



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

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Vice Commander	Keith Barnes
Vice Commander	Richard Hodum
Vice Commander	William Murphy
Vice Commander	Stephen Sangemino
Vice Commander	(Open)
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Sgt-at-Arms Emeritus	Anthony Liberatore
SAL Chairman	Anthony Gladden
SALute Editor	Gary S. Crawford



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!

TO ALL OUR VETERANS...THANK YOU!

In This Issue...

Messages from Commander Mark Natale, National Commander Chris Carlton, Dept. Commander Steve Fisher.

Thank You From COTA.

A Future National Commander From New Jersey?

Legion Family Hurricane Relief to Florida.

Activities Around The State.

Upcoming Events.

For God and Country,

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

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From the Editor:

Normally, **The NJ SALute** is published quarterly, with a special election edition at Convention. Well, so much has gone on since October that fitting it all into a Spring issue would be impractical. (Christmas pictures in March?) So here's the 2023 New Year edition. It is heartening to see all the activities our Squadrons, Counties, and Detachment, as well as the entire NJ Legion Family, have been involved with, unlike those dreary lean years of Covid and the limitations placed on most everything we would normally be doing. We rolled up our sleeves and decided to get things going again, and we did.

The Spirit of the Sons lives on! New Jersey S.A.L. rocks!

Happy New Year and may 2023 be a great one for us all. - Gary Crawford (346), editor **The NJ Salute**.



If you know people who would like to read this issue, please feel free to pass the contact along. The cumulative total of your Legion Family contacts, hundreds, even thousands in number, as well as others who would be interested in our work, just might enjoy reading of the successful activities of the Detachment, Counties, and Squadrons of the New Jersey Sons of the American Legion.

The link to this publication is: www.njsal.org/salute. The top links on the site are the most recent editions.

Submissions to the **SALute** should be emailed to njSALute@gmail.com.

The Commander's Message:



Hello, my S.A.L. Brothers:

Happy New Year.

We are still going strong as 2023 begins. Our Membership remains on a good pace to hit the 60% target date of January 19th. Great job by all.

Remember to keep doing buddy checks throughout the Legion Family. You can make a big difference in someone's life by just checking in and saying hello.

As the Holidays have passed, things will start cranking up again. Let's keep pushing all the great programs of the American Legion and working hard to help our Veterans, children, and our communities.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you as we travel the state.

For God and Country,

Mark Natale, Commander
Detachment of New Jersey, Sons of the American Legion

A Message from S.A.L. National Commander Christopher Carlton:



Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

As we approach the end of 2022, I wanted to take this time to talk about a few topics.

Pearl Harbor. It was my honor to join National Commander Troiola, Auxiliary National President Koutz, and others in Honolulu on the 81st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. As Commander Troiola noted, Dec. 7, 1941, was a day of infamy but also a day of bravery. We honor and respect the countless acts of valor by our service members on that day.

Be the One. The “Be the One” campaign is, of course, still a focus. I encourage all of you to bookmark the “Be the One” website, Legion.org/BeTheOne, which has a variety of resources you can use for your own “Be the One” efforts. There are also stories about what the Legion Family is doing, to inspire you, and a link to allow you to share your stories.

Newsletters. Speaking of resources, I hope you are subscribed to at least some of the variety of e-newsletters available to you from the National Headquarters. In addition to the bimonthly Sons of The American Legion e-newsletter, there’s the Dispatch, which is filled with important information for leadership; the Member Discounts e-newsletter, which keeps you apprised of the discounts you’re entitled to as an SAL member; the Online Update and Monday Briefing, each of which are filled with news related to The American Legion and the Legion Family; and so much more. These e-newsletters are free with your SAL membership, and you can subscribe to as many as you wish. Go to Legion.org/Newsletters to subscribe.

Happy Holidays. And I’d like to close by wishing you all, “Happy Holidays!” This is a joyful season for many of us, filled with precious time with family and friends. But we know there are many veterans out there who may be struggling at this time of year. Please find time to “Be the One” for those in your community.

Thank you all for your efforts to support our veterans and the entire Legion Family!

Be the One!

With passion and purpose.

Sons of the American Legion National Commander Christopher Carlton



S.A.L. National Commander Chris Carlton, Legion National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola, and ALA National President Vickie Koutz visit Ernie Pyle’s grave at The Punchbowl.



Ernest Taylor Pyle was a Pulitzer Prize–winning American journalist and war correspondent who is best known for his stories about ordinary American soldiers during World War II.

"Anybody who has been in a war and wants to go back is a plain damn fool in my book. I'm going simply because I have to ... and I hate it." - Ernie Pyle.

Ernie Pyle, the GI's favorite reporter, was not here when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941 - but he's here now.

Killed by a sniper's bullet shortly before the war ended in 1945, Pyle is buried in a legendary volcano crater overlooking Honolulu, widely known as the Punchbowl.

Pyle wasn't always buried in the Punchbowl, which is officially called The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and contains many of the 2,403 American casualties of the Day of Infamy.

Killed April 18, 1945, on the island of Ie Shima, Pyle originally was buried there underneath a crude marker that read: "At this spot, the 77th Infantry Division lost a buddy. Ernie Pyle, 18 April 1945." Pyle's number came up on an island only 10 miles square, as the war was winding down. A Japanese Nambu machine gunner cut loose on his jeep, and he and four others scrambled into a ditch beside the road.

The gunner fired a burst at the ditch, and Pyle was struck in the left temple. He died instantly.

Hard-bitten soldiers everywhere mourned him because he'd never glamorized the war and he'd told the truth about the way it was.

After the war, his remains were moved to an Army cemetery on Okinawa, and, finally, to the Punchbowl, which had once been the setting for human sacrifices. In earlier times, it was called Puowaina, the Hill of Sacrifice.

The burial took place on July 19, 1949. Pyle was eulogized before a crowd of 2,000 as the GI's reporter. A newspaperman placed an orchid and a rose quill near the grave. Shots were fired, taps were sounded and people wept.

Pyle is not alone here. There are 31,000 American dead from World War II also are buried in the cemetery, most of them on the bottom of the bowl-like depression of a beautiful, grass-covered crater.

You have to ask where Pyle's grave is because it is no different from all the others. Located at the edge of the main walk, which leads to a 30-foot-tall memorial, it is a plain, gray, rectangular stone laid flat on the ground, with this inscription: "Ernest Taylor Pyle. Sea3, U.S. Navy, World War 1, Aug. 3, 1900 - April 18, 1945. Purple Heart". The two stones on either side mark the graves of unknown soldiers, a fact that would have delighted Pyle, who wanted to be identified with the regular guys, without gold braid or rank.

Since he disliked showiness of any kind, he also would have approved of the simple gravestone, no different from any other.

Despite its routine appearance, Pyle's grave is one of the most visited and photographed in the cemetery. People stand on a slab of cement directly in front of the stone, aim their cameras down at the inscription, and snap away at the tiny block of legend.

The Memorial is dominated by a 30-foot-tall statue of Columbia. Beneath are the words of sympathy written by Abraham Lincoln to the mother of five sons killed in the Civil War: "The solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

From *The Oklahoman*, Archive ID 489042



There was no Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at Ocean Grove in 2022 due to construction and restoration of the pier where the ceremony is usually held. So the crane operator and construction crew flew a giant Old Glory from the crane instead. (Photo courtesy of Charlotte Pritchard)

PDC Jeffrey E. Hicks – New Jersey’s Future National Commander



Jeffrey E. Hicks, Past Detachment Commander from Burlington County’s Southampton Squadron 526 has been heartily endorsed for National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion by the Detachment and Department of New Jersey. The proclamation was read before and endorsed by both the NJ SAL Detachment and the NJ Legion Department at their respective meetings on 3-Dec2022 at the Trenton War Memorial.

Jeff has served in many capacities in his 19 years of membership. On a Squadron level, he has served as Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, and Membership Chairman. On a county level, he has served as Burlington County Commander, DEC, and Finance Officer. And on the Detachment level, he has served as Commander (2018-2019), Vice Commander (2016-2018), Adjutant (2009-2016), and serves as National Assistant Adjutant and Detachment Membership Chairman at the present time. These positions are just a small part of the many activities and programs he has established or have been involved.

At this same meeting, SAL Chairman Anthony Gladden explained how the system works in becoming a National Commander. It doesn’t happen overnight, after thorough investigations and discussions and meetings by National and State officials as to the candidate’s suitability. It can take up to five years “in the pipeline” before a candidate can be elected to the position.

Jeff has now taken that first important step, and he certainly has the qualifications for the job.

New Jersey hasn’t seen a National Commander since Ernest Wilson in 1980. After 43 years, it’s time.

Congratulations, Jeff.

The resolution, read by Southampton Squadron 526 Commander Thomas A. Viscuso appears on the next page.

Title: Endorsement of Jeffrey E. Hicks for National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion, submitted by Thomas A. Viscuso, Squadron Commander of Guy W. Doron, Sr. & Jr., Sons of The American Legion, Squadron No. 526 of Southampton Township, Burlington County, New Jersey

RESOLVED, that Guy W. Doron, Sr. & Jr. Squadron No. 526 of The Sons of The American Legion, Southampton Township, Burlington County, Detachment of New Jersey, at its regularly convened meeting held on the 27th day of October, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty- Two, endorsed and pledged their unequivocal support for Jeffrey E. Hicks for the high office of National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon said endorsement by Southampton Township Squadron No. 526 of New Jersey, the Commander of Southampton Township Squadron No. 526 shall forward this Resolution to the Burlington County Sons of The American Legion Executive Committee for endorsement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon said endorsement by the Burlington County Sons of The American Legion Executive Committee of New Jersey, the Commander of Southampton Township Squadron No. 526 shall forward this Resolution to The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of New Jersey, Executive Committee for endorsement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon said endorsement by the Detachment Executive Committee of New Jersey, the Adjutant of the Detachment of New Jersey shall forward this Resolution to the National Adjutant of The Sons of The American Legion for processing.

For God and Country,

Attest:

**Thomas A. Viscuso, Commander Sq. 526.
Frank Caruso, Burlington Co. Commander
Mark Natale, Detachment Commander**

**Joseph C. Conover, Vice Commander Sq. 526.
Barry Conaway, Burlington Co. Adjutant.
Carl W. Albern Jr., Detachment Adjutant PNEC PDC**



Squadron 526 Commander Thomas A. Viscuso reads the proclamation. Jeff Hicks says a few words afterward.

At The Detachment Meeting, 3-Dec-2022, at the War Memorial in Trenton.



Jeff Hicks is congratulated after the reading of the proclamation by PDCs Patrick Gallagher and Amel Balega Jr.



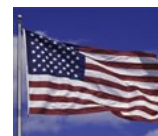
I am very honored and humbled. Last year 2021-22 the Detachment of NJ Child Welfare Foundation Committee that I was chairman, received an award from National for the hard work and money raised for the CWF.

The Goal last year was \$10,000, which we exceeded by raising over \$13,000.

This couldn't have been accomplished without the hard work of all the Squadrons throughout the State of NJ and their support for one of the biggest programs of the American Legion

Also the hard work of my team that worked hard in running fundraisers and getting the word out about the (CWF) and what the program does to help our children throughout the Nation

You guys all rock and thank you all for being a part of this great committee! Mark Natale, Chairman CWF.





L: Dept. Commander Steven Fisher addresses attendees. C: Legion DEC Berley Hanna speaks to the audience.
R: SAL Finance Officer Michael Arner presents \$500 from Sq 338 to Assistant Adjutant Rusty Myers for COTA.



L: ANEC/PDC Henry Hasselhan presents \$15 check from Camden County to Rusty Myers for CWF.
R: Michael Arner presents a check to Dave Page for the Commander's project..



L: Vice Commander Keith Barnes presents \$100 to Mark Natale toward his Commander's Project.
R: Dave Page reads results of fundraising for CWF to Commander Natale and ANEC/PDC Hasselhan.

A Message and a Thank You from COTA:

9-Dec2022.

Commander Fisher, and members of the New Jersey American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders.

I am an Auxiliary member living in Indiana and I work for the Children's Organ Transplant Association. I wanted to thank you for your support of COTA and your recent gift totaling \$1,319.00. Your generosity truly makes a difference for transplant families in New Jersey.

Gratefully, Kristin Martindale

Member, American Legion Auxiliary

Strategic Development Manager, Children's Organ Transplant Association

kristin@cota.org 800-366-2682 —

Children's Organ Transplant Association – www.COTA.org



Get Started with COTA

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

- 1. Submit Information**
Submit your information to learn how COTA can help.
- 2. Receive Guidance and Support**
Trust COTA to support your family and lead your volunteer team.
- 3. Begin Fundraising**
Raise more money for transplant-related expenses.


The Trusted Leader Supporting Families ... For a Lifetime
800.366.2682 • COTA.org/GetStarted • GetStarted@cota.org

Volunteers Needed for the National High School Oratorical Contest Finals

American Legion National Headquarters is looking for volunteers to help with the 2023 National High School Oratorical Contest Finals in Indianapolis, April 21-23. Needed volunteer positions include judges, escorts, and holding room and assigned topic room monitors.

Please note that National Headquarters will not provide any financial compensation for time or travel expenses associated with volunteer support. All expenses related to volunteering with the contest, such as travel, housing and food, are paid for by the volunteer.

The contest is held at the Wyndham Indianapolis West hotel where more than 53 high school youth from across the country deliver prepared speeches on the U.S. Constitution. The support of many volunteers is needed to conduct the contest, which will provide more than \$203,500 in college scholarships. (Click on www.legion.org/oratorical for volunteer forms)



New Jersey Legion Family Delivers Relief to Hurricane Ida Victims.

Off to Florida

American Legion Post 148 Commander Doug Herrin and SAL Commander Hector Ortiz left Hightstown Wednesday evening at about 7 p.m. with a truck load of food, clothing and other supplies for the Hurricane victims in the Sanibel/Naples area.

The American Legion and Sons of the American Legion of Hightstown Post 148 rolled up their sleeves and went to work acquiring needed items to be taken south to Florida to assist those in need after then devastating Hurricane Ida. Commander Hector Ortiz and Doug Herrin drove the supplies to Florida.

The outpouring of help and the desire to help other veterans has been tremendous. It's really encouraging," Herrin said. "It's been a collective effort from everyone in our department.

Herrin said people in the community would hear what Post 148 was doing and drop off items to the post where they received "a handshake and a hug until next time" because there's going to be another hurricane. We are in a position to help people, and that's pretty much what we're about and what we do," said Herrin, who has traveled to Texas, Nebraska and other states following natural disasters to bring donated goods and support. "We do what we can to help. I love helping others. If we're able to help others, why not? That's what I ask myself. If we can help somebody and we're in a position to help somebody, then why not help them. "It's veterans still serving America."



Loaded up and ready to go.



Post 174 Riders were there to help.



A few items in the warehouse.

A Message from NJ Department Commander Steven Fisher:



Lack of Transparency & Inclusion in Veteran Home Decision Troubles NJ American Legion

Trenton, NJ, December 22, 2022 - The American Legion, Department of New Jersey is aware of the news that the CEO of Menlo Park was relieved of duties. “We are, also, aware of the NJ Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs request for proposals issued Wednesday seeking up to three vendors with the expertise and capacity to provide interim supervisory staff and consulting services at the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home and consulting services at the Paramus and Vineland Veterans Memorial Homes,” said American Legion State Commander Steven Fisher. “This is in accordance with New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy’s recent directive.”

“The American Legion is shocked that we would have to read about the actions of the governor in the newspaper,” Fisher added. “The American Legion has not been consulted with, included in, or privy to any discussions pertaining to issues at the Menlo Park facility. We have representatives at all three state-run facilities who are aware of the needs of the resident veterans and are willing to offer assistance. We are investigating the situation. The American Legion continues to be relentless in pursuit of nothing less than excellent care for our veterans.”



Around the State:



As many would recall, SAL 105 raised \$6,000 in August for our friend Alex, who had leukemia. We are so very happy to say he's in remission, and dropped by the Post today (4Nov) to take a photo with us and meet Santa. Other kids at the Post got to see Ol' Saint Nick today, before he headed up to the 716th QM Company party upstairs.



(Left) SAL Marty Widmer from Murray-Trouitt Squadron 262 donating blood Dec 1, at Stetser-Lamartine Post 281.
(Right) Marty and Rosie Widmer schmoozing Santa at Oaklyn Post 84.





To promote peace and goodwill on Earth.....

Part of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Preamble said at every meeting.

And with the help of the community, Murray-Troutt American Legion Post 262 knocked it out of the park on 5-Dec.. The Post was gifted 2,500 coats and 24 pallets of personal protection equipment from Bookwell Travel and Ocean State Job Lot, two organizations that promote philanthropy above themselves.

Team RWB Philadelphia supported us with volunteers to unload (by hand) two trailers with Brian Gates of Bookwell Travel.

From 9 AM until 7 PM, we handed out coats, hand sanitizers, face shields, gloves, and wipes to Veteran groups and nonprofits.

Some of the organizations we were able to help: Home of the Brave, Vineland Veterans Home, Veterans Haven South, Volunteers of America, Catholic Charities of South Jersey, For The Love of Pete's Pantry, Anthony J. Dixon Veterans Resource Center, Grace Episcopal Church in Merchantville, several local American Legions and Auxiliaries. And a ton more!!!!!! We can't thank Karen Jennings and Cantor Scott Borsky enough for spreading the word!

I want to thank: Commander Matthew Webb, Commander Chuck Ross, Commander John Brouse, Robert Phillips, Harry Da Hat, Bernie Kofoet for the support, and help with this massive undertaking! To everyone that came out and helped that I didn't name, I thank you!!! Your help means more than you know! [#AmericanLegionFamily](#) [#ourlegionrocks](#) - ShannonLee Widmer

Ocean County's Family Party:



Ocean County Family Party on 2-Dec at Waretown Post 232 and a visit by the ALA National Eastern Division Vice President Veronica Gurney from Maine.



First came the (kinda creepy) Gingerbread Man, then the Grinch. Cindy Lou Who on his lap gives his identity away.



(Left) Lisa Natale, Rich Hodum, Nick Wingler, Grinch, Dawn Vaccaro Burger, and Sue Moll.
(Right) Dean Staknys, Rich Hodum, Nick Wingler, Grinch, and Tom Marsden.





ANEC/PDC Henry and Jean Hasselhan Serving Christmas Dinner at Vet Haven South, LtoR: Bernie Kofoet, Henry Hasselhan 4th, PDC Mike Babli, PDP Jane Babli, Dept Comdr Steve Fisher, Geri Fisher, and ANEC/PDC Henry Hasselhan 3rd. See more about Vet Haven South: www.legiontown.org



L: Past Monmouth County ALA Pres MC Boyle with SAL Sq 346 Member A.J. Alvarez stuffing stockings.

R: Belleville Post and SAL 105 ran their very successful toy and coat drive in December. SAL Comdr Steve Sangemino, ALA Erica Portee and Mary Ann Slaughter, Post Comdr Joe Cobianchi, and Milo.





Commander Mark at the New Jersey ALA 50th Birthday and Christmas Luncheon at Neptune Post 346 on 3Dec. PDC and Detachment Adjutant Carl Alber Jr. presents a \$250 check from Neptune Squadron 346 to Veronica Gurney, ALA National Eastern Region Vice President.

Meanwhile, downstairs at Post 346 Lounge, the Battlefield Chapter of the Leathernecks Nation Motorcycle Club held their Toys For Tots event. The club, comprised of Marine Corps Veterans, calls Neptune Post 346 home.



L: This year, instead of doing a gift exchange, Post 262 decided to adopt a family who lost everything in a house fire. Thank you to everyone who helped and donated. "To promote peace and goodwill on earth" as shown by Murray-Trouitt Post 262. Camden County rocks!

R: How often do you see these two together? Powerhouse Legion Family sister and brother PDP Doreen and PDC Patrick Gallagher, at Neptune 346.

Toms River Post 129 POW/MIA Christmas Tree Lighting, 3-Dec-2022



The POW/MIA Table and the Christmas Tree.



Master of Ceremonies SAL 129 Commander Rocky Lucia



Ron Brooks sings the National Anthem.



Some of the attendees.



SAL Detachment Commander Mark Natale



The Detachment Table. LtoR: Tony Gladden, Rich Hodum, Tom Marsden, Dean Staknys, Harold Francis, Gary Crawford, Carl Alber Jr., Comdr Mark Natale.



Lighting Of The POW/MIA Christmas Tree

(Right) Waiting for the tree lighting.

The bows on the POW/MIA Christmas Tree were handmade, each one to represent the forty New Jersey Prisoners of War / Missing in Action residents that haven't returned home.

Thanks to the George P. Vanderveer Toms River Post 129 for hosting this outstanding event.

(Photos showing a time stamp and caption are courtesy of Post 129)

Wreaths Across America:



Belleville Post and SAL 105 once again answered the call. LtoR: Steve Mercier, Rick Vlasakakus, Dual 105 Member Ed Hall, Carl Slaughter, Adjutant Rusty Myers, Ralph Legge. Right: A few of those who showed up to help at the Brig Gen William Doyle Cemetery for Wreaths Across America on Saturday, 17-Dec. Outstanding job by all!



L: Monmouth County VC Bill Odom (143) at Fairview Cemetery in Middletown. Over 700 wreaths were placed by a little over 30 volunteers.

R: Three generations of Henry Hasselhans placed wreaths at Harleigh Cemetery, Collingswood, Camden County.

Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage...

We male descendants of Veterans of all wars, associate ourselves together as

“Sons of the American Legion”.

Thorne Middle School , Middletown NJ = Hometown Hero Cpl. Horace M. “Bud” Thorne



When the Thorne Middle School played host to Wreaths Across America Wednesday 14-Dec, as one of only four stops in New Jersey enroute to Arlington National Cemetery with tens of thousands of wreaths for military graves, it paid special honor to the school's own hero. Cpl. Horace M. "Bud" Thorne, killed during World War II in Belgium and the recipient of the military's highest honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Thorne, a native of North Middletown, was one of nine children and attended the Port Monmouth and Leonardo High schools before enlisting in the Army in March, 1941. He married his friend's sister, Leah Pinson in March, 1944, and served in the European theater beginning in August, 1944.

The soldier was advanced to the rank of Corporal serving with the 89th Cavalry Regiment with the 9th armored division and was serving in Belgium in December, 1944, along with his brother-in-law, Lindel Pinson. His Medal of Honor tells the story of his heroism and death four days before Christmas. Pinson has told how he witnessed his brother-in-law's heroism and how Thorne refused to come down from his position for his own safety.

Thorne was buried in the Belgian forest. He was later exhumed and he now rests at Fair View Cemetery in Middletown.

His Medal of Honor, which is on display at the School's memorial to him, reads:

Medal of Honor Citation

He was the leader of a combat patrol on 21 December 1944 near Grufflingen, Belgium, with the mission of driving German forces from dug-in positions in a heavily wooded area.

As he advanced his light machine gun, a German Mark III tank emerged from the enemy position and was quickly immobilized by fire from American light tanks supporting the patrol. Two of the enemy tank men attempted to abandon their vehicle but were killed by Cpl. Thorne's shots before they could jump to the ground. To complete the destruction of

the tank and its crew, Cpl. Thorne left his covered position and crept forward alone through intense machine gun fire until close enough to toss 2 grenades into the tank's open turret, killing 2 more Germans.

He returned across the same fire-beaten zone as heavy mortar fire began falling in the area, seized his machine gun and, without help, dragged it to the knocked-out tank and set it up on the vehicle's rear deck. He fired short rapid bursts into the enemy positions from his advantageous but exposed location, killing or wounding 8.

Two enemy machine gun crews abandoned their positions and retreated in confusion. His gun jammed; but rather than leave his self-chosen post he attempted to clear the stoppage; enemy small-arms fire, concentrated on the tank, killed him instantly.

Cpl. Thorne, displaying heroic initiative and intrepid fighting qualities, inflicted costly casualties on the enemy and insured the success of his patrol's mission by the sacrifice of his life.



BE THE ONE
To help end veteran suicide



Scan or visit [betheone.org](https://www.betheone.org)



Irish New Year 2023 at Neptune Post 346:



3...2...1... Happy New Year! At 7 o'clock! Well, midnight in Dublin.



A nice turnout, catching up from those quarantine years. **SALute** Editor Gary Crawford and his granddaughter Sayde, Jr. Aux 346. Happy New Year from our family to yours.



L: Post 346 Commander John Warhurst (with beard) and his family, all Legion Family members.
R: WW2 Veteran Harry Lynch PC and his wife Joan with Afghanistan Vet Bruce Smith.

Camden County SAL Starting the New Year Off Right:



The Camden County Junior Aux and young Sons took part in Physical Fitness and Americanism programs. Badges were awarded on 6-Jan-2023. Sons involved were Joshua McAllister Sq 281, Michael Douglas Jr Sq 262, Austin Goldman Sq 84, Marty Widmer Sq 262, and Henry Hasselhan Sq 311.

They worked on Community and Family Safety Patches, wrote out 90 Valentine's Day cards for Veteran's Haven South, and 5 birthday cards for senior veterans. (Right) Austin Goldman (Sq 84) works on his cards.



Upcoming Events – Support Your Post, Squadron, Auxiliary, and Riders

Jan 1 thru Feb 28: Military Family Food Drive, Audubon Post 262.
Jan – Feb: Wed & Fri Lunch, Rochelle Park Post 170.
Jan – Feb: Saturday Dinner Specials, Neptune Post 346.
Jan to Feb 5: Dropoff for toiletries and snacks for those deployed, Neptune Post 346.
Jan 4: ALA Shepherd's Pie, West Milford Post 289.
Jan 7: Junior ALA & SAL, Camden Co Youth Meeting, Church of Holy Spirit, Bellmawr.
Jan 11: New Year's Trivia, Atco Post 311.
Jan 13: Monmouth County ALA Past Pres "Silent Auction" Fundraiser for Dept of NJ Nursing Scholarship, Union Beach Unit 321
Jan 14: Membership Training Seminar by Passaic County American Legion, Wayne Post 174.
Jan 14: "Be The One" program, Audubon Post 262.
Jan 14: Chili Cook-Off, Atco Post 311.
Jan 14: Dining & Dancing Dinner Party, New Egypt Post 455.
Jan 15: Breakfast Buffet, Wayne Post 174.
Jan 15: SAL Breakfast, Union Beach Post 321.
Jan 19: KOVA – Suicide Prevention – Lethal Weapon Safety – Protecting Your Rights, Somerville Post 12.
Jan 21: 1st Annual Chili Cook-Off, Audubon Post 262.
Jan 21: ALA Soup & Chili Cook-Off, Neptune Post 346.
Jan 22: "Make Mozzarella with Vinny" Fundraiser Aux Member Clair Prevot, Fair Lawn 171 with Little Ferry 310.
Jan 28: ALA Paint & Sip Membership Drive, Audubon Post 262.
Jan 29: All You Can Eat Beefsteak, NFC AFC Game Party, Little Egg Harbor Post 493.
Feb 4: SAL Another Comedy Night, Clark Post 328.
Feb 4: SAL Comedy Show, Edison Post 435.
Feb 11: ALA DEC Meeting & Past Presidents Parley, Neptune Post 346.
Feb 12: SAL TV Raffle, Oaklyn Post 84.
Feb 19: Hail to the Chiefs Feast & Fundraiser, Neptune Post 346.
Feb 25: Legion Riders Chili Cook-Off, Wayne Post 174.
Feb 25: ALA 2nd Annual Mystery Dinner and Show, Barnegat Post 232.
Feb 25: Legion Riders Karaoke and Comedy Open Mic Night, Cherry Hill Post 372.
Feb 25: KOVA – Suicide Prevention – Lethal Weapon Safety – Protecting Your Rights, VFW 3525, Hamilton Twp.
Mar 4: Junior ALA & SAL, Camden Co Youth Meeting, Church of Holy Spirit, Bellmawr.
Mar 5: Bergen Co Legion Family Dinner Dance, The Graycliff, Moonachie.
Mar 19: Passaic Co Family Testimonial honoring current and past leaders, Mountainside Inn, Clifton.
Apr 29: Testimonial Dinner for SAL 2022-2023 Commander Mark Natale, VFW 2179, Port Monmouth.

Contributors to this issue:

Mark Natale, Commander SAL Detachment New Jersey, Leonardo SAL 338
Colleen Breen-Lopez, President ALA New Jersey, Totowa ALA 227.

ANEC/PDC Henry Hasselhan, Atco SAL 311.
Camden County SAL
Toms River Post & SAL 129.
Belleville Post & SAL 105.
PDC Patrick Gallagher, Neptune SAL 346.
PDP Doreen Gallagher, Neptune ALA 346.
PUP Marcia Magathan, Neptune ALA 346.
PDC Carl Albern Jr. Neptune SAL 346.

American Legion Dept. of NJ.
PDC Jeffrey E. Hicks, Southampton SAL 526.
Murray-Troutt/Audubon Post 262.
Bernie Kofoet, AL Post 68, SAL Sq 84.
ShannonLee Widmer, Audubon ALA 262.
VeniVidi Scripto – Keeping History Alive.
Kristin Martindale, COTA, ALA Indiana.
Wreaths Across America