testing emergency tech payloads. Stored at Lakehurst, the Army donated the craft to InfoAge.

It was transported without wings to Infoage on a lowboy tractor trailer and placed onto a pad for display. The wings were hastily reinstalled by volunteers.

Fundraising had raised some \$20,000 for transportation and restoration, but had fallen short of the needed amount of approximately \$30,000. The fundraising continues.

Further information of the acquisition of the RC12, as well as the host of other museums at InfoAge, can be found at their website www.infoage.org. Located in Wall Township, the former US Army Signal Corps Camp Evans is conveniently located off Exit 7 of NJ Route 18.



Unloaded and going back together.

Civilian version of the Beechcraft 365.

Upcoming Events:

Every Mon-Fri 4-7, Sat-Sun 12-6, Military Pantry Food Drive, Wayne ALA 174.

Every Friday: Friday Night Fish Fry 7 pm, DJ 8 pm, Neptune SAL 266.

Every Third Friday: "What The Cluck Wings", West Milford SAL 289.

Sep 02: Cornhole Tournament, Audubon Post 262.

Sep 02: Pancake Breakfast, Stone Harbor Post 331.

Sep 02: Seafood and Clam Bake, Leonardo SAL 338.

Sep 04: Labor Day Open Mic and BBQ, Belleville Post 105.

Sep 04: Labor Day Fundraiser – Food Music Fun, Lakewood SAL and Post 166.

Sep 06: Auxiliary Dinner, West Milford Post 289.

Sep 08: Chicken Fry Festival, Leonardo ALA 338.

Sep 09: "It's Time For Swine" Cookout, Wayne SAL 174.

Sep 09: Annual Jeep Show, Cherry Hill Post 372.

Sep 09: Special Needs Kids Barbeque, Brick VFW 8867.

Sep 10: Spaghetti Dinner by Stone Harbor Post 331 to benefit Vet Haven South, Stone Harbor Yacht Club.

Sep 10: 33rd Annual Pig Roast, Brick Post 348.

Sep 11: September 11th Memorial Ceremony, Neptune Post 346.

Sep 13: Meet & Greet, Little Ferry ALA 310.

Sep 15: POW / MIA Ceremony, Neptune Post 346.

Sep 15-16: National POW/MIA 24 Hour Vigil, All Veterans Memorial, Budd Lake.

Sep 15-16: POW / MIA 24 Hour Vigil, Metuchen Memorial Park.

Sep 16: Annual POW / MIA Watchfire, Seaside Heights.

Sep 16: Family Picnic, Metuchen Post 65.

Sep 16: Annual Picnic, Belleville Post 105.

Sep 16: 4th Annual Rubber Duck Race, Spotswood Post 253.

Sep 16: Comedy Show, Union Beach SAL 321.
 Sep 16: Horseshoe Tournament, Magnolia Post 370.
 Sep 17: Breakfast Buffet, Wayne Post 174.
 Sep 17: Blood Drive, Audubon Post 262.
 Sep 20-24: NJ Run For The Fallen.
 Sep 22: Pizza Night, Little Ferry SAL 310.
 Sep 22: South Jersey Stand Down, Army National Guard Armory, Cherry Hill.
 Sep 23: Detachment Meeting, Magnolia SAL 370.
 Sep 24: Flea Market, Belleville ALA 105.
 Sep 24: Pat Raabe Memorial Run 2023, Franklin Riders Post 132 & Branchville Riders Post 157.
 Sep 24: John Basilone Parade, Raritan Boro.
 Sep 30: Open Mic Nite, Neptune Post 266.
 Sep 30: Nickel Auction, Leonardo ALA 338.
 Oct 07: Shuffleboard Tournament, Wharton Post 91.
 Oct 07: 17th Annual Kenny's Clam Lovers' BBQ, Lyndhurst SAL 139.
 Oct 07: Annual Shitt's Creek Hog Fest & Motorcycle Rodeo, Blackwood Riders Post 281.
 Oct 07: 8th Annual "Bikers For Boobies" Go-Go Bar Poker Run, Leave from Union Beach Post 321.
 Oct 08: Steak & Whiskey w/ a Stogie, Little Egg Harbor Riders Post 493.
 Oct 14: Oktoberfest, Barnegat Riders Post 232.
 Oct 14: Oktoberfest, Cherry Hill Post 372.
 Oct 15: 23rd Annual "Ride for the Vets", Somers Point Riders Post 352.
 Oct 21: Paint & Sip Fundraiser, Audubon ALA 262.
 Oct 24: Official Visit of Aux President Sharon Knight, New Egypt ALA and Post 455.
 Oct 26: NJ Veteran's Housing Symposium, Stockton University's Atlantic City Campus.

Having an event? Let us know at njSALute@gmail.com.

Contributors:

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 Audubon Post, SAL, and ALA 262
 Stone Harbor Post 331
 Neptune Post and SAL 346
 Brick Post and SAL 348
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