



# The New Jersey **SALute**

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

**Volume 58, Issue 1**

**July 2021**

## 2021-2022 Officers

**Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of New Jersey  
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Trenton NJ 08611  
[www.NJSAL.org](http://www.NJSAL.org)**

<i>Commander</i>	<i>Henry F. Hasselhan</i>
<i>Vice Commander</i>	<i>Keith Barnes</i>
<i>Vice Commander</i>	<i>Richard Hodum</i>
<i>Vice Commander</i>	<i>Larry McKenna</i>
<i>Vice Commander</i>	<i>Steve Sangemino</i>
<i>Vice Commander</i>	<i>Greg Shaffer</i>
<i>Adjutant</i>	<i>PNVC Thomas Marsden</i>
<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>PDC Matthew Thalasinis</i>
<i>Judge Advocate</i>	<i>PDC John Gillman</i>
<i>Finance Officer</i>	<i>PDC C. David Page</i>
<i>Historian</i>	<i>PDC Nicholas Wingler</i>
<i>Nat'l Exec Comm</i>	<i>PDC Len Free</i>
<i>Alt Nat'l Exec Comm</i>	<i>PDC Robert Phillips Jr.</i>
<i>SAL Chairman</i>	<i>Anthony Gladden</i>
<i>SALute Editor</i>	<i>Gary Crawford</i>

**Got news? Email to: [njSALute@gmail.com](mailto:njSALute@gmail.com)**

*Incoming Commander Henry F. Hasselhan*



## 2021 Convention Issue

With Covid finally calming down, and many restrictions lifted, we were able to hold our 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildwood Convention, on Thursday 10-June and Friday 11-June. Shortened time slots were given (0900-1200 Thurs, 0930-1200 Fri) but these were far better than the original two-hour evening slots we were given.

This year, many formalities had to be streamlined or even cancelled to fit more important business into the limited time frames.

Due to the cancelled 2020 Convention, as well as the annual Officer elections, most Officers in their respective Detachment, County, and Squadron levels served a second term. It is to their credit for their hard work to keep things going while the rest of the world seemed to shut down. Thank you gentlemen, for a job well done.

*CONGRATULATIONS to the incoming Officers!*



## *Convention Highlights:*



ANEC Bob Phillips Jr, SAL National Commander Clint Bolt, NEC Len Free, Detachment Asst Sgt-at-Arms Fred Handy.



Soon to be out of a job, 2019-2021 Cmdr Matt with Linda Albanese.



Finance Officer PDC Dave Page presents “Son of the Year” Award to Sq 105 Commander Steve Sangemino as Adjutant PNVC Tom Marsden, Commander Matt Thalasinis, and Chaplain PDC Nick Wingler look on.



PDC Jeff Hicks and ALA National President Nicole Clapp on badge detail.

“It is because of that enthusiasm – because of that passion and ardor for the pillars of what the Sons of the American Legion stands for, Squadron 105 has had the level of success over the past two years that it has. Steve is an inspiring leader - a man who personifies all things SAL; he is the son of a veteran who is guided by the principles ‘for God and Country’.”

Squadron 105 Cmdr Sangemino was then presented with a pin, shirt, hat, and engraved clock.



## *Convention Highlights:*



Outgoing Detachment Cmdr  
Matthew Thalasinios



SAL National Cmdr Clint Bolt



ANEC and PDC Robert Phillips Jr.



Outgoing Vice Commander Mark Natale, incoming  
VCs Greg Shaffer, Larry McKenna, and Steve  
Sangemino.



Sean Howarth, Tom Marsden, Dave Page, Steve  
Sangemino, Matt Thalasinios, Nick Wingler, and  
Andy Malson, all recipients of the Son of the  
Year Award.







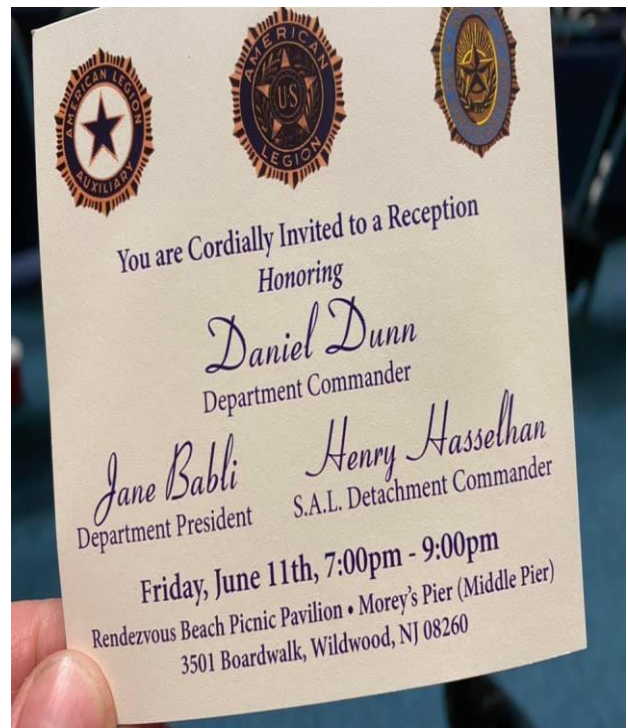
Detachment Cmdr Henry Hasselhan



Grandpa Henry F. installs grandson Henry J. Hasselhan as the Commander's Aide. Dad Henry P. is behind Henry J.



Incoming 2021-2022 New Jersey Department Officers:  
Legion Commander Daniel Dunn, SAL Commander Henry Hasselhan, and ALA President Jane Babli.





## *After the Convention:*



Brooklawn Post 72 watches from the balcony as Carteret SAL Squadron 263 marches past.



Parade passes Wildwood Legion Post 184. Stetser-Lamartine Post and Squadron 281 (Blackwood) Honor Guard leads the way.



Let's get it together, boys. Commander Henry's here!



Past Department Cmdr Robert "Yoda" Newell and Past SAL Detachment Cmdr Matt "Energizer Bunny" Thalasinis "Wrecking" at Wildwood Post.





ALA Nat'l President Nicole Clapp,  
Legion Nat'l Commander Bill  
Oxford, and SAL Nat'l  
Commander Clint Bolt.



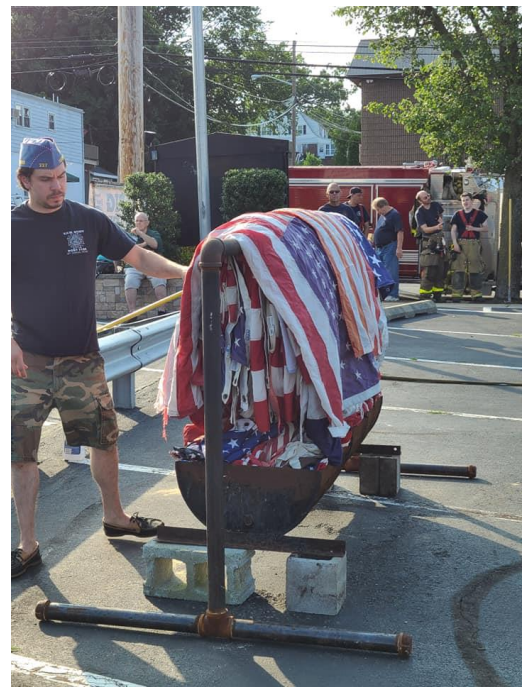
Carteret Post and Squadron 263 rehearsing for the parade.

***Flag Day – 14 June (Happy Birthday to the US Army)***



Left: Detachment Cmdr Henry Hasselhan at Atco Post 311. Henry is a retired fire warden, fire chief, and longtime firefighter. Center: Acting VC Bob Putney, Chaplain Bud Magathan, Cmdr John Warhurst, Color Guard Captain Paul Hulse, VC Heath Ledger, and acting Sgt-at-Arms Gary Crawford at Neptune Post 346. Right: Crawford tends to the fire.





Totowa Post 227 flag retirement. Gary Cittrich Jr. prepares the flags with the fire department at the ready.



Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, everyone takes part in Stetser-Lamartine Post 281 Flag Retirement ceremony. Their Honor Guard stands at attention as Michael Coppolino passes the honored flags.

### ***Around the State in April & May:***

Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105 of Belleville welcomed its newest and youngest member on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, Cole Livingstone, who was less than 24 hours old at the time. Cole joins his brother, father, and grandfather as members of the 105 American Legion Family.

Young Cole was born on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup>, the grandson of SAL 105 Sergeant-at-Arms Jimmy Livingstone. Jimmy is an SAL member of 13 years, eligible through his father's service. Jimmy's son is a Veteran Member of Post 105 as well, currently serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. Cole joins his brother, also named James, as a Son honoring both their dad and great grandfather.

Proud grandpa Sergeant-at-Arms Jimmy came to the Post on Tuesday, announced he was a new grandfather, and immediately asked for an application so Pop-Pop could sign him up. Cole joins a family proud of its involvement in the American Legion.





Grandpa Jimmy Livingstone with application for new grandson Cole. Jimmy is Sgt-at-Arms for Sq. 105.



Belleville Sq 105's Spring Breakfast "just because". Show your membership card and you eat for free.



Bugler PDC Carl Alber Jr. blows TAPS, Chesed Shelmas Cemetery in Neptune.



Installation at Belleville Squadron 105 with Cmdr Matt. (This picture appeared on FOX News)



SALute Editor Gary Crawford and his granddaughter Sayde with Neptune Post 346 Color Guard.



Commander Matt Thalasinis visits Ocean County





Installation at Cherry Hill Squadron 372. Commander Joshua Seib, Sr Vice Michael Lobascio, Jr Vice Bob Muise Jr., and Chaplain (Dual Member) Bernie Kofoet.



Keith Barnes, Kent Hehl, and Tom Marsden at SAL College.

### ***Memorial Day Activities:***



Scott Higgins, Steve Sangemino, Rusty Myers, Rave Passaud with Belleville Post and Squadron 105.



PNVC Tom Marsden leads Brick Squadron 348 marching in Brick Township's Memorial Day Parade.



Stone Harbor Post and SAL Squadron 331.



Magnolia Post 370 Family





Neptune Post 346 Color Guard at Ocean Grove. Dan Sanford, John Skislak, Paul Hulse, Mike Kennedy, Gary Crawford, and Carl Albern Jr.



Mt Holly Post 11 Unit Sec'y Pat Cahall, SAL Cmdr Bruce Heller Jr.



Battlefield Cross and Wreath at Neptune City's Memorial Park.



Park Ridge Councilman John M. Cozzi, SAL Detachment VC Larry McKenna, and Senator Holly Schepisi at Park Ridge's Memorial Day ceremony.

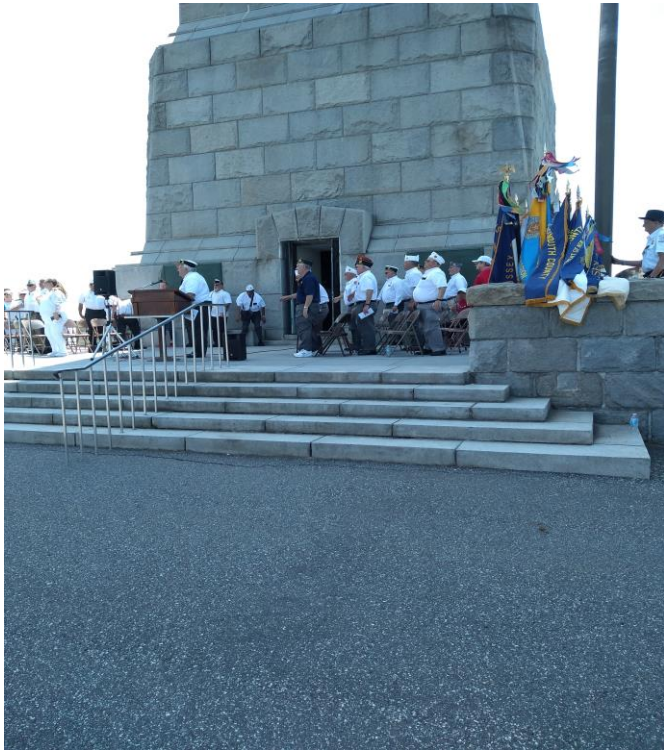


Never Forget



## ***High Point Veterans' Monument Ceremony, June 27:***

A very warm and breezy Sunday greeted those attending the annual High Point Ceremony. The weather had been hot and humid with chances of thunderstorms the days before, but the sun came out for the day for us.



Overview of the Ceremony at the base of the Monument.



SAL Detachment in the parade up the hill. LtoR PDC Amel Balega, PDC Carl Alber Jr., VC Greg Shaffer, Cmdr Henry Hasselhan, Past VC Mark Natale, VC Larry McKenna behind Mark.



Ladies Aux, SAL, and Post 266 Color Guard march down the hill retiring the Colors.



Monmouth County Cmdr Wil Fetherman, Mark Natale, Henry Hasselhan, Carl Alber Jr., Gary Crawford, and Post 346 Cmdr John Warhurst.



Anthony Gladden salutes the gathered American Flags.



Department Cmdr Daniel Dunn, Department President Jane Babli, and Detachment Cmdr Henry Hasselhan place wreath inside High Point Monument.



Greg Shaffer & Mark Natale



High Point Veteran's Monument



Cmdr Henry salutes during TAPS





PDC Carl Alber Jr., Sq 346 PC Gary Crawford,  
Monmouth County President MC Boyle.



Cmdr Henry Hasselman says a few words.

### *Stand Down, June 24, at Milltown Post 25:*



Roger (background), Little Ferry Squadron 310, and Sam Alphin, Lawrenceville Post 414, assist veterans  
at the June 24 Stand Down at Milltown. Five Sons from Sqs 310, 311, 346, and 372 were there to help.

## Upcoming Events:

### Beef & Beer



**Saturday  
July 10, 2021  
2:00pm ~ 7:00pm  
American Legion  
Post 493  
420 Radio Road,  
Tuckerton, NJ 08087**

**Tickets \$25**

**Food ~ Fun ~ Music**

**Gift Auction, Raffles**

**50/50**

**For more info (609) 296-9771**

All proceeds are used to cover the expenses of the 5 Day Run For The Fallen on September 22nd to 26th, 2021, and provide support for our military runners, Gold Star Family members and support teams.

**www.NJRun.org**

### A Local Veterans Stand Down

Serving Homeless and At Risk Veterans

### Milltown

**American Legion  
Joyce Kilmer Post 25  
4 JFK Dr.  
Milltown, NJ 08850**



**Thursday, June 24, 2021  
11 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.**



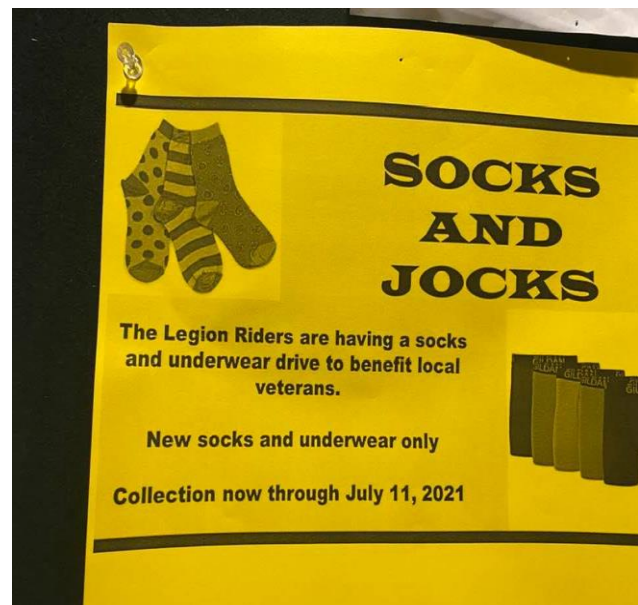
#### Services Include:

**Benefits Claims Housing  
Men's & Women's Clothing Lunch Other Services**

Questions or Comments—Please Contact  
Bob Looby (908) 894-0746 r.looby@njamericanlegion.org  
Ron Dixon (732) 404-7445 rdixonmcpo@hotmail.com



Burlington Post 336

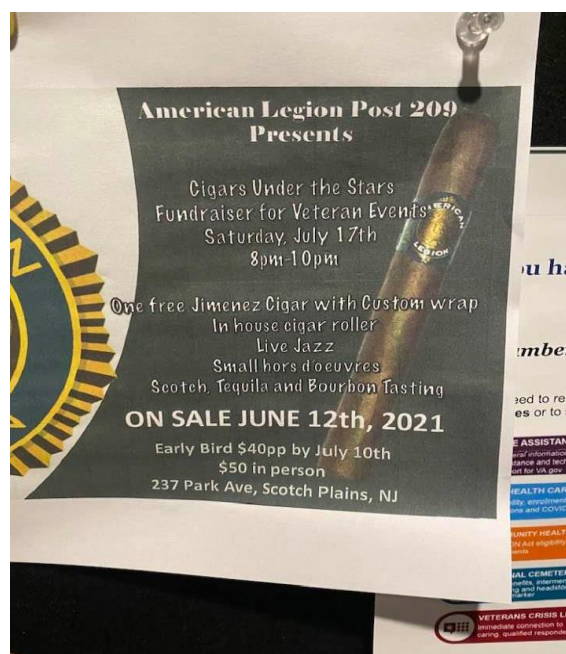


Scotch Plains Post 209





Toms River Post 129



Scotch Plains Post 209

Leonardo Post 338's Auxiliary and SAL are hosting a **SEAFOOD FEST** on Sat. July 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 1 to 6 pm, at 860 Route 36, Leonardo. Tickets: [www.sal338.ticketleap.com/seafood](http://www.sal338.ticketleap.com/seafood).

**Got News? Email it to [njsalute@gmail.com](mailto:njsalute@gmail.com)**

### ***Membership Update:***

On a serious note, Membership statewide is down 992 Members. 2020 finished with 9,353, while 2021 stands right now at 8,361. We're not sure of the reasons. More than likely, dire financial situations as well as untimely deaths from Covid or other reasons led to the downfall. A loss of almost a thousand Members is tragic.

If you know of someone who requires assistance, please let both them and us know. We are Family. The American Legion Family. We help our own. This is all the more reason to step up our recruiting drives. Get out and tell everyone what we are all about.

**BUDDY CHECK.** Give them a call, text, email, knock on their door, whatever it takes.

***Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage...***

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## THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



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*Thanks to everyone who sent in news items and pictures. You made my job much easier! – Editor Gary*

### Contributors to this issue:

Detachment Cmdr Henry Hasselhan (Sq 311)

Patrick Gallagher PDC (Sq 346)

Doreen Gallagher PDP (Unit 346)

Carl Alber Jr. PDC (Sq 346)

Rusty Myers DEC (Sq 105)

Matthew Thalasinis PDC (Sq 232)

Thomas Marsden PNVC (Sq 348)

MC Boyle CP (Unit 346)

Colleen Breen-Lopez 1stDVP (Unit 227)

American Legion - Ocean County

And from Posts, Squadrons, and Units:

11 129 157 227 263 281 310

311 331 338 346 348 370 372



Email your news and pictures to *SALute* editor Gary Crawford at [njSALute@gmail.com](mailto:njSALute@gmail.com). We don't know what's going on unless you tell us. A pat on the back. Gloat if you must. Tell us what's happening.