



The New Jersey **SALute**

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SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

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Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of New Jersey
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2019-2021 Officers

Commander	Matthew Thalasinios
Vice Commander	Keith Barnes
Vice Commander	Henry Hasselhan
Vice Commander	Larry McKenna
Vice Commander	Mark Natale
Vice Commander	Steve Sangemino
Adjutant	PNVC Thomas Marsden
Chaplain	PDC Nicholas Winger
Judge Advocate	PDC Jay Gillman
Finance Officer	PDC Dave Page
Historian	PDC Carl Albern Jr.
Nat'l Exec Comm	PDC Len Free
Alt Nat'l Exec Comm	PDC Robert Phillips Jr.
SAL Chairman	Anthony Gladden
SALute Editor	Gary Crawford



From the Commander's Corner:

This **special edition** of the SALute was created so the candidates running for the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of New Jersey, upcoming election had a forum to tell you who they are. With the limited availability of Post hours throughout the state, it was difficult for the candidates to visit and introduce themselves. The candidates included in this issue followed our election protocols and are cleared to run for their respective offices.

Make sure your squadron is registered to vote! Plans are to still have our Convention in Wildwood, but everything is subject to change. Pay attention to your emails from now through the Convention for any changes.

My final message will be delivered at the Convention and will also appear in the Convention Official Program. It will also appear in the next issue of the SALute. Be that as it may, the Vice Commanders and myself were able to complete most of my personal objective of improving the information structure of the S.A.L. by recruiting more county representatives. Starting out with only about a third of the Detachment Executive Committeemen in place, our S.A.L. has DEC's and interim county representatives now totaling 17 of the 20 eligible counties.

Once these men complete their paperwork and submit them to the Detachment Adjutant, PDC Tom Marsden (saltom@usa.net), they will fully assume their duties for this June's election. If you signed up to be your county's DEC and haven't completed your paperwork, it must be completed and submitted ASAP:

DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (DEC)

Atlantic County: DEC Andy Malson
Bergen County: DEC Steve Rodriguez
Burlington County: DEC Barry Conaway
Camden County: DEC Kent Hehl
Cape May County: DEC Mike Byerley
Cumberland County : NONE
Essex County: DEC Rusty Myers
Gloucester County: DEC James Lightcap
Hudson County: DEC James Noble
Hunterdon County: DEC Travis Slaughter
Mercer County: DEC Mark Fetter
Middlesex County: REPRESENTATIVE Al Gallaso
Monmouth County: DEC Mike Arner
Morris County: REPRESENTATIVE Louis Kupper
Ocean County: DEC Rich Hodum
Passaic County: DEC Greg Shaffer
Salem County: N/A
Somerset County: NONE
Sussex County: Coley Campbell
Warren County: NONE

Please follow safety procedures, mask up and stay healthy. I hope to see many of you at the Convention!

For God and Country,

Matthew C. Thalasinis,

Commander, Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New Jersey 2019-2021

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Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business. #BeThere.



For Detachment Commander 2021-2022:



Henry F Hasselhan Sq. 311

As my Dad would say: “**Semper Fidelis**” (“Always Faithful”)

Henry gained his eligibility for the Sons of the American Legion through his father, Sgt. Henry M Hasselhan USMC, who served in Korea, with the First Marine Division during the Korean War.

Henry has been a member of Waterford Township, Squadron 311, for 17 years. At the Squadron level, he was persuaded to reactivate Squadron 311 and has served as Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, and Membership Chairman.

At the County level, he served as Sergeant at Arms, Americanism Chairman, Vice Commander, and as Commander 2017-2019, for Camden County. He is currently serving as Camden County Finance Officer.

His first position for the Detachment of New Jersey was Assistant Sgt at Arms, then 3 years as Vice Commander. He is currently serving as Vice Commander as well as Commission chairman for the Employment, Homeless, and Education Commission, and the SAL Liaison to the American Legion Dept of NJ Employment Homeless and Education Committee. He also sits on the planning committee for the Atlantic City Stand Down. Henry has completed SAL College Basic and Advanced, National Management Institute 1, and the American Legion Extension Institute.

Henry earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Marine Sciences from Stockton State College, now Stockton University, and an Associate’s Degree in Fire Science Technology from Camden County College. He is also a certified wild land fire instructor.

Henry is a retired Assistant Division Fire Warden from the New Jersey Forest Fire Service. In this position he was responsible for training, operations, and fire prevention for the counties of Camden, Atlantic, Gloucester, Cumberland, Salem, and Cape May. He also supervised the 12 Fire Wardens assigned to these counties. He continues to fight wildfires in NJ and usually assists in coordinating the incident. He works on a National Type 1 Incident Management Team responding to major wild fires and all hazard incidents throughout the United States.

There he works in logistics and assists in managing the incident. He was deployed for hurricane relief from hurricanes Sandy and Irene, and with the New Jersey State Police in Puerto Rico for hurricane Maria.

At the community level he is a Life Member in the Waterford Twp Fire Department. Serving 20 years total achieving the rank of Assistant Chief, and one year as Township Fire Chief. He is also currently the President of the Atco Cemetery Association.

Henry has been married to Jean for 45 years. He has 2 children, Henry P Hasselhan, and Stephanie Bowker and 5 grandchildren.

For Detachment Vice Commander 2021-2022:



Larry McKenna Sq. 153

I have been a proud member of Squadron 153 for 25 years. During that time, I have served as Commander four times, as well as Vice Commander and Sergeant -at-Arms. Currently, I am serving as the Service Officer for the Squadron.

I am one of the original members of the Bergen County SAL. As an SAL Bergen County member for 24 years, I have served as Sergeant-at-Arms, Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Commander. Currently I am a Senior Vice Commander of the Bergen County Squadron.

In 2015-2016, I served as a Detachment Vice Commander under Bob Philips Jr., Commander.

Currently, I am a Detachment Vice Commander for Bergen, Passaic, Morris, Sussex, and Warren counties.

Now that more posts are open, I am looking forward to traveling and visiting more S.A.L. Squadrons this year.

For God and Country.

Contact Information: Cell: 201-414-7102

For Detachment Vice Commander 2021-2022:



Gregory Shaffer Sq. 174

I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Gregory B. Shaffer. I am running for the position of **Detachment Vice Commander, 2021-2022.**

I have been a member of the Sons of the American Legion - Anthony Wayne Squadron #174, Wayne NJ, for fifteen (15) years. During my 15 years as a member, I have held the following offices:

Squadron Level: Squadron Sgt. At Arms for 2 years, Squadron Second Vice Commander for 6 years, 1st Vice Commander for 2 years, Squadron Adjutant for 1 year, Squadron Commander for 4 years.

County Level: D.E.C. for 3 years.

State Level: Asst. Sgt-at-Arms 1 year, Detachment Vice Commander 3 years.

My father is a WWII veteran, serving in the U.S. Marine Corp. My brother is a Viet Nam veteran, serving in the Navy, Seabees. Both have been active in the American Legion since their discharge. Growing up with my dad being an active member in the American Legion, I spent many days with veterans and being involved in activities at the American Legion Post.

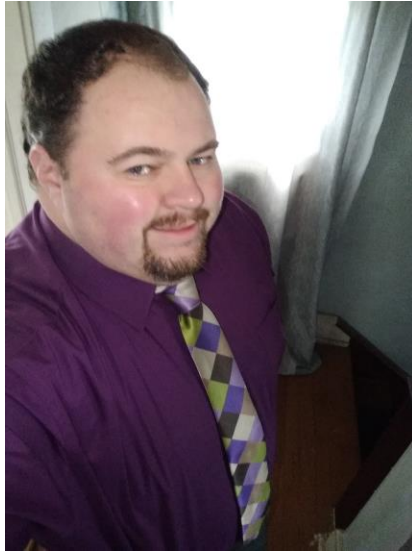
As Detachment Vice Commander, I would like to take this experience and spread it to all Squadrons throughout New Jersey. As Detachment Vice Commander, I will support our new Detachment Commander in all his activities throughout the year. I hope that you will consider me and give me the opportunity to work with our Commander and all our members to make this a better organization and help to make it grow.

You can reach me at: (201) 665-0228 or email me at shiftyshaff@gmail.com.

Thank You.

Regards, Greg Shaffer

For Detachment Vice Commander 2021-2022:



Joshua A. Seib Sq. 372

Joshua A. Seib seeks to continue helping the Sons of the American Legion by running for the role of Detachment Vice Commander. He became a Son of the American Legion member through his late father Brian Seib and serves in his honor.

Josh is originally from Philadelphia and belongs to Squadron #372, Cherry Hill, NJ, the same town he currently resides. He has served in various roles at the Squadron level from Chaplain to Commander. He also helps in volunteering, honor guard, and promoting Post #372 throughout Cherry Hill.

Josh continued his service by serving as Camden County Sons of the American Legion Chaplain and is currently serving as County Commander. Through the County service he is able to help and promote various Veteran's programs and services like Stand Downs, Home of the Brave, Veterans Haven South, and the Vineland Veterans Home.

With his background and education in accounting he was able to serve on Finance and Budget Committee for the Detachment.

When he is not at the Legion or working, you can find Josh on various road trips around New Jersey, be it to North Jersey for White Castle, enjoying various beaches at the Shore, or wandering around Princeton.

This Mother's Day, remember our Gold Star and Blue Star Mothers. Thank you, Mom.



For Detachment Vice Commander 2021-2022:



Keith Barnes Sq. 58

Keith is currently serving as Detachment Vice Commander for 2019-2021. He is pictured at left, along with PDC Kent Hehl (in blue shirt) Chairman for SAL College and PDC Tom Marsden (in red shirt), Instructor for SAL College. Keith is with the Henry Douglas Squadron #58, Englewood NJ.

For Detachment Vice Commander 2021-2022:



Steve Sangemino Sq. 105

Steve is currently serving as Detachment Vice Commander for 2019-2021. He is also currently serving as Commander of Belleville Squadron #105, Belleville NJ.

CONVENTION UPDATE:

With changes happening on an almost daily basis, Convention plans are changing as things progress. Covid has put things in limbo for now. Please stay tuned for updated information. Updates will be posted to your email and our website www.njsal.org.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

As always, please keep the **SALute** in mind for your latest news. If you don't tell us what you and your Squadron are up to, no one else will know. Pat yourself on the back! Gloat if you must! Send in your news and pictures to njsalute@gmail.com. Thank you!

Gary S. Crawford, PC Neptune Squadron #346, **SALute** Editor

"For God and Country"

Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage...



Remember what Memorial Day is all about. Once called Decoration Day, when families and friends would decorate the graves of Veterans with flowers, trinkets, and Flags, and even host a picnic.

We salute those Veterans who have gone before us. Fly your American Flags at half-staff Sunrise until Noon, then full staff until Sunset.