



The New Jersey

SALute

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

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January 2022

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

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Commander | Henry F. Hasselhan |
| Vice Commander | Keith Barnes |
| Vice Commander | Richard Hodum |
| Vice Commander | Mark Natale |
| Vice Commander | Steve Sangemino |
| Vice Commander | Gregory Shaffer |
| Adjutant | PNVC Thomas Marsden |
| Finance Officer | PDC C. David Page |
| Chaplain | PDC Matthew Thalasio |
| Judge Advocate | PDC John "Jay" Gillman |
| Historian | PDC Nicholas Wingler |
| Nat Exec Comm | PDC Len Free |
| Alt Nat Exec Comm | PDC Robert Phillips Jr |
| SAL Chairman | Anthony Gladden |



For God and Country

Commander's Corner

Greetings Fellow Sons:

Well, by this time we all thought Covid would be done but again it has reared its ugly head. Hopefully everyone is well and coping with the difficulties this pandemic brings.

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. Now we are less than 50% of that number. We need all hands on deck to revive our Membership. I am encouraging all Sons to speak to our former Members to pay 2022 Dues. Without these Sons our programs will suffer.

Empower all of your Members to participate in your activities.

Encourage them to step up take a committee or office - you never know where it might lead. I was very reluctant to take on the position of Squadron Commander to reactivate my Squadron. After at least 4 Legion Commanders asked, I reluctantly said yes but I didn't want to get involved. Now look - I'm the Detachment Commander. I was very hesitant to move up from the Squadron, but got involved in the County, then the Detachment, each time hesitantly saying yes.

Step up - you may enjoy the challenges that await you and open more opportunities to better our organization and yourself.

Let's go over the top!!!

Contact Membership Chairman Robert Phillips Jr for assistance:
bpjrsal@gmail.com.

For God and Country,

Henry F. Hasselhan

Commander, Detachment of New Jersey

We regret to announce the passing of Past Detachment Commander Duane Conant and Past Detachment Vice Commander Ed Downs. We extend our condolences to their families as our comrades enter Detachment Everlasting.

Have you done a Buddy Check lately? Give them a call, a text, an email, or stop by to see how they're doing. How about snow removal? Not everyone has made it through these trying times with flying colors. We look out for each other.



New Jersey Transit getting into the act with their Armed Forces ALP45 locomotive #4502.

Betty White Honored by US Army

Beloved actress and comedian Betty White, who passed away on Dec 31, 2021, just short of her 100th birthday, was honored by the US Army for her service during World War Two. Putting her modeling career on hold, she joined the American Women's Voluntary Service in 1941 and served driving trucks supplying the PXs in and around the Hollywood Hills. The AWVS sent volunteers to serve in firefighting, ambulance and truck driving, and aerial photography. We salute Veteran Betty White.



Save the Dates

Save the Date

Testimonial Dinner
honoring
Dept of NJ Commander
Daniel Dunn
Sunday, April 24, 2022
at the
Grand Marquis, 1550 Route 9 South, Old Bridge





SUNDAY March 13, 2022 1pm - 5pm

THE GRAYCLIFF
290 MOONACHIE AVE MOONACHIE NJ

BERGEN COUNTY DINNER DANCE
Commander President S AL Commander
Sophia Dmoch Audrey Jantzen Keith Barnes

Please make checks payable to:
Bergen County American Legion Dinner Dance
Ear mark...Bergen County Dinner Dance

Mail to: Mike Carroll 234 Forest Ave, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Name: _____
Title: _____
Post/Unit/Squadron: _____

DEADLINE FEBRUARY 27, 2022

Reservation only
Amount \$ 55.00

Linda & Mike Carroll
201-933-1814

Cancer Link, Private & Public Social
Classical
Printed 10/11/2021 10:00 AM
Bergen County American Legion Dinner Dance
Bergen County American Legion Dinner Dance
Bergen County American Legion Dinner Dance
Bergen County American Legion Dinner Dance

All items
Full Page \$25.00
Half Page \$12.50
Quarter Page \$6.25
Estimate \$1.00 per name \$1.00 per month

The Commander's Project

Dear Squadrons and Members,

Detachment Commander Henry Hasselhan has decided to team up with American Legion Department Commander Daniel Dunn and Auxiliary Department President Jane Babli for a joint project helping our Veterans which is one of the Four Pillars of the American Legion Family. See below for a description of the project.

Any donations from Squadrons or individuals will be greatly appreciated and will be sent a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the Commander and myself. This project is what we do as an American Legion Family, helping Veterans who are in need.

Please make all donations payable to: **Detachment of N.J.**

and send to: **Detachment Commander Project, PO Box 2095, Cliffside Park NJ 07010**

Or you can come to a Detachment meeting and present it to the Commander personally. Commander Hasselhan and I will be traveling throughout the state and you can present it to us anytime. Please **DO NOT** send donations to Department Headquarters in Trenton as you may not get recognized and your donation could get mixed up with something else.

Thank you in advance for your donation and we are looking forward to seeing all of you this year.

For God and Country,

Henry F. Hasselhan, Detachment Commander

Gary P. Nelson, Detachment Commander's Project Chairman

Department Commander Daniel Dunn - 2021-2022 Legion Family Project

*\$18,000 for additional flag poles at all five Veterans' homes and General Doyle Cemetery. The 2 new poles will be for the addition of the Space Force and the National Guard.

*\$20,000 for a service dog through *Rebuilding Warriors* to assist a veteran with physical or mental needs.

*\$25,100 to Hoboken Post 107 Veteran Housing expansion project.

*\$15,000 Suicide Awareness funding.

*\$10,000 Homeless Veterans Fund.

*\$10,000 *View Clix* for Menlo Park Veterans Home. twenty residents will receive the 15.6 inch display that is an easy way for seniors to keep connected to family and friends through video calls and photos.


*\$5,000 Veterans Haven South for Library and Craft supplies.

*\$25,000 Will go to the sustainability of the new 501(c)(3) Legion Family Fund.

I will be asking to raise a total of \$128,100 for the Legion Family Project. Many of the funds will be dedicated to helping Veterans in need and suicide awareness which we feel go hand in hand. By working together with our Legion Family, we will be able to accomplish a lot of great things the way that our organization has always done.



New Jersey's Membership Totals as of 20-Jan-2022 are at 51%.



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

JANUARY 21, 2022

TO: NATIONAL OFFICERS, DETACHMENT COMMANDERS & ADJUTANTS
FROM: ANTHONY W. WRIGHT (PA), NATIONAL ADJUTANT
SUBJECT: 60% - MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE

“ CONGRATULATIONS ”

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS SO FAR THIS MEMBERSHIP YEAR. OUR STANDINGS AS OF OUR **60%** MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE (1-20-2022) ARE POSTED BELOW:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 2022 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: | 356,725 |
| TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: | 239,219 |
| PERCENTAGE OF GOAL: | 67.06% |
| DETACHMENTS MAKING GOAL: | 41 |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| ALABAMA | GEORGIA | LOUISIANA | MONTANA | OKLAHOMA | TENNESSEE |
| ARKANSAS | HAWAII | MAINE | NEBRASKA | OREGON | UTAH |
| CALIFORNIA | IDAHO | MARYLAND | NEVADA | PENNSYLVANIA | VERMONT |
| CONNECTICUT | ILLINOIS | MASSACHUSETTS | NEW HAMPSHIRE | PUERTO RICO | WEST VIRGINIA |
| DELAWARE | INDIANA | MICHIGAN | NORTH CAROLINA | RHODE ISLAND | WISCONSIN |
| DIST. OF COL. | IOWA | MINNESOTA | NORTH DAKOTA | SOUTH CAROLINA | WYOMING |
| FLORIDA | KANSAS | MISSOURI | OHIO | SOUTH DAKOTA | |

GREAT JOB!!

THE REMAINING DETACHMENTS SHOULD ACHIEVE THIS MEMBERSHIP GOAL SOON!

NEXT SCHEDULED RENEWAL NOTICE MAILED: **JANUARY 28, 2022** (2ND OF 3)

NEXT MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE: **FEBRUARY 9, 2022** (75%)

RENEWAL IS THE KEY TO MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS

MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Remind our delinquent Members that their dues are required to maintain their Membership in the Sons.

From SAL National Commander Michael C. Fox



RESOLVE TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP, SUPPORT VETERANS IN 2022

Dear Sons of The American Legion,

I hope your year is off to a great start. And I hope that you're having success in keeping up with your New Year's resolutions. I am sure many of you have renewed your resolve to show unwavering support for our veterans.

One of the ways we as Sons of The American Legion can show our support is through our membership. The 60% membership target date is coming up on January 20; please make sure you've renewed your own membership and continue to reach out to those who are eligible for SAL membership who may not have joined or renewed.

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.

Yours in Service,

Michael Fox

National Commander

Leadership Through Action, Not Through Position

[#SALSTRONG](#)

Flying Flags for Heroes – Every Day is Memorial Day



Join our Crusade to place One Million Flags

Check out Flying Flags for Heroes' informative website: <https://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com/>

One of SAL National Commander Michael C. Fox's Year Projects is to place ONE MILLION American Flags on the graves of Veterans. Not just for Memorial Day, but anytime during the year.

Detachment of NJ Commander Henry Hasselhan feels that any Flag placed, by any group or individual, on the grave of a Veteran "counts" toward Commander Fox's project. Many American Legion Posts already decorate the graves of Veterans in time for every Memorial Day ("Decorate" is the proper military term for placing Flags on graves. Memorial Day was formerly called Decoration Day for this reason).

This is an annual project for many Posts, Squadrons, Auxiliary Units, and individual Members of the Legion Family, as well as other organizations such as the Scouts, church groups, police, fire, and first aid departments, and others.

Commander Hasselhan wishes to step up this project to join Commander Fox, on a national basis, to place ONE MILLION American Flags on the graves of Veterans.

There was a question concerning some cemeteries that don't allow decorating the graves until just before Memorial Day. Many of these cemeteries are of the "Memorial Park" type, with graves marked by flat lawn-level stones or bronze markers. It is suggested to approach the cemetery officials and place the Flags in some sort of ceremony, and then remove them.

As a nationwide project, this can only remind people of the importance and remembrance of our military Veterans – our Heroes. Every Flag placed "counts" toward this one million mark.

PDC and ANEC Bob Phillips Jr. is heading up this project on the New Jersey level. Please send updates and pictures to him at bpjrsal@gmail.com.

Around the State



Commander Henry dropped by to check out very successful Toy Drive at Belleville Sq. 105, with Rusty Myers and Steve Sangemino.



Jay Gillman, Santa, and Tom Marsden at the Dec Detachment meeting and Ugly Sweater Contest.



Len Free and his Ugly Sweater.



Rich Hodum, Greg Shaffer, and Keith Barnes. Keith won for Ugliest "Christmas Tree" Sweater.



SALute Editor Gary Crawford presents a check from Neptune Sq. 346 to Commander Henry toward his Commander's Project at Post 346's annual Egg Nog Sunday holiday party. Doreen Gallagher from Aux Unit 346 also presented a check to Henry. He brought along a friend in a red suit who looked suspiciously like him.

Belleville Post and Squadron 105

Wreaths Across America Program



At Glendale Cemetery, Belleville



At St. Paul's Cemetery, Belleville



At Brigadier General William Doyle Cemetery.



DEC Rusty Myers salutes his uncle's grave.



Just some of the volunteers who came to help place wreaths at General Doyle Cemetery.



(Left) Camden County Commander Myron Jones along with Commander's Aide Henry V, with trash cans donated to the Home of The Brave. Pictured with the manager and a resident of the home. (Right) Pres Jane Babli, Dept Cmdr Dan Dunn, and Detach Cmdr Henry Hasselhan with Aide Henry V welcome PFC Daniel Matson Jr. He and his father, Daniel Sr., were issued their Legion Membership cards in Murray-Troutt Post 262 by Commander Dunn.



Cmdr Henry and Pres Jane at Veterans' Haven South helping out feeding the residents a nice holiday meal.



SALute Editor Gary Crawford and Veterans' Haven North staffer Ron Smith with donations. PDC Patrick Gallagher drove and took the picture.



Crawford's grandson Murphy helped load donations at Neptune Post 346 for Veterans' Haven North.



Proud Possessors...

Of a Priceless Heritage...



Another look at the Legion Family and interested volunteers in action, in line for wreaths at Brigadier General William Doyle Cemetery.

The Four Chaplains Service

The Four Chaplains Service at the Lakehurst Cathedral of the Air is scheduled for February 6th, 2022, at 2 pm. All Legion Family members are welcome to attend. Located at County Rte. 547 & Lakehurst Whitesville Rd. Manchester, NJ 08759. *Masks must be worn inside the cathedral.*



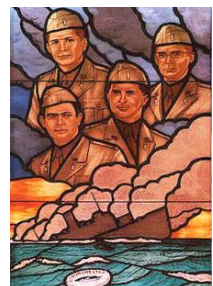
(LtoR) The Four Chaplains: Rev. George Lansing Fox, Rabbi Alexander David Goode, Rev. Clark Vandersall Poling, and Father John Patrick Washington.

(Read the whole story): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Chaplains#George_Lansing_Fox

The **Four Chaplains**, also referred to as the "**Immortal Chaplains**" or the "**Dorchester Chaplains**", were four World War II chaplains who died rescuing civilian and military personnel as the American troop ship SS *Dorchester* sank on February 3, 1943. The *Dorchester* was a civilian liner converted for military service in World War II as a War Shipping Administration troop transport. She was able to carry slightly more than 900 military passengers and crew.

The ship left New York on January 23, 1943, enroute to Greenland, carrying approximately 900 others, as part of a convoy of three ships escorted by Coast Guard Cutters *Tampa*, *Escanaba*, and *Comanche*. During the early morning hours of February 3 the vessel was torpedoed by the German submarine *U-223* off Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. The chaplains helped the other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

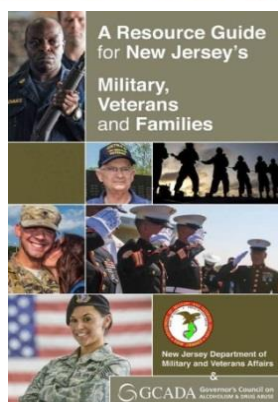
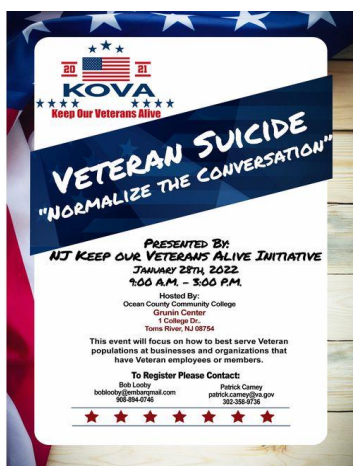
The impact of the chaplains story was deep, with many memorials and coverage in the media. Each of the four chaplains was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart. The chaplains were nominated for the Medal of Honor, but were found ineligible as they had not engaged in combat with the enemy. Instead, Congress created a medal for them, with the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.



(LtoR) The Dorchester, the Four Chaplains' Medal, 3cent stamp (1948), stained glass at the Pentagon.

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

Neptune Post 346 - \$8 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.





Bergen County Sons of the American Legion is doing a fundraiser to raise money for Veterans programs. Big Bee Family pins. \$5.00 per pin. Support and show your BC pride. See Lenny Free for purchase. Checks payable to BCSAL mail to Lenny Free...memo Big Bee pin.

For those who need a Refresher Course...

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.



Naval Weapons Station Earle Railroad

By Gary S. Crawford

Motorists crossing the double-tracked Naval Weapons Station Earle Railroad at several locations between Colts Neck and Leonardo, including the Garden State Parkway and Route 18, probably don't know the significance of this obscure rail line.

The 15 mile double-track railroad and parallel two-lane Normandy Road were constructed in the early 1940s to link the sprawling naval weapons station at Colts Neck (known as "Mainside") with the pier into Raritan Bay at Leonardo ("Waterside"). The railroad began operations in November 1943, in time to supply ships involved in the crucial World War Two invasion of Normandy. Over the years the railroad has moved ordnance and supplies to ships bound for the Korean, Vietnam, and subsequent actions right up to the present day.

Part of the right of way of the Earle rail line north of Red Bank was built on the former roadbed of the Raritan & Delaware Bay RR, once running from a Port Monmouth pier to Red Bank and south. This was the second rail line entering Monmouth County, opening in 1860, connecting with passenger ferries from Brooklyn and Manhattan. (The Freehold & Jamesburg Agricultural Railroad, running between namesake towns, was the first rail line into Monmouth County, opening in 1853).

The entire Earle Railroad comprises some 134 miles of track, including two classification yards in the Colts Neck area as well as spur tracks to ordnance storage areas and bunkers. Also located at the larger Mainside yard is the rail connection to the outside world, linking to the Conrail Shared Assets Southern Secondary Track, formerly the Central RR of NJ Southern Division. The connection is right beneath the Route 33-34 overpass located at Collingwood Auction at the Wall and Howell Township border. Although little used today, inbound rail traffic was once quite busy. Most of the freight and ordnance movements now transport via highway trucks.

There had once been a secondary outside rail connection at Leonardo, where the Central RR of NJ's Seashore Branch crossed under the Earle line. Although rarely used, it did see occasional service.

Rail service at Earle today consists of six active locomotives moving a fleet of white-painted US Navy freight cars - four locomotives at the ready at any given time, coupled in pairs. Trains run six days a week, with Sundays as needed. Freight cars include 40 and 50-foot ordnance box cars, box cars for general freight and food, tank cars for potable water and tank cars for sewage, and flat cars, transporting any and every item needed aboard the ships.

Railroad operations are a small part of activities on site. The station is located on 17 square miles of pine forest. Mainside is interspersed with munitions bunkers, industrial facilities, personnel support and housing, and administrative offices. At the other end, at Waterside, there are maintenance and recreational facilities, along with a 2.9 mile rail and road trestle into Raritan Bay. At the end of the trestle are Piers 2, 3, and 4. The trestle and piers were built in the mid-1990s, replacing the original trestle and Pier 1.

The railroad and parallel Normandy Road north of the weapons station are government property and off limits to the public. The road is patrolled constantly and fines for unauthorized use are steep, especially with today's heightened security. Trains today are escorted by military police vehicles, making sure the rail and road crossings are secure.

Several railroad historical societies jointly sponsored rail passenger excursions on the NWS Earle Railroad in 2000. Using restored long distance passenger cars owned by the societies, the cars were delivered to Earle via the Southern Division connection at Collingwood with Earle's locomotives providing the power for the fan trips. Two trips each on June 24 and 25, 2000, took hundreds of passengers from Mainside to Waterside and out to the ends of the piers and return. Plenty of photo opportunities were given to camera bugs among the riders. One private run was made for Navy families living on the facility. Earlier very rare fan trips over the Earle Railroad included the Earle Rambles of 1981.



With today's security issues, it is doubtful that any civilian activities at Earle will ever happen again. Those who had an opportunity to ride the NWS Earle Railroad will long remember the rare treat it was to see the inside of NWS Earle and its operations.

The facility was named for Rear Admiral Ralph Earle, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance during World War One.



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.

As always, let us know what is 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.
NVC Gary P. Nelson, Elmwood Park Sq. 147.
PDC Patrick Gallagher, Neptune Sq. 346.
PDP Doreen Gallagher, Neptune Unit 346.
PDC Carl Alber Jr., Neptune Sq. 346.
PNVC Thomas Marsden, Brick Sq. 348.

DVC Mark Natale, Leonardo Sq. 338.
DVC Greg Shaffer, Wayne Sq. 174.
DEC Rusty Myers, Belleville Sq. 105.
1stDVP Colleen Breen-Lopez, Totowa Unit 227.
Audubon / Murray-Troutt Post and Sq. 262.
Bergen County SAL

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...