



The New Jersey

SALute

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

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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	Mark Natale
Vice Commander	Keith Barnes
Vice Commander	Richard Hodum
Vice Commander	William Murphy
Vice Commander	Stephen Sangemino
Vice Commander	(vacant)
Adjutant	PDC Carl Alber Jr
Finance Officer	PDC C. David Page
Chaplain	Charles Taylor II
Judge Advocate	PDC Michael Arner
Historian	Wil Fetherman
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
SALute Editor	Gary S. Crawford



**BE THE
ONE**

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION REMEMBER MEMORIAL DAY.

TO OUR VETERANS - WELCOME HOME

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For God and Country,

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

njSALute@gmail.com

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Memorial Day



We Remember

Detachment News:



Good news for active duty and retired Veterans: Asbury Park, Belmar, Bradley Beach, and Point Pleasant are now offering FREE beach access this year. Wrist bands or badges will be issued and must be worn at all times. Proof of service is required.

A new Squadron: Post 266 in Neptune is establishing a Sons Squadron. Details to come.

Our condolences to NEC / PDC Robert Phillips Jr. on the passing of his father, Robert Sr. He was a Past Department Commander and an active member of Audubon Post 262 for 62 years.

As of this writing, there are vacancies for three of the Vice Commander Offices. Anyone interested should read the information on the next page.

Memorial Day is coming fast. There are many events planned in which to take part. Parades and ceremonies of all kinds are on tap all over New Jersey. Your Legion Post probably has something planned.

Flag Etiquette: Remember that the American Flag should be flown at half staff from daybreak to noon only, on Memorial Day. Flags should not be flown at half staff at any other time, unless officially ordered by authorities to honor something or someone.

Need someone to talk to? YOU ARE NEVER ALONE. Call 9-8-8, Option 1.

From the Editor:

I had the pleasure of attending the Basic Leadership Course at Legion College at the State Police Training Center in Sea Girt on April 29. A great experience. Every Legionnaire and Son should attend this course, along with the Advanced Course later on. Details are usually issued around the first of each calendar year. I met many new friends from all over the state there, and even two Sons from Delaware.

I also had the pleasure (on the same day) to attend Detachment Commander Mark Natale's testimonial dinner, held at VFW Post 2179 in Port Monmouth. A large turnout, almost two hundred people, were on hand to honor Mark. Congratulations Mark, on a great year.

As I said in the past, please email your news to the **SALute** at njsalute@gmail.com. Looking for Squadron news, events, articles, and pictures. Please ID people in the photos. Jpg and png pictures reproduce the best. Share the news. We won't know what you're up to if you don't tell us.

For God and Country, Gary S. Crawford PC Sq 346, Editor, ***The New Jersey SALute***.

From Detachment Adjutant Carl Albern Jr.:

Members of the Detachment of NJ:

The Past Detachment Commanders of the Detachment of NJ will be conducting interviews of potential elected Officers for the 2023-24 administrative year of the Detachment of New Jersey.

This includes those running for the offices of **Detachment Commander, Detachment Vice Commander(s) and Detachment Finance Officer**. Any member of the Detachment who is planning on running for one of these positions should attend this interview.

The interview is scheduled to take place at **10am on May 13th, 2023 at American Legion Post 166** at 1256 River Road (US Route 9) Lakewood, NJ 08701.

If you have any questions about this interview/meeting, please contact Tom Marsden at (732) 684-5965.

Squadron Endorsements for Detachment Office, 2023-24

(Received by Detachment Adjutant Albern as of Tuesday, April 11, 2023)

Note: Nominations are still open until the day of elections at the 2023 Detachment Convention.

Detachment Commander:

[Vote for One (1)]

KEITH BARNES, PVDC

Squadron No. 58
Englewood, Bergen County

Detachment Finance Officer:

[Vote for One (1)]

C. David Page, PDC

Squadron 455
New Egypt, Ocean County

Detachment Vice Commander :

[Vote for Five (5)]

RICHARD HODUM, PDVC

Squadron No. 166
Lakewood, Ocean County

WILLIAM M. MURPHY, PDVC

Squadron 348
Brick, Ocean County

VACANCY

VACANCY

VACANCY



(Above Left) Keith Barnes, Candidate for Commander (58). (Above Right) C. David Page, Candidate for Finance Officer (455). (Lower Left) Richard Hodum, Candidate for Vice Commander (166). (Lower Right) William M. Murphy, Candidate for Vice Commander (348).

From Keith Barnes:

I joined the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) thirty-five years ago to honor my grandfather Levi Phues, who was an Army veteran. I am a proud member of Squadron 58 of Bergen County. Since joining the SAL I have held the following titles: Squadron 58 Commander (6 years), Bergen County Commander of the Sons of the American Legion (3 years), and New Jersey Detachment Vice Commander (3 years). As Detachment Vice Commander, I was responsible for overseeing Squadrons in Bergen, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren County. In my roles as Detachment Vice Commander or Bergen County Commander or Squadron 58 Commander, my duties included installing Squadrons, and ensuring they are adhering to policies and procedures. In addition, I represent the Detachment of New Jersey, SAL, and Squadron 58 at various functions, such as dinners, picnics, parades, and funerals. In my role, my main objective is to support our veterans. For God and Country, Keith Barnes.

From C. David Page:

Dave Page is currently the 2022-2023 Detachment Finance Officer and is running for reelection. He is a member of New Egypt Squadron 455 – Ocean County – and has served as Detachment Commander for 2017-2018 and was awarded the prestigious Son of the Year.

From Richard Hodum:

My name is Richard Hodum. I gained my eligibility to the Sons of The American Legion through my father, Carl Hodum, who was a Korean War Veteran. He was a 60-year Member of Joseph M. Lane Post 136, Lodi NJ, when he passed away in 2015. My family all belonged as well. I moved to Nevada for 18 years, then came back to New Jersey and rejoined The Sons Detachment of New Jersey in Ocean County, where I have been a member for 11 years. I have held positions in Squadron 166 Lakewood; Squadron Commander for 6 years, Finance Officer for 2 years and Membership Chairman for 2 years. I have also held positions in Ocean County; D.E.C for 5 years and Sergeant-at-Arms for 2 years. I have also been POW/MIA Chairman for 2020-2021 and 2022-2023. I am currently the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New Jersey Vice Commander and if re-elected will be my third term. For God and Country, Richard Hodum Vice Commander, Detachment of NJ

From William Murphy:

My name is Bill Murphy, known to most as "Murph". I am the District 5 Detachment Vice Commander serving Atlantic, Camden, Cape May and Salem Counties. I will again this year be seeking office as a Detachment Vice Commander. I am a member of Squadron 348 in Brick of the Great County of Ocean. (Whoop!!!) I have served two terms as Squadron Commander of 348 in addition to other Squadron offices. At the County level I have served as DEC, Commander, Vice Commander and Sergeant at Arms. I am also the Detachment CWF (Child Welfare Foundation) Chairman and serve on the Finance Committee. Murph.

At press time, no other Candidates have registered for the three vacant Vice Commander Offices. Nominations remain open until the day of elections at the 2023 Detachment Convention.



Commander's Message:



Greetings, my S.A.L Brothers:

We are moving forward towards Convention and things are looking very good. We hit our 90% target day early and membership is moving great, all the great programs are doing well, and our Detachment Commanders Project has exceeded the goal of \$25,000.

Everyone has done an amazing job this year. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your Detachment Commander. I was honored and humbled to represent all of you around the State of NJ and sometimes on the National level. I love you all.

For God and County,
Mark Natale, S.A.L. Commander, Detachment of NJ

2022-2023 Wouldn't Have Been A Success Without the Hands-On Leadership Of These Three:



Thank you Steve, Colleen, and Mark

At Commander Mark Natale's Testimonial Dinner, 29-April:



Almost 200 people attended Detachment Commander Mark Natale's Testimonial Dinner on Saturday, 29-April, at VFW 2179 in Port Monmouth NJ.



The "Natale Team", Lisa and Mark. Mark addresses the attendees. The VIP Table, with (LtoR) MC PDC Carl Alber Jr, Lisa and Mark, Geraldine and Department Commander Steven Fisher, Department President Colleen Breen-Lopez, and ALA NEC Maggie McMahon.



Vice Commander Rich Hodum displays items on the POW/MIA Empty Chair table as Vice Commander Bill Murphy explains the significance of each item and the ceremony. This solemn ceremony is repeated at every Legion Family event and meeting, honoring those unable to be with us, and never forgotten.




From Mark:

I just want to take this time to thank all of you who came out to my Testimonial Dinner. The amount of support and love I felt in that room was incredible and I will never forget that experience and feeling. I didn't do this for any titles or rewards. I did this because I truly love our veterans, our children and youth and our communities. I just love helping people.

To be able to serve on this level and make a difference in people's lives was truly amazing.

A couple of more months to go with lots of work to be done.

I was honored to serve as your Sons of the American Legion NJ State Commander for 2022-2023.

I truly love you all 



Happy 104th Birthday to the American Legion Department of New Jersey



On Saturday, March 11, 2023, the Dept. of NJ celebrated The Legion's 104th birthday at Milltown Post 25. Guest speakers included National Vice Commander Paul M. Kennedy, Dept. Commander Steven Fisher and Acting Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs Vincent Solomono



The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires, and is open to all male sons and grandsons of eligible Veterans. The Sons and their programs place an emphasis on preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

At Commander Steven Fisher's Testimonial Dinner, 2-April:



(Left) Department Commander Steven Fisher is escorted in by PDC Robert Phillips Sr. and Steve's wife Geraldine. (Right) SAL Detachment Commander Mark Natale is escorted in by PDC Henry Hasselhan and Mark's wife Auxiliary Department Chaplain Lisa.

(Editor's note: Robert Phillips Sr. passed away just a couple short weeks after this photo was taken. Our condolences to the Phillips Family. We salute him for his service and for his 62 years with Audubon Post 262)



(Left) Past SAL Detachment Commanders NEC Robert Phillips Jr and Joseph Korba with Bob's wife Caroline. (Center) Past Department President Doreen Gallagher, Past SAL Detachment Commander Michael Arner, and Auxiliary NEC Maggie McMahon. (Right) NEC Berley Hanna Jr. with immediate Past Department Commander Daniel Dunn and Janet Hanna.



Commander Steven Fisher presents \$10,000 checks from the NJ Department of the American Legion to SAL Detachment Commander Mark Natale and Auxiliary President Colleen Breen-Lopez toward their respective Commander's and President's Projects. The New Jersey American Legion Family taking care of our own!

National Commander's Homecoming:



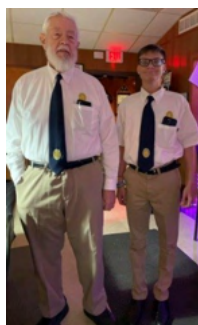
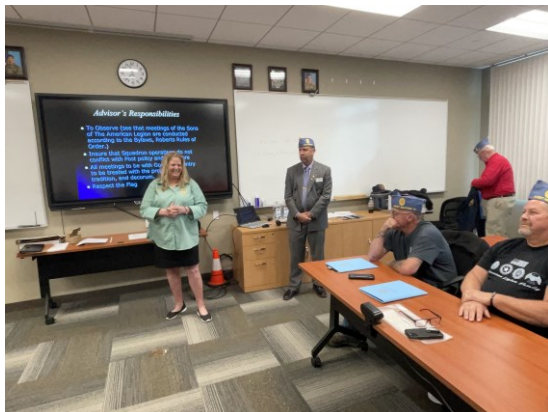
SAL National Commander Chris Carlton (Indiana Sq. 495) at his Indiana Homecoming. He is pictured with ALA National President Vickie Koutz (Indiana Unit 200) and American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola (NY Post 1682).



Legion College at Sea Girt, 29-April:



Seventeen SAL and Legion students attended the Legion College Basic Leadership Course, along with five instructors. Two Delaware Sons also attended. (Below) Department President Colleen Breen-Lopez and Detachment Commander Mark Natale stopped by to speak to the students, as well as Department Commander Steve Fisher and Leading Commander Candidate Larry Bishop, with instructor Jeff Hicks. Carl Albern Jr. leads his class. PDCs Carl, Tom Marsden, Jeff Hicks, Kent Hehl, and Jim Noble did a fine job handling the instructional duties.



SAL Detachment Commander Mark Natale on his Official Visit to Camden County at Cherry Hill Post 372 on 21Mar. (Left) ANEC/PDC Henry Hasselhan (311) presents a check to Mark toward his Commander's Project. (Center) Bernie Kofot (AL 68, SAL 84) presents his check. (Right) Bernie and Marty Widmer (262).



(Left) With South Carolina S.A.L Past State Commander Jason Yodice and Past Squadron 338 Leonardo NJ Commander John Dolan, Post 186, Little River SC 13-Mar. (Center) Mark supported the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 186 Little River SC Fundraiser. Pictured with Lisa and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 186 president Coni Charlton and Squadron Commander 186 and Past South Carolina Detachment Commander Jason Yodice. (Right) John Nolan and Mark. Always support the Legion Family no matter what State you're in.

From McKaig-Test-Mullen American Legion Post 455 New Egypt New Jersey

We are currently looking for High School Junior males (boys) that would be interested in attending American Legion Jersey Boys State June 18-23, 2023. Boys State is a program sponsored and conducted by the American Legion which teaches leadership through practical government of a mythical 51st State. This is open to all no matter if you attend school in New Egypt, attend another district, a private school, or if you are home schooled.

If you are a Junior and would be interested in attending, feel free to reach out to our chairman at snodyd1@verizon.net or 609-346-6219

Feel free to check out the website for more information @ www.aljbs.org

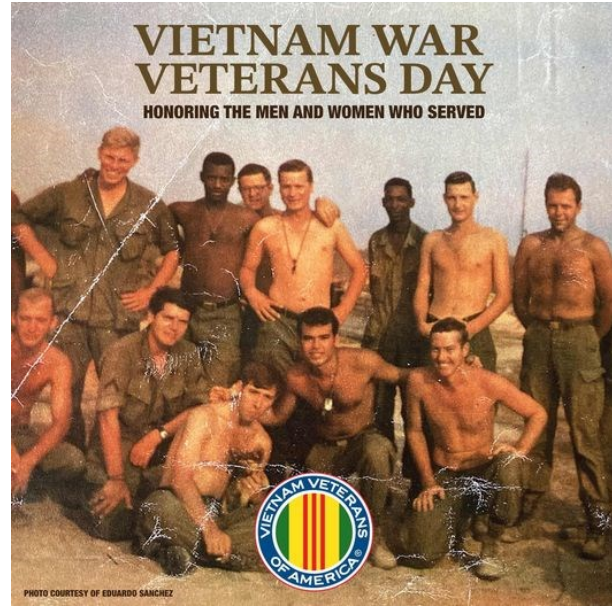


Need Someone To Talk To?

Dial 9-8-8, Option 1.



You're Never Alone.



PDC/ANEC Henry Hasselhan visited Stockton University recently. He found this in the main hallway. It brings back memories of another time. WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS. Your sacrifice was noted.

On 29-March, the Nation recognized National Vietnam War Veterans Day on the 50th anniversary of the date the last combat troops left South Vietnam. We honor Vietnam Veterans and their families every day for their service and sacrifices, and we remember the men and women who put the lives of others ahead of their own. At VVA we welcome you home. Visit: <https://vva.org/vietnam-war-veterans-day-2023-events/>.



Hometown Heroes Honored:



On April 22, at Post 346, Neptune Veterans Harold “Bud” Magathan and Wilber V. Martin were honored by the Neptune Township Memorial Park Committee. Bud is a Legion and SAL Dual Member and is Past Commander and Chaplain of Neptune Post 346. Wilber is Commander of VFW Post 1333 and is a Past Commander of Neptune Post 266. Senator Vin Gopal presented the Hometown Hero awards to Bud and Wilber during the country dance and buffet. Wilber V. Martin has been awarded two Purple Hearts and four Silver Stars, among other awards for his service.



Meanwhile, at the 105:

Post 105 at Post 408 Newark. SAL Commander Steve Sangemino and the boys enjoying a Happy St Patricks Day early celebration. Had a great time with great people.

105 IN THE HOUSE!



On March 11, Belleville SAL Sq 105 was again at Newark Penn Station handing out sandwiches, water, snacks, and warm coats, helping the homeless on one of the coldest days of the year.



(Left) Ron Planer, Rusty Myers, Vinnie Ferriole, and Steve Sangemino.

(Right) Vinnie can handle it.

SAL 105, along with members of the Post and the ALA, went Down Neck again to hand out clothing, sandwiches, water, and hand warmers to the homeless. Over 100 sandwiches, two cases of water, three cases of chips, and probably 50 jackets later, our hope is that we made the day of a few folks a little bit easier.

Thanks to all who attended, with a special tip-of-the-hat to Project Chairman Vinnie Ferriole, who over and over again plans these projects which exemplify the American Legion Family's commitment to our community.

The Fisher House Foundation Our *Hotels for Heroes* program provides hotel rooms to families of wounded, injured, and ill military service members who are undergoing treatment at authorized medical centers when a Fisher House is not available. [#FisherHouse](#) [#hotelforheroes](#)



We forgot to take pictures on March 14, but we still want to publicly congratulate some members on being recognized.

1st Vice Commander James Elsmore and Comrade Robert Hildebrandt both received a National Membership Award for their recruitment of at least five new Members. We thank them for their commitment to keep this organization growing. They received a pin given on behalf of the National Commander, Chris Carlton, and the regional membership chairman, James Cook.

SAL Commander Sangemino also gave out some challenge coins, to recognize members going above and beyond. Comrades Tony Noto, Ron Planer, and Rick Vlasakakis received coins to show that the Commander and the Squadron appreciate this hard work which benefits our Veterans and our community. **Congratulations** all!



ALA Juniors and Young SAL's from Post 105 participated in the [American Legion Auxiliary Dept of New Jersey Junior Meeting](#) on March 11 at [Lyndhurst American Legion Post 139](#). What a fantastic way to engage younger members within the American Legion Family, by having the kids run a meeting, do a craft about the Poppy Program, and share lunch.

Thanks to Department Junior Chairperson Doreen Gallagher (below, with Rusty Myers) for including Unit and Squadron 105 - we'll definitely be going next time!!



(Left) If your Post participates in trading license plates, bring one down to Belleville and trade for one of our new ones. Look how excited Jackie Elsmore is showing off the plates with our newly complete Legion Family!!
(Right) The 105 Family poses for their News12NJ TV segment announcing their new Auxiliary Unit.



The Sons of the American Legion Detachment of N.J.'s Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Committee donated \$850 of shoes, sweatshirts, and sweatpants today to guests at the East Orange VA Hospital. Members from the Detachment VA&R committee and Essex County's Squadrons 70 and 105 made the drop off today - reaffirming the SAL's commitment to our veterans. Also, via a coat drive that Crawford-Crew Post 251 in Montclair held last

month, Belleville 105 dropped off a case of brand new coats. Thanks to everyone along the way who made it possible to do this for our vets.

Pictured on the previous page are (LtoR): Ken Ackerman, Squadron Commander SAL 70 Nutley; Ed Hall, Dual Member Belleville 105; Letisha Eaves, Center for Development & Civic Engagement at East Orange VA; DEC Rusty Myers Sq 105; and Steve Sangemino, Commander Belleville Sq 105.



The Post 105 Family took part today in the Belleville Historical Society's Vietnam Veterans Day memorial ceremony at Glendale Cemetery. Post Commander Joe Cobiauchi was the keynote speaker of the day, which recognized the 120-plus veterans of Vietnam who are buried at the cemetery, all of whom were killed in action in Southeast Asia or died shortly thereafter.



Squadron 105 signed on its second Dual Member 30-March! Phil Lynch, a Veteran who is a Member of Post 408 in Newark, joined Squadron 105 honoring his grandfather's service!

At left is our other Dual Member, Ed Hall, a Son in honor of his dad.

(Below Left) Belleville Family's cleanup crew on 2-April. (Right) Ron Planer and Ed Hall placing Flags at St. Peter's Church in Belleville, 5-April.





(Left) Ed Hall places spare Flags for anyone who needs them to decorate graves. (Center) Ron Planer salutes a Veteran's grave. (Right) Ron and Post Commander Joe Cobianchi decorating graves.

"Decorating The Graves" was exactly that. Families would come and place flowers and trinkets on the graves of their loved ones, and maybe hold a picnic, starting in 1868 by both sides of the Civil War. The Day was originally called Decoration Day and commemorated on May 30th.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every Union state had adopted it. The World Wars turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. Military who fought and died in service. In 1971, Congress standardized the holiday as "Memorial Day" and changed its observance to the last Monday in May. (Wikipedia)

Baseball Season in Belleville:



(Left) Opening Day for the Belleville Buccaneers. The Color Guard from Post 105 provided escort to the field and led the Pledge of Allegiance. (Center) 105's SAL sponsors the 14u USABL team. (Right) SAL 1st Vice Commander James Elsmore handles the SAL's flag in the Color Guard.

Cookies For Vets at Lyons and East Orange:



(Left) Cookies for the Vets at Lyons. (Center) Got milk? (Right) Scouts and Sons talk to Vietnam Vet Earl "Slim" Ayler.

06 APRIL 2023 – BASKING RIDGE and EAST ORANGE, NJ. *"It's much harder to be sad while eating a cookie."*

In a quote generally attributed to Jim Henson's Cookie Monster, the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Detachment of New Jersey's Children & Youth Commission found inspiration in how to make the day of our Veterans a little sweeter through a project called "Cookies for Vets".

Working with a few troops of Girl Scouts, the Sons coordinated a project spread over five months which resulted in \$2,200 of Girl Scout cookies being delivered to the New Jersey VA hospitals in Lyons and East Orange.

"It made me feel like I was doing something to make the veterans feel happy, to let them know there are people out there that care about them and want to help them" noted Lilianna Giannone from Girl Scout Troop 20122, who helped deliver the cookies.

Girl Scouts from Troops 20122, 20052, 20462, as well as young Sons, SAL members from Squadron 105 of Belleville, and members from the Detachment Children and Youth Commission made the delivery to the two North Jersey VA campuses in early April, which is National American Legion Children and Youth Month. The scouts, mostly from Nutley, NJ, took time out of their spring break to deliver cookies to satisfy the sweet tooth of veterans staying both short and long term at the VA hospitals.



Cigar Night every Wednesday at Belleville 105.

Have articles and pictures for the SALute? Please send them to njSALute@gmail.com. Please ID people in the photos, the event, the location, the date, and anything else important. We won't know what your Squadron is up to if you don't let us know.

Memorial Day

We Remember



Saint Patrick's Day Around the State:



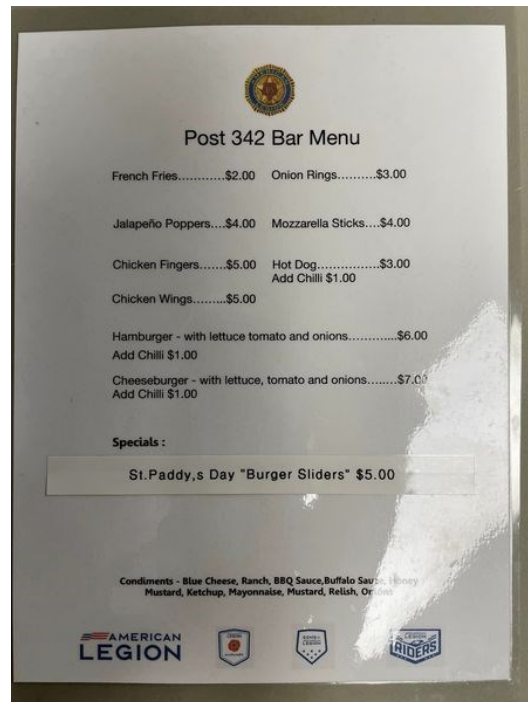
At Lyndhurst Post 139, SAL Keith, Lou, and Brian man the kitchen, cranking out 95 meals.



Ya just can't go wrong with Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, and Soda Bread.



SAL Landon in charge at Chester Post 342.



Note the Menu Special: St. Paddy's Burger Sliders.



The gang's all here. St. Paddy's fun at Cherry Hill Post 372.



At the Passaic County Committee Meeting 23-Mar, (LtoR) Judith Morales, Asst Service Officer; SAL PDC Amel Balega Jr and his wife; Unit & Chapter 174 Sec'y Heather Wiebe; and SAL 174 Sgt-at-Arms & Chapter 174 Director Greg Wiebe. (Center) Commander Mark Natale addresses the attendees. (Right) NEC Bob Phillips Jr says a few words.

At the Detachment Meeting 25-March:



The Detachment Meeting was held at Leonardo Post 338 on 25-March. Highlights include: (Left) Belleville Sq 105 1st Vice Commander James Elmore presents a \$1000 check to Mark toward his Commander's Project. (Center) Atco Sq 311 PDC and ANEC Henry Hasselhan presents a \$100 check to Mark for COTA. (Right) Henry presents a \$100 check to NEF Chairman Dean Staknys (Brick Sq 348) for the National Emergency Fund. Vice Commander Keith Barnes (Englewood Sq 58) and PDC and Adjutant Carl Albern Jr (Neptune Sq 346) bring up the rear.



NJ Sons of American Legion Vice Commander Bill Murphy (348) was invited to speak at Tuckahoe Post 239 on 26-March, as the Post is looking to start their own SAL. He wanted to clarify that most of the Members could be qualified to hold Dual Memberships in both the Legion and the SAL.



The Night at the Races at Englewood Post 58 on 26-March, the fundraiser for Keith Barnes, Leading Candidate for Detachment Commander for 2023-2024.

Down the stretch they come! as Keith Barnes (#1) charges up on the outside while Colleen Breen-Lopez and Mark Natale duel for Place position.

Out of ten races, Keith proved victorious in one.



Shout out to SAL Sq 262 Member, Rylan Kucharski, an Audubon HS 9th grade student. Rylan volunteers his time every Tuesday and Wednesday to take out our Post's trash/recycling and return the cans the next day. This can be a lot of work, especially after a rental party and the start of baseball season. Thanks Rylan!

Good Friday Fish Fry at Lakewood Post 166:



Kitchen crew: Rich Hodum, Rob Nieratko, Ralph Chesney, Francis Cottrell, and Rick Ascione. It looks like it was a success, judging by the expressions on those in the group photo.

Play Ball!



Baseball Opening Day in Pine Hill. Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary from Pine Hill Post 286, with help from the Legion Family at Audubon Post 262, provided the Color Guard.

From Greg Shaffer, Commander of Wayne Squadron 174:

I would like to congratulate all of the new Officers for Squadron 174 in Wayne, NJ. Let's have a great year.

Commander: Greg Shaffer
Adjutant: Ruben Regner
Chaplain: Mike Healey

1st Vice: Greg Weibe
Treasurer: Barry Fitzpatrick
Historian: Dave Kurilla
Sgt.-at-Arms: Larry Frayley

2nd Vice: Joe Leddy
Judge Advocate: Jim Boss
Sgt.-at-Arms: Frank Cupo



Camden County Juniors Purple Up for Military Kids

AMERICAN LEGION

BE THE ONE

Camden County SAL and Aux Juniors "Purple Up".

Accounted For: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced today that Army Tech Sgt. Matthew L. McKeon, 25, of Euclid, California, killed during WWII, was accounted for on Jan. 12, 2023.



In November 1944, McKeon was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. His unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Hürtgen, Germany, in the Hürtgen Forest, when he was reported killed in action on Nov. 9. His remains could not be recovered during the battle.

To learn more about Tech Sgt. McKeon please read his full press release here:

<https://www.dpaa.mil/.../soldier-accounted-for-from.../>

#neverforget

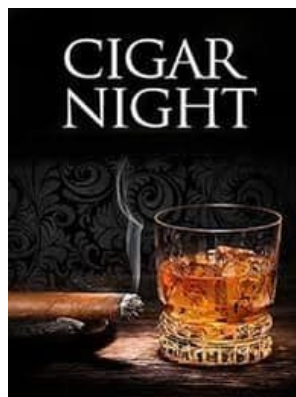
Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage...




American Legion Riders Post 352
 1st and Pennsylvania Ave. Somers Pt, NJ
 13th Annual Veterans Benefit
BBQ
 Sunday May 7th, 2023 – 1pm to 5:00 pm
 Donation \$25.00 pp at the door
 or from any Legion Rider
 • BBQ NC Pork & Chicken Platter with fixings*
 • Mixed drinks available at Cash Bar
 • Hot Dogs and Hamburgers for the kids
 Eat In or Take Out - Rain or Shine
 Live Music by "Brandon Ireland Band"
 50/50 & Door Prizes
 For more info call: Tom @ 609-839-9568

BE THE ONE

Atlantic City Bus
 2nd Monday every month
 Next Trip: 5/8/23
 Resorts Casino
 Easy Parking Modern Buses "Try Us"
 Depart: Neptune Post 346 at 9:00AM
 Depart: Atlantic City: 4:30 PM
 Arrive: Post 346 by 6 PM
 Price: \$40 (with a return of \$25 Casino Credit)
 Bus leaves from: American Legion Post 346
 21 Gully Road
 Neptune, NJ 07753
 Contact Al for reservations: (732) 988-2465
 Check out our Web Site <http://www.al346neptune.org>
NO WALK ONS
 Support our Veterans-Join the American Legion
 The American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of the American Legion



AC Bus Trips Every 2nd Monday from Neptune Post 346, Cigar Night Every 3rd Wednesday at Union Beach Post 321, Cinco de Mayo May 5 at Wayne Aux 174. What's happening at your Post – Squadron – Aux?



WANTED Tatum-Shields Post 17, Collingswood, is in need of donated card tables in good condition for our **Welcome-A-Vet Program** that is held on Tuesdays from 7am to 11am. It is a coffee and donut time for any vet who wants to walk in the post and fellowship with others who have shared their experiences. We welcome vets from all over Camden County.



.Contact: Larry Gibbons at chaplaincolgibbons@gmail.com

Upcoming Events – Support Your Local Post, SAL, Aux, and Riders

Every Mon-Thurs: Lunch, Brick Post 348.
Every 2nd Monday: AC Bus Trip, Neptune Post 346.
Every Tuesday: Sisters-in-Arms Chat & Chews for Women Veterans, Collingswood Post 17.
Every 3rd Wednesday: Cigar Night, Union Beach Post 321.
May 03: Fiesta Chicken / Cinco de Mayo, West Milford Aux Unit 289.
May 05: Cinco de Mayo, Wayne Aux 174.
May 06: Raffle Drawing, Freezer & Meat and Other Prizes, Belvidere SAL 131.
May 06: Live Music With Lori J, Celebrating Crystal's 50th, Englishtown Post 434.
May 07: Car Show, Belleville SAL 105.
May 07: Riders 13th Annual Veterans Benefit BBQ, Somers Point Post 352.
May 07: Music Fest, Tuckerton Post 493.
May 07: Vet Fest Music and Food Truck Festival, Dave Waks Memorial Park, Wayne.
May 10: Psychic Fair, ALA Toms River Post 129.
May 10: Road Trip Trivia, Atco Post 311.
May 13: COTA Family Picnic, Wayne Post 174.
May 13: Buffet Breakfast Fundraiser, Pine Hill Post 286.
May 14: Mother's Day Breakfast, Leonardo SAL 338.
May 20: ARMED FORCES DAY
May 20: Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Stars & Stripes Veterans' Service Center of South Amboy, Post 62.
May 20: Installation of Officers, Toms River Post 129.
May 20: Legion Riders - Gathering of the Chapters, Several Routes, Final Stop Spotswood Post 253.
May 20: Leathernecks MC Annual Cookout, Neptune Post 346.
May 20-21: Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Air & Space Open House.
May 21: Tropicana Bus Trip, Englishtown Post 434.
May 24: Atlantic City Regional Stand Down, All Wars Memorial (Soldiers Home) Atlantic City.
May 27: Memorial Day Pig Roast, SAL Toms River Post 129.
May 29: Memorial Day Service, Cherry Hill Post 372.
June 02: Country Line Dancing, Atco Post 311.
June 07-10: Annual Wildwood Convention.
June 07: Buddy Check – Be The One – 1K Awareness Walk, Wildwood Boardwalk.
June 12: Flag Retirement Ceremony, Cherry Hill Post 372.
June 15: 22nd Annual Flag Day 5K and 1 Mile Fun Walk, VA Healthcare Campus, Lyons.
June 17: Rolling Thunder Chap 5 NJ: Billy Appice Run For Veterans, Ride to BG William C. Doyle Cemetery.
June 17: Yard Sale, Edison ALA 435.
June 18-23, Jersey Boys State, Rider University, Lawrenceville, www.aljbs.org.
July 15: Art Jensen Jr. Annual Pig Roast, Little Ferry SAL 310.
July 16: Bus trip to "Sound of Music" show, Neptune Post 346.
July 22: Annual VetDogs Year-End Picnic and Fundraiser, Wayne Post 174.
Aug 7-8: Brigantine's Veterans' Therapy Surf Camp, Brigantine.
Aug 12: Maryland Casino / Crab & Shrimp Feast Bus Trip, Burlington ALA 339.
Aug 18: 2nd Annual Golf Outing @ Gambler's Ridge, New Egypt Post 455.
Aug 27: 7th Annual SAL Car & Bike Show, Metuchen Post 65.

Send your pictures, events, and other news to njsalute@gmail.com. Please ID the people in the pictures, the event, the location, the date, and other important information.

Contributors to this issue:

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