



**The New Jersey**

# ***SALute***

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

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<b>SALute Editor</b>	<b>Gary S. Crawford</b>



***HAPPY SPRING FROM THE SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN LEGION!***

***TO ALL OUR VETERANS...THANK YOU!  
AND WELCOME HOME.***

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**For God and Country,**

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

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## *From the Editor:*

It can get annoying to hear about renewing and paying your dues. Long lists of how the income pays for so much of our overhead and programs, about how your forefathers' sacrifices make our Membership possible, but still, many don't renew on time, meaning by 31-Dec. The new Membership cards usually come out right after Convention in July, and are payable at that time and up until the end of the year.

There are benefits to being a Son. They are listed in the handbook. These same benefits expire at the end of the year.

If you aren't renewed by 1-Jan of the new year, you are considered delinquent. If not paid by 1-Feb, you are suspended. Unpaid by 30-June, you are dropped from Membership roles.

If you haven't renewed by 1-Feb, you've lost any and all privileges and benefits you might have had as an American Legion Family Member. A suspended or expired card will not allow you admission to any American Legion Post. Some Posts may be lax in enforcing this, but many others ask to see proof of current Membership. I recently visited a Post in Pennsylvania and the first thing I did was to present my paid-up Card to the bartender. She thanked me for that, saying she normally had to check anyway, since I wasn't known to her.

All is not lost, however. You can renew and become in good standing once again. You might lose your consecutive years on your new card if you are unpaid for a year or more, but you will otherwise be in good standing once again.

If you haven't already, please renew your dues and become an active Member once again. The easiest way is to handle it locally at your Post. It can also be handled online, or by mail. Stop by and see what's going on.

## *In Other News...*

Need a directory to see where the 154 SAL Squadrons are in New Jersey? Go to [www.njsal.org/salute](http://www.njsal.org/salute) and click on the Directory link.

*Correction:* In the January issue of the **SALute**, Berley Hanna was incorrectly listed as DEC. His correct title is NEC (National Executive Committeeman).

## *Son of the Year:*

Applications for **Son of the Year** are being accepted until April 5<sup>th</sup>. Info and applications can be obtained from Chairman Nick Wingler at [nicholasjwingler@gmail.com](mailto:nicholasjwingler@gmail.com) Know someone who has what it takes?

*What has your Squadron been up to? Tell us what "Good of the Sons" you've done! Email events, articles, and photos to [njsalute@gmail.com](mailto:njsalute@gmail.com). Please ID people in your pictures. Thanks!*



### *Commander's Message:*



Greetings, my SAL Brothers:

As we are on the road to Spring, our membership is doing well. The goal is 10,000 and we are all working hard to get there. We have hit the 80% target date early, which is March 15. Great job by all. Many events are coming up and let's try to make all of them and show our support. Remember that it's all about our Veterans. Keep up the great work, my Brothers.

For God and Country,

Mark Natale, Commander, SAL Detachment of New Jersey.

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great 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 inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and 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.

*From the National Commander:*



### **Sons Encouraged to Support ‘Be The One’ through American Legion Family Day**

10Feb2023

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

We often talk about “The American Legion Family.” It’s such an important part of how we support our veterans. The American Legion’s National Executive Committee unanimously passed [Resolution No. 7](#) last October to create an event called American Legion Family Day.

Prompted by a resolution from the Detachment of Maryland that was initially approved by the SAL NEC, this resolution establishes the event to be observed annually on the last Saturday in April, with posts opening their doors to the community and celebrating the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons, and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The resolution also calls on the Legion Family to use the day to promote “Be the One.” The terrible impact a veteran’s suicide can have on his or her family is devastating.

That’s why I encourage you to not only participate in your post’s American Legion Family Day event, but to use the event to “Be the One.” Share with the community why the program is so important and how your squadron and post are helping reduce and eliminate veteran suicide.

Brochures can be downloaded at [Legion.org/Publications](#) and [BeTheOne.org](#).

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

Be the One!

With passion and purpose. SAL National Commander Christopher Carlton



SAL National Commander Christopher Carlton leads Department of Maryland President Carmin Brittain and Department Commander Ron Holcombe to the water before the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge at Sandy Point State Park. Photo provided by Jeff Thorne.

*Washington Conference 25-26 Feb:*



New Jersey Detachment at the Washington Conference: LtoR: PDC Carl Alber Jr (346), PNVC Tom Marsden (348), National SAL Commander Chris Carlton, Chris Camp (262), Detachment Commander Mark Natale (338), PDC Dave Page (455), NEC / PDC Bob Phillips Jr. (262), PDC Jim Noble (19), and Marty Widmer (262).



An excellent article on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier:  
<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/explore/tomb-of-the-unknown-soldier>



Mark Natale with NY Detachment Comdr Tim Van Patten.



National SAL Wreath.



SAL Strong! Members from all over the country.



New Jersey Legion Family at the Tomb of the Unknown.

*The Legion Family tells us to "Be The One!"*



**BE THE ONE**  
To help end veteran suicide



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



The New Jersey Delegation placed wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown, the World War Two Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial.



SAL Comdr Mark Natale, ALA President Colleen Breen-Lopez, and Dept Comdr Steven Fisher salute as TAPS are played, after placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown.



(Left) Mark Steve, and Colleen at the Tomb of the Unknown. (Right) NJ crew at the WW2 Memorial. LtoR: PDC Jim Noble (19), PDC Carl Alber Jr (346), PDC Bob Bascou (526), Marty Widmer (262), PDC Jeff Hicks (526), Comdr Mark Natale (338), NEC/PDC Bob Phillips Jr. (262), PNVC Tom Marsden (348) PDC Dave Page (455), and Chris Camp (262).

An excellent video of the wreath placing ceremonies, featuring National Commander Chris Carlton:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9IfGTekI5U>

*Detachment Meeting held 4-Feb at Little Egg Harbor Post 493.*



(Left) Department Commander Steve Fisher addressed the attendees. He mentioned that the Department was pleased at the activities and work of the Detachment, and the NJ Legion Family in general. He spoke about “going over the top” in renewing and recruiting members, and reminding us to continue for our fathers to maintain their memberships as well. He also reminded us about the “Be The One” campaign. For info, email [social@njamericanlegion.org](mailto:social@njamericanlegion.org). (Center) Commander Steve presents a \$100 check to NEF Chairman Dean Staknys (348) toward the National Emergency Fund. Dean collected an additional \$70 from those on hand. (Right) Commander Mark Natale presents PDC Matt Thalasin with his Past Commander flagset. Matt served as Commander from 2019 to 2021, a two-year term due to restrictions on voting from the COVID years.

Several officers and members plan to attend the Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony on Sunday, 5-Feb, at the Cathedral of the Air at Lakehurst.

SAL Chairman Tony Gladden reported the NJ Department of the American Legion is 100% in favor of PDC Jeff Hicks becoming National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion.

Tony also mentioned that applications for Legion and SAL College are online.

PDC Matt Thalasin reported that copies of forms for the Young Citizen Award are available.

On March 10, Brick Post 348 will be holding a Family Feud: Legion vs SAL vs Auxiliary vs Riders.

PDC and ANEC Henry Hasselhan spoke of several KOVA (Keep Our veterans Alive) coffee get-togethers.

Vice Commander Keith Barnes had Englewood Post 58 Commander’s Fund tickets for a Basket of Cheer raffle, and Camden Post 473 had tickets for their 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Club Foundation Basket of Cheer raffle.

PDC Gary Nelson reported that Englewood Post 58 was sponsoring a Night at the Races on March 24, a fundraiser for Keith Barnes’ candidacy for Detachment Commander.

On 5-Feb, PDC Jeff Hicks will be honored at a Legion of Honor Ceremony of the Four Chaplains Foundation at 2 pm at VFW Post 2179 in Port Monmouth. Full information on this prestigious award can be found at [www.fourchaplains.org](http://www.fourchaplains.org).

PDC Nick Wingler collected donations from those present to help reach his goal of over \$1000 toward Special Olympics (which he did!). He also reminded everyone that ***Son of the Year*** applications will be accepted until April 5<sup>th</sup>.

***The next Detachment meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Mar 25, 2023, at Leonardo Post 338. Meeting at 9:30, breakfast at 8:30. Officers and Committee Chairs are expected to submit their reports to the Detachment Adjutant by 5 PM, Friday, March 24. Uniform of the day is business casual (polo shirt, slacks) with SAL cover.***



*“A Night at the Races”*

*Please join us for a Fundraiser for Leading Candidate Keith Barnes,  
For Detachment Commander 2023*

Help us cross the finish line!! Great times had by all!!

Englewood Squadron #58

Sunday March 26, 2023 at 151 West Forrest Ave, Englewood, NJ at 1:00pm.

\$20.00 Donation, Lite Refreshments included.

Tickets in advance: Payable to Keith Barnes Campaign Fund.

\* Send to Gary Nelson \* P.O. Box 2095 \* Cliffside Park, NJ 07010 - Gary Nelson 201-370-1365

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## *Commander Mark Natale Visits Around the State:*



8-Feb, (Left) Passaic County DEC Greg Shaffer presented a \$1000 check from Wayne Squadron 174 to Mark Natale for his State Commander's Project. (Center) Some of the crew at Wayne 174. (Right) Greg also presented a \$500 check to Chairman Dean Staknys (348) for the National Emergency Fund (NEF).



American Legion Riders from Wayne Post and SAL Sq. 174, along with local Boy Scouts gathered over 300 toys to present to the Marine Corps' Toys-For-Tots program.



(Left) Commander Mark accepts \$500 check from Bob Reese, Commander of Rahway Squadron 5, toward his State Commander's Project on 8-Feb. (Center) Mark & Lisa at Post 321 for their Polar Bear Plunge benefitting Special Olympics on 31-Jan. Lisa Natale is the ALA Department Chaplain. (Right) Mark visiting Ewing Post 314 on 30-Jan.



Commander Mark Natale's Official Visit to Ocean County (12-Feb). (Left) Mark with Ocean County Commander and PNVC Tom Marsden (348). (Center) The Ocean County Board of Commissioners presentation to Mark for the 2022 Watch Fire. (Right) Mark with presentation from Detachment Vice Commander Richard Hodum (166).

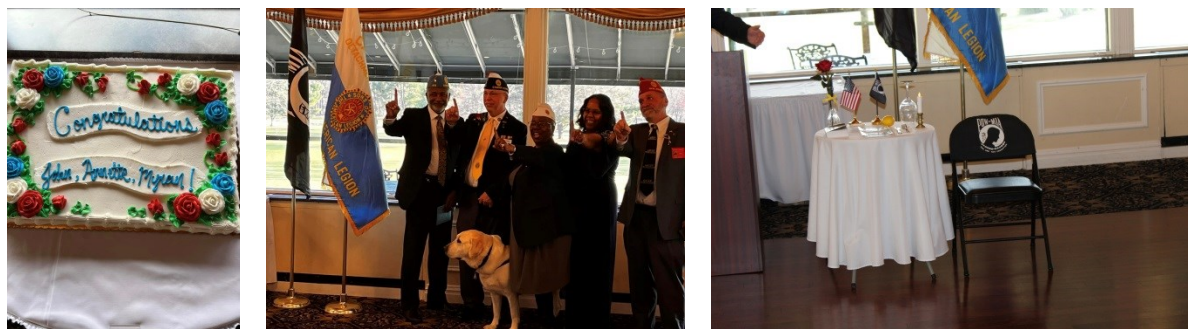
From Mark: "I want to thank the great County of Ocean American Legion Family for the Amazing Hospitality tonight at my Official Visit to Ocean County. Dinner was amazing

"Thank you to the Ocean County Legion Family for the generous donations to our State Commanders Project. Total donations \$2,532 - this helps greatly for our Veterans our children and our communities.

I love you all" ❤️❤️❤️



(Left) Josh Seib, Mark Natale, and Myron Jones at the Camden County Family Testimonial Dinner at the Pennsauken Country Club on 5-Mar. (Right) Some of the attendees at the event.



A little cake - - - Camden County says "Be The One" - - - but we never forget those who aren't with us.

### *Four Chaplains Memorial Services:*



(5-Feb) LtoR: Detachment of NJ Officers: Vice Commander Keith Barnes (58), Sergeant-at-Arms Darryl Cunningham (58), PDC and ANEC Henry Hasselhan (311), Commander Mark Natale (338), Legion Department Vice Commander Patricia Tatum, Vice Commander Richard Hodum (166), SAL Chairman Anthony Gladden (455), PDC and NEC Robert Phillips Jr. (262), Chaplain Charles Taylor II (58), PDC and Adjutant Carl Albern Jr. (346).

(Right) Chaplain Charles Taylor II receiving his certificate of participation from Legion Chaplain Michael Shaffer.



Reverend Fox



Rabbi Goode

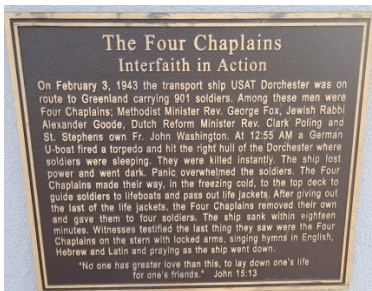


Reverend Poling



Father Washington

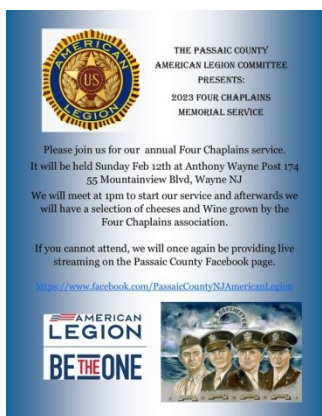




On 5-Feb, Belleville Post and Squadron 105 took part at the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary Four Chaplains Memorial Service held at the Church of St. Stephen, Archdiocesan Sanctuary of the Four Chaplains in Kearney.



The Four Chaplains Memorial Service at Atco Presbyterian Church on 12-Feb. LtoR: Barry Adams, Chaplain Frank Brown, Craig James, Commander Mike Babli, and SAL ANEC Henry Hasselhan.



Anthony Wayne Post 174's Passaic County Four Chaplains Ceremony on 12-Feb. Post Adjutant Michael Dean Smith addresses those attending.

## *Around the State:*

### Donations from Ocean State Job Lot at Toms River Post 129:



On 4-Feb, approximately 50 Ocean County American Legion family members gathered together at American Legion Post 129 to offload a 53 foot trailer stacked with coats, gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer for needy and homeless Veterans. In the photos you have PDC Nicholas Wingler and Ocean County American Legion Commander Richard Godfrey. Group photo has some dignitaries such as Past Department Commander Ray Miller, Detachment Vice Commander Bill Murphy, Department Vice Commander Brian Hagel, and many other members of the Ocean County Legion Family.

### *Belleville Squadron 105 Donation for Fisher House:*



In January, SAL 105 raised \$1,500 for Fisher House Foundation through their annual 50/50. They voted to add \$1,000 onto that, making a \$2,500 donation to this amazing charity. (\$1,250 of that above and beyond was matched by corporate donor Signa as well).

On 10-Feb, a few members took a road trip to James J. Peters VA Medical Center (Bronx, NY) to tour a Fisher House. Ellen Trbovich and Michael Vahoviak, employees of the VA running the Fisher House, were very generous with their time offering a tour, coffee, and, and conversation. We thank them for their hospitality. As Commander Steve Sangemino noted, "I was blown away by today."



## *105 Family in the House:*



Belleville Post 105 welcomed their new Auxiliary Unit on 28-Feb. Their new charter was presented by President Colleen Breen-Lopez. Sitting are Dept Chaplain and Membership Chair Lisa Natale, Unit 105 Sec'y Kim Romano, Unit 105 Pres. Mary Ann Slaughter, and Dept Pres. Colleen Breen-Lopez. Looking on are Post Commander Joe Cobianchi and SAL Commander Steve Sangemino. Welcome aboard, Ladies!

### **- BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT-**

BELLEVILLE, NJ - The American Legion Post 105 Family of Belleville, New Jersey is proud to announce the birth of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 105, which was welcomed into the world at the Post Hall on Washington Ave surrounded by family and friends.

The newly-chartered unit arrived this evening around 7:05pm, at a whopping 28-members strong. Proud parent Post 105 and older sibling SAL 105 are happy and healthy, and doing great - and are very excited about what the future will bring!

In short, we all cannot be more excited about this addition to the American Legion Family. Special thanks goes out to ALA Department of New Jersey President Colleen Breen-Lopez and ALA-NJ Membership Chairman Lisa Natale for presenting the charter, to SAL Detachment of NJ Commander Mark Natale, and to our very own 'lighthouse keeper' Unit President MaryAnn Slaughter for keeping the ALA dream alive and bringing it to fruition. Today was such a wonderful day, and we all look forward to how this new ALA will help us better service our veterans and our community!

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## *Hopewell Post 339 establishes an Auxiliary Unit:*

Attention all Legionnaires: Hopewell Post 339 has formed an Auxiliary Unit for any spouse, mother, grandmother, daughter, granddaughter, adopted granddaughter, or adopted daughter. If you'd like to be a Charter Member please notify Mark Marotta via email or text to: [mjmarotta@comcast.net](mailto:mjmarotta@comcast.net). If you are a female veteran your spouse can also join and all the rest of the women that are listed above.

Hopewell Post's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1158359934351869/>



*Belleville Post and SAL 105 and their annual “Operation Jersey Cares” & “Cookies For Vets”*



LtoR: SAL 105 3rd Vice Tim Byrne, SAL Member Jake Myers, GS Cadette Abigail Myers, SAL 105 Adjutant Rusty Myers, SAL 105 Commander Steve Sangemino, GS Junior Grace Myers, SAL 105 1<sup>st</sup> Vice James Elsmore. Proud dad Rusty was “persuaded” to don the Samoa cookie costume.

30 JANUARY 2023 – BELLEVILLE, NJ – American Legion Post 105 and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105 made the day a little sweeter by making a combined \$1,000 purchase of Girl Scout Cookies, which will be sent to our servicemen deployed abroad and to veterans at NJ’s VA hospitals. The hope is that each bite of a Samoa or a Trefoil cookie reminds the troops and vets of how much the American Legion 105 Family appreciates and values what they do and have done.

As they do every year, Girl Scouts around the country sell cookies as their biggest annual fundraiser. This is the case for Girl Scout Troops 20122 and 20462, both of Nutley, who have sold cookies for the past few years at Post 105. Troop 20122 makes its home at Post 105, meeting monthly at the Post hall – something our Legion Family is very proud to support.

Since 2018, the Post 105 Family has annually voted on buying and donating cookies to send to those in uniform who can’t be home during ‘cookie season’. For the 2023 cookie sale, Post and Squadron 105 went big – bigger than they ever have.

“That’s what our money is there for – this is a great project to give to”, said Squadron 105 Commander Steve Sangemino at the meeting where the vote happened. “This [donation] should increase every year – just like everything else we’re doing”.

SAL 105 voted to top last year’s donation by increasing it to \$250 of cookies sent via “Operation Jersey Cares” to troops overseas and \$250 to the 2nd annual “Cookies for Vets” program to our veterans in VA hospitals. Post 105’s Legionnaires then matched both of those donations. Through “Operation Jersey Cares”, skids of cookies from around the state are loaded onto planes and sent to troops around the world. In 2021, over 80,000 boxes were sent to the military.

The “Cookies for Vets” program is in its second year, run by the Children and Youth Commission at the state-level SAL Detachment of NJ. SAL 105 Adjutant Rusty Myers, who is also the state Children and Youth Commission Chairman, manages the donation of cookies in January which are then donated to NJ’s two VA campuses at Lyons and East Orange. Last year Girl Scouts from both troops, as well as a young SAL from the Belleville squadron, delivered the cookies to both VA locations in April, which is National Children and Youth Month.

“This program is great – it’s what we should be doing”, said Essex County Adjutant Henry Deltosto at a meeting of the American Legion Essex County Committee, where they voted to donate to “Cookies for Vets” as well. “It hits two of the reasons why the American Legion is here – helping our veterans and supporting our kids.”

Most cookies are \$5 a box, making 105’s donation of 100 boxes to the troops and 100 to the vets – who get to enjoy all of these boxes of Thin Mints, Do-si-do’s, Tag-alongs, and an assortment of all of the other delicious cookies we all look forward to each year.

Girl Scout Junior Grace Myers of Troop 20122 and Cadette Abigail Myers of Troop 20462 accepted the donation on January 25th, while also making the rounds selling their last-minute cookies to everyone else at the Post. There is no shortage of people who look forward to getting their cookies each year, as well as no shortage of people at the 105 who are generous enough to donate cookies to the service members on their own.

The Girl Scouts of America states that “When you buy delicious Girl Scout Cookies, you’re helping girls fund life-changing programs, experiences, and learning for themselves and their troops all year long. These experiences broaden their worlds, teach them essential skills, and launch them into a lifetime of success.” The girls not only win badges, awards, and incentives based on how many cookies they sell, the process from selling to delivering the cookies imparts on the scouts a sense of responsibility and people skills, as well as the value of goal setting and entrepreneurship.

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*Back by popular demand ..... Post and SAL 105 Shirts!*

We have had more shirts printed! All sizes available for the RED (Remember Everyone Deployed - \$20) shirts and for the SAL 105 t-shirts (\$12). See any SAL officer to get one.

*Belleville Post and SAL 105 at Newark Penn Station, 4-Feb:*



“We went there with a truck full of coats, blankets, sandwiches, and water and came home with nothing.” Squadron 105 Fundraising Chair Vinnie wanted to help out the homeless on what ended up being the coldest day of the year. A few of us got together and did just that at the park behind Newark Penn Station - handed out PB and J’s, blankets, and three cases of coats from Post 251 in Montclair, as well winter-wear from the local DAV and personal donors. One of the members of our ALA interest group, Melanie, actually gave a little girl the gloves off of her hands. Good job to all involved. You guys represent the best of what the American Legion stands for.



Bob Phillips and Chris Camp man the kitchen at Audubon Towers.

Audubon Towers Senior Citizen Community held their fourth event of 2023 on Saturday February 18th. The Audubon Sons of the American Legion Squadron #262 mustered in the Community Room at 0615 hours and began assembling a hearty breakfast for the residents. Commander Charles Ross along with members Bob, Chris, Matt, Doug, and Harry speedily set the tables and prepared the food so that by 0800 hours, they were ready for their first guest.

The food was awesome. They were offered a hearty THANK YOU to them led by Audubon Towers resident Jim Shinn (Oaklyn Legion Post 84) and eagerly await their return visit.



Union Beach Post and SAL 321 took part in raising funds for the annual Polar Bear Plunge at Seaside Heights on 25-Feb. Each year, the Polar Bear Plunge challenges thousands of brave jumpers from around the state. It's a great way for everyone – individuals, teams, organizations, and businesses to get involved supporting Special Olympics. All funds raised go toward programs and events for thousands of special athletes statewide.

Post and SAL 321, along with the Shrinky Dinks (a team consisting of area police and emergency personnel, the local Elks, and others raised \$111,580 with a goal of \$75,000). Although not part of the team who did the Plunge, Post 321 bartenders Rob Seiders and Flair donated their tips and raised additional funds to the tune of \$7,600.

Outstanding! That's the way the Legion Family works!

More info from the New Jersey Special Olympics: [www.sonj.org](http://www.sonj.org)



Neptune Post 346's Color Guard and Rifle Squad took part in Belmar's St. Patrick's Day Parade on 5-March. (LtoR) SAL Members Paul Williams and John Skislak, with Mike Kennedy, Post Commander John Warhurst, Color Guard Captain Paul Hulse, Gregg Thompkins, Matt Confrey, and Dan Sanford. Post 346 has marched in this parade for decades.



On 19-Feb, Henry Hasselhan(s) III and IV (311) served up venison dinners to the Vets at Veterans Haven South, in cooperation with the Alpha Gun Club.



On 18-Feb, Linden SAL Sq 102 held a Spaghetti Dinner.

*What has your Squadron been up to? Tell us what “Good of the Sons” you’ve done! Email events, articles, and photos to [njsalute@gmail.com](mailto:njsalute@gmail.com). Please ID people in your pictures. Thanks!*



Audubon 262 Auxiliary and SAL members spent the 11-March morning at AMVETS Post 118 in Morton, PA for Veterans Chaplain Training. 22 A Day Awareness, Local Support and Faith Based materials. Marty Widmer (Audubon SAL 262) listens to the presentation.



**BE THE ONE**  
To help end veteran suicide






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

## *A Visit to Pennsylvania:*



**SALute** Editor Gary Crawford spent a recent weekend at his sister's and brother-in-law's B&B in Shamokin. Of course visits to nearby Legions were in order. Gary and his bro-in-law Ken Montanaro (Barnegat NJ SAL 232) stopped by Post 92 in Trevorton on Sunday 29-Jan, but the Post is closed Sundays. The plaque there reads: "This memorial has been erected by American Legion Post 92 - Zerbe Township – Houser - Strausser VFW 7813, in memory of the young men and women of this community who, by their patriotism and loyalty, served God and Country in the wars of our nation. Pray for them". A visit to Mt. Carmel / Atlas Post 804 was more successful and open for refreshments. But no one took any pictures.


Check Trevorton Post 92's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063788520980>,  
Check Mount Carmel /Atlas Post 804's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Legion-Post-804/136572899736686>.



The American Legion Family of Anthony Wayne Post #174  
Is hosting a FAMILY C.O.T.A. PICNIC held at:  
Anthony Wayne Post #174 55 Mountainview Blvd. Wayne, NJ  
Saturday May 13, 2023 – 1:00pm to 5:00pm  
Price per ticket: Adults - \$25, Children under 12 free  
Price includes: Food, Refreshments and Live Music.  
Children's Games, Corn Hole and Horseshoes  
For information contact Anthony Wayne Post #174 @ 973-694-9777  
All proceeds go to help our C.O.T.A. Children and their Families  
in the State of New Jersey.

Many of you are asking: What is COTA? COTA (Children's Organ Transplant Association) is a non-profit organization which is dedicated to helping transplant families raise funds for transplant related expenses. Money is raised across the country for thousands of children and young adults needing an organ, bone marrow or stem cell transplant. They also work with individuals of any age with single gene disorders, such as Polycystic Kidney Disease, Cystic Fibrosis or Sickle Cell Anemia. 100% of the money raised is used for transplant related expenses such as lodging, transportation, insurance premiums, household expenses, prescriptions, and medical care.

COTA does not charge a fee for their services and all funds raised are available for the patient's lifetime. Please help the SAL raise funds for this wonderful organization. All funds raised in New Jersey stay in New Jersey.







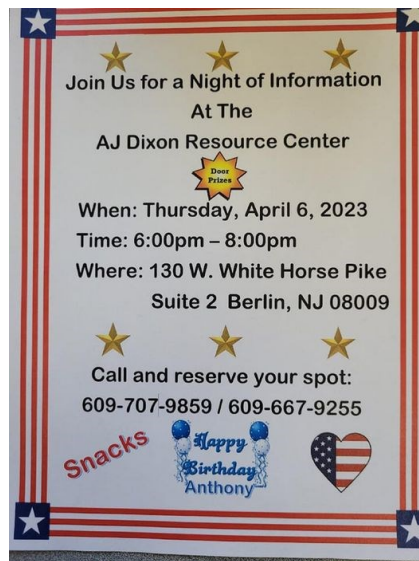
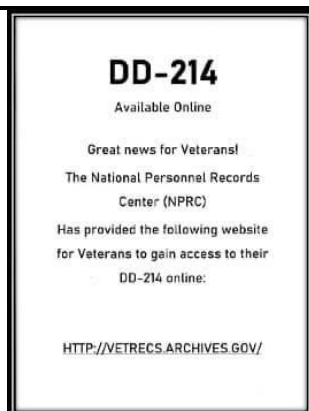
## Testimonial Dinner Honoring NJALA Department President

**COLLEEN BREEN-LOPEZ**



**The Ties at Woodford Hall**  
4, Woodhull Ave., Singac NJ 07424

**Saturday, April 22, 2023**  
**1:00 to 5:00 PM**  
**\*Live Entertainment\***  
**Donation: \$60.00 per person**



## Testimonial Dinner Honoring New Jersey Department Commander

**STEVEN FISHER**



**Paris Caterers**  
281 Cross Keys Road, Berlin NJ 08009

**Saturday, April 1, 2023**  
**5:00 to 9:00, Cocktails 5:00 to 6:00**  
**Program begins 6:00**  
**Donation: \$60.00 per person**

### Atlantic City Regional Stand Down

Serving Homeless and At Risk Veterans

**Atlantic City 2023**

Wednesday, May 24, 2023  
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.



All Wars Memorial  
(Soldiers Home)  
1510 Adriatic Ave.  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401



Volunteers Needed! Please email: [acrsdvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:acrsdvolunteer@gmail.com)

Services Include:  
VA Medical Mental Health Benefits Claims Housing  
Employment Men's & Women's Clothing and Products Lunch

Questions or Comments—Please Contact  
P. Tatum (609) 763-2467 Bob Linsky (908) 894-8746  
ptatum@njamericanlegion.org r.linsky@njamericanlegion.org

### The Veterans Coffee Group

A chance to meet with fellow veterans, share some coffee and conversation, and discuss issues that are important to us.



Meetings will be held the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 1800 (6:00 pm) to 1930 (7:30 pm) each evening. First meeting to be held February 23, 2023.

ALL VETERANS ARE WELCOME!!

Meeting to be held at  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
One Hartford Road  
Medford, NJ 08055

Any questions call or text Chuck, 856.392.3392 or Helen Green 609.760.1491. Hope to see you there!



Can this jolly crew behave? The boys at 338 while the ladies have their meeting, 12-Jan. LtoR: Rusty Myers, Robert Colton in back, James Elmore, Mark Natale, and Carl Alber, with Mike Arner in blue shirt.



(Left) On 13Jan, Post 262 Family (Carolyn Phillips, Kathy Mugnier, Harry Da Hat and our Juniors) helped unload more coats for the local homeless at FW Grigg Post 68 American Legion. Thank you Commander John Brouse for organizing this community event. (Right) On 22-Jan, Henry and Jean Hasselhan at 310 making mozzarella at Little Ferry Post 310 Fundraiser "Mozz w/ Vinnie" for ALA Member Claire Prevot.

"It's not the price you pay for membership...it's the price your forefathers paid to make you eligible!"

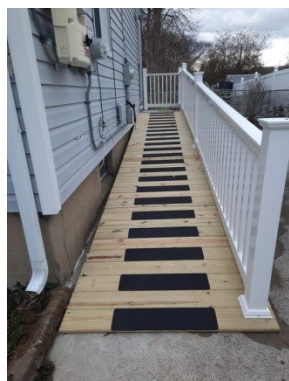




On 14-Jan Murray-Trouitt American Legion Post 262 hosted a Suicide Prevention Seminar. Thank you to the Legion, SAL, ALA, and Juniors that attended the event. Huge thanks to Robert Phillips and the SAL for sponsoring the event.



Chili Cook-Off at Atco Post 311, 14-Jan.



Spike Adams and Micha and I wish to thank the Woodbury SAL and American Legion Post 133, and Deptford Elks, for donating the supplies to build a ramp on the side of my house. Thank you Noah Criscuolo for building it. It's awesome.



## *Upcoming Events – Support Your Local Post, Squadron, Auxiliary, and Riders*

Anytime: Signups for Sept 7 Golf Outing, Barnegat Post 232  
Thru Apr 2: Spring Food Drive, Lawrenceville Post 414.  
Thru June 1: Socks & Underwear Drive for Paramus Veteran Home Residents – Lodi ALA 136.  
Wednesdays & Fridays: Lunch at Rochelle Park Post 170.  
Every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, Community Food Giveaway, Dunellen Post 119.  
Friday & Weekend Specials: Little Egg Harbor Post 493.  
Every Saturday: Grown Folk Saturdays, Neptune Post 266.  
Every Sunday: All You Can Eat Breakfast, Mendham Post 342  
Mar 15: St. Patrick's Day w/ Corned Beef & Cabbage, Milford ALA 289.  
Mar 16: Corned Beef Dinner, Lyndhurst Post 139.  
Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Toms River Post 129.  
Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Wayne Post 174.  
Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day Celebration – Ham or Corned Beef, Atco Post 311.  
Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Edison Post 435.  
Mar 18: Corned Beef & Cabbage, Neptune Post 346.  
Mar 19: Passaic County Legion Family 2023 Testimonial Dinner, Mountainside Inn, Clifton.  
Mar 19: Leadership Fund Tricky Tray Fundraiser in support of Sharon Knight, Westfield ALA 3.  
Mar 22: Fish & Chips Dinner, Totowa ALA 227.  
Mar 24: Karaoke Night, Neptune Post 346.  
Mar 24: Legion of Honor Ceremony for Jeff Hicks, Port Monmouth VFW Post 2179.  
Mar 25: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Country Western Dinner Dance, SAL and Riders, Barnegat Post 232.  
Mar 25: Annual Basket Auction ALA Williamstown 252, at Monroe Twp Library, Williamstown.  
Mar 25: Atlantic County Legion and Auxiliary Testimonial Luncheon, Tomasello's Winery, Hammonton.  
Mar 25: Live Pro Wrestling, New Egypt Post 455.  
Mar 26: Night at the Races, Fundraiser for Leading SAL Candidate Keith Barnes, Englewood Post 58.  
Mar 26: Northern Counties Riders Workshop, Little Ferry Post 310.  
Mar 26: Create A Suncatcher - Craft Event, Saddlebrook ALA 415.  
Mar 31: "The American Soldier" free performance, Pollak Theater, Monmouth University.  
Apr 01: Testimonial Dinner Honoring NJ Department Commander Steven Fisher, Paris Caterers, Berlin.  
Apr 01: Fish & Chips Fundraiser, Lakewood Post 166.  
Apr 07: Shrimp Night, Audubon ALA 262.  
Apr 07: Good Friday Fish Fry, Little Ferry Post 310.  
Apr 16: Veterans Making a Difference in Our Community, Hamilton Twp VFW 3525.  
Apr 21: Comedy Show & Dinner Fundraiser to benefit DAV Ch #2, Woodland Park Post 238.  
Apr 22: Testimonial Dinner Honoring ALA Department President Colleen Breen-Lopez, Woodford Hall, Singac.  
Apr 22: Murder on the Waterfront – A Mob Mystery Dinner Theater (benefitting COTA) Toms River Post 129.  
Apr 22: Riders Blessing of the Bikes, Toms River Post 129.  
Apr 22: Boy Scouts / Legion Beefsteak Dinner, Wayne Post 174.  
Apr 23: Father Daughter Dance, ALA Burlington Post 336.  
Apr 29: Testimonial for SAL Detachment Commander Mark Natale, VFW 2179, Port Monmouth.  
May 06: Riders Stamp Tour Kick Off Party, West Milford Post 289.  
May 07: Riders 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Benefit BBQ, Somers Point Post 352.  
May 07: Vet Fest Music and Food Truck Festival, Dave Waks Memorial Park, Wayne.  
May 10: Psychic Fair, ALA Toms River Post 129.  
May 13: COTA Family Picnic, Wayne Post 174.  
May 20: Installation of Officers, Toms River Post 129.  
May 20: Riders - Gathering of the Chapters, Several Routes, Final Stop Spotswood Post 253.  
May 20-21: Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Air & Space Open House.  
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 7-10: Annual Wildwood Convention.  
June 12: Flag Retirement Ceremony, Cherry Hill Post 372.  
July 15: Art Jensen Jr. Annual Pig Roast, Little Ferry SAL 310.  
July 22: Annual VetDogs Year-End Picnic and Fundraiser, Wayne Post 174.  
Aug 7-8: Brigantine's Veterans' Therapy Surf Camp, Brigantine.  
Aug 18: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Outing @ Gambler's Ridge, New Egypt Post 455.  
Aug 27: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual SAL Car & Bike Show, Metuchen Post 65.

“It’s not the price you pay for membership...it’s the price your forefathers paid to make you eligible!”

THE MEMBER WHO NEVER CAME BACK

It amuses me to think that your group spends so much time  
looking for new members when I was there all the time.  
Do you remember me? I'm the person you asked to join.  
I paid my dues and was asked to be a loyal and faithful member.

I'm the person who came to every meeting but nobody paid  
any attention to me. I tried to be friendly  
but everyone seemed to have their own friends to talk and sit with.

I sat with different people several times but they  
did not pay much attention to me.  
I hoped somebody would ask me to join one of the  
committees or do something but no one did.

Finally, because of illness I missed a meeting. When I came again no  
one asked me where I had been.

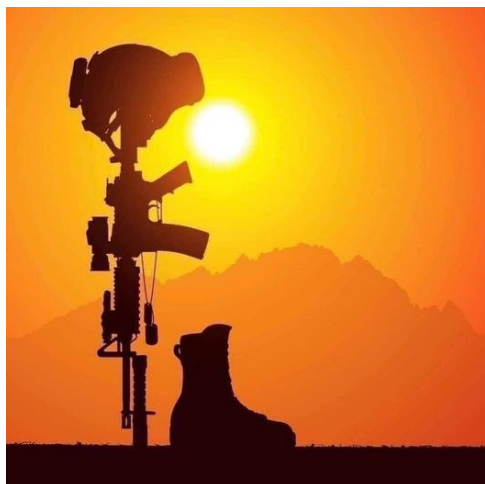
I guess it did not matter much whether I came or not.

Next time I decided to stay home and watch a good TV show.  
When I came back again no one asked where I was the month before.

You might say I'm a good person, fun loving and religious.

You know what else I am?

I'm the member who never came back.



*Contributors to this Issue:*

Mark Natale, Commander, SAL Detachment of NJ, Leonardo SAL 338.  
Colleen Breen-Lopez, President, ALA Department of NJ, Totowa ALA 227.

Belleville Post and Squadron 105.  
DEC Rusty Myers, Belleville SAL 105.  
PDC Carl Alber Jr., Neptune SAL 346.  
PDC / ANEC Henry Hasselhan, Atco SAL 311.  
DEC Greg Shaffer, Wayne SAL 174.  
PDC Patrick Gallagher, Neptune SAL 346.  
PDC Nicholas Wingler, Lakewood SAL 166.  
PDC Jeffrey Hicks, Medford SAL 526.  
Bernie Kofoet, AL 68 / SAL 84.  
Phil Ganz, Comdr, Union Beach SAL 321.

Englewood Squadron 58.  
Audubon Post and Squadron 262.  
Hopewell Post 339.  
Leslie Crawford Montanaro.  
Lisa Waldon Natale, Dept. Chaplain, Leonardo  
ALA 338.  
ShannonLee Widmer, Audubon ALA 262.  
Dawn Vaccaro Burger, Lakewood ALA 166.  
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[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

*Thank you to everyone who contributed!*

Please send news items, articles, and jpg pictures to [njSALute@gmail.com](mailto:njSALute@gmail.com) Please ID people in the pictures. Let us know what you're up to! We won't know if you don't tell us. – Editor Gary.



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