



# 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  
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[www.NJSAL.org](http://www.NJSAL.org)

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<b>Vice Commander</b>	<b>Charles Taylor II</b>
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<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>PDC Matthew Thalasinis</b>
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<b>SAL Chairman</b>	<b>Anthony Gladden</b>
<b>SAL Committee Liaison</b>	<b>Sophia Dmoch</b>
<b>SAL Committee</b>	<b>Michael Smith</b>



## **NEVER FORGET OUR POW/MIAs**

### ***Make It A Good Day For Our Veterans***

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***You're Never Alone – Call 9-8-8 - Option 1***

**For God and Country,**

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

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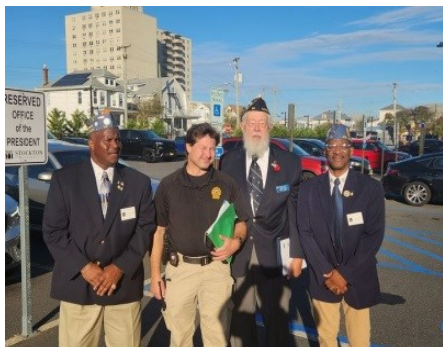
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Detachment Officers at the DEC Meeting at Milltown Post 25 on 21-Oct. LtoR: Vice Commanders Charles Taylor II, William Murphy, and Richard Hodum, Sgt-at-Arms Darryl Cunningham, Adjutant Thomas Marsden, Commander Keith Barnes, and Chaplain Matthew Thalasinis.

### *Commander's Message:*

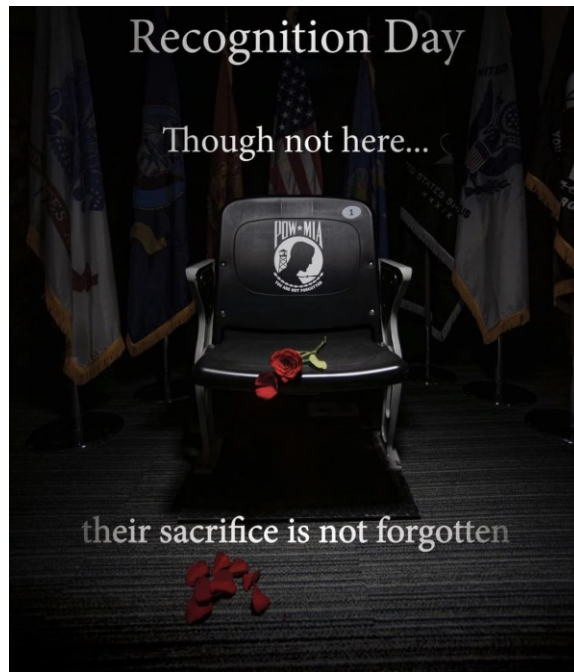


To our Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members, and S. A. L. Members. Let everyone enjoy the upcoming Holidays and be safe at the same time. Don't forget Veterans Day is coming up, so honor our Veterans in some way. Without them, we wouldn't have our freedom. Please don't forget to make it good day for our Veterans !

For God and Country.

*Keith Barnes*, Commander

Commander Keith Barnes at NJ Housing Symposium at Stockton University, with a Lieutenant from The Atlantic City Sheriff's Dept, along with Bernie Kofoet and Charles Taylor II, 28-Oct.



*From the Editor:*

*We are all very familiar with the Legion's BE THE ONE Campaign. But it becomes far more personal when a friend calls and asks you to arrange for a funeral and memorial service for his brother-in-law, an Air Force and Army National Guard Veteran and corrections officer who took his own life this past August. He was being brought home to Manalapan NJ and the family requested a dignified ceremony.*

*I was honored to be asked to make arrangements, including assembling an Honor Guard from several area Legion Posts as well as a police escort from the church to the cemetery, and to write and present a eulogy.*

*It's one thing to know and promote the BE THE ONE Campaign, and even more personal when it's someone close to you.*

*On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for your service, Sergeant Andrew Jude DeMartino. May you find the peace you seek. – Gary Crawford*



Happy Birthday to the SONS! Sept 15, 1932,

The establishment of the ***Sons of the American Legion*** as a non-political, no-sectarian civilian organization was authorized by the 14th National Convention of the American Legion on September 15, 1932, at Portland, Oregon.

## *Squadron Everlasting*



*Editor's Note:* I regret to announce the passing of Anthony "Tony" Clappsy on 19-September. He was Past Commander of Bayonne Squadron 19, Past Hudson County Commander, Past Hudson DEC, Past Detachment Sgt-at-Arms, and my predecessor as editor of the **SALute**. He was also active with the Bayonne FD's Canteen. He was an actor in local theatre and a set designer, as well as an artist and dog lover. A memorial service was held on October 17 at the Migliaccio Funeral Home in Bayonne.



## **N.E.F. NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND**

The National Emergency Fund is a program of the American Legion which provides assistance to Legion Family members displaced from their homes due to a natural disaster like a flood, wildfire, hurricane or other.

With the amount of natural disasters increasing both in frequency and magnitude, the NEF is becoming a more important program to sustain.

As we have seen with all of the tropical storms, tornados, and wildfires this past spring and summer, it is getting harder to predict when a natural disaster will take place, which may leave Legion Family members you may or may not know displaced.

This is why the NEF continues to need your assistance in sustaining the program. We are asking you or your Squadron or Post to donate. No amount is too small. Donations may come in at all times during the year from Squadrons and individuals, and at Detachment meetings.

To help, you may bring donations to Detachment meetings, or you may send donations as in the information listed below. In order to more effectively help with the Detachment's donation to National, please make checks payable to "S.A.L. Detachment of NJ" and indicate "S.A.L.-N.E.F." in the memo line.

Another option is to donate online at [www.legion.org/emergency](http://www.legion.org/emergency). If you choose that option, please inform me with the details at the information below.

Your donations are sincerely appreciated.

S.A.L. Detachment of NJ - N.E.F. Fund

c/o DEAN STAKNYS  
765 BAY AVENUE  
TOMS RIVER, N.J. 08753  
PHONE: 732-586-4385

EMAIL: [CSTK14@VERIZON.N](mailto:CSTK14@VERIZON.N)

# SAL recognizes Snapshots of Service, Videos of Service winners

The American Legion

OCT 04, 2023

Squadrons from Massachusetts, Nebraska, **New Jersey** and Ohio were first-place winners in this year's Sons of The American Legion Snapshots of Service contest. Entries were judged by the SAL Public and Media Communications Commission and announced at the National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

Photos submitted to the Snapshots of Service program had to represent one of the Four Pillars: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, or Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

Snapshots of Service winners were:

Americanism, 1st place: Squadron 207, West Springfield, Mass.

**Americanism, 2nd place: Squadron 105, Belleville, N.J.**

Children & Youth, 1st place: Squadron 112, Omaha, Neb.

Children & Youth, 2nd place: Squadron 246, Betterton, Md.

National Security, 1st place: Squadron 257, Loudonville, Ohio,

National Security, 2nd place: none

**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, 1st place: Squadron 105, Belleville, N.J.**

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, 2nd place: Squadron 257, Loudonville, Ohio

The commission also selected winners in the inaugural Videos of Service contest. Video submissions were required to contain an SAL member or members wearing SAL covers or SAL-branded clothing participating in an activity or event that fell under one of three categories: program support; community engagement; or membership and recruitment. The video must have been no longer than five minutes in length and have been posted on social media.

Videos of Service winners were:

Program Support, 1st place: Squadron 457, Phelps, N.Y.; 2nd place, Squadron 414, Sutton, Mass.

Community Engagement, 1st place: Squadron 42, Floyds Knobs, Ind.

**Membership & Recruitment, 1st place: Squadron 105, Belleville, N.J.**


Entry forms for the 2024 Snapshots of Service and Videos of Service contests are available at <https://www.legion.org/sons/publications>.


*Photos of these award presentations were in the last issue of the **SALute**. Congratulations to Belleville Squadron 105!*



*The week of October 16 – 20 was the American Legion's Buddy Check Week, where those participating were asked to contact ten or more Veterans to check on their welfare. Even though that week has passed, it is still important to contact our Veterans. Call, email, text, or stop by to see how they're doing. The current suicide rate is unacceptable. Twenty-two Veterans suicides a day is 23 too many. Save a life. Give a call.*

Still having issues with MyLegion? Check out the information below:





**myLEGION SUPPORT TEAM CONTACT INFO  
AND HELPFUL LINKS**

PHONE:

833.253.9995

FAX:

317.860.3131

EMAIL:

[myLegion@Legion.org](mailto:myLegion@Legion.org)

HOURS:

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM (EST)

FIND A POST:

<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Find-a-Post>

ACCOUNT REGISTRATION:

**Please read before registering an account**  
<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Resources/Help/Help-Registration>

FIND HELP:

**How to use MyLegion.org**  
<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Find-Help>

KNOWN ISSUES:

**A List of known issues and their status**  
<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Resources/Help/Known-Issues>

MY ACCOUNT:

**For all registered users of MyLegion.org**  
<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Resources/Help/Help-My-Account>

MY GROUPS - DEPARTMENTS, DETACHMENTS, POSTS, SQUADRONS ETC:

**For Legion and SAL Leadership**  
<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Resources/Help/Help-My-Groups>

MYLEGION.ORG VIDEO TRAINING SERIES:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8339635>  
Video series to help users navigate and get the most out of the features and tools available at MyLegion.org

TRAINING PRESENTATIONS:

<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Resources/Help/Training>  
PowerPoint presentations ranging from account registration to membership processing

Revised: JUL / 2023

**2024 IS NOW**  
**SONS OF THE**  
 **AMERICAN**  
**LEGION**  
**RENEW TODAY!!!**

## National Commander Donald "JR" Hall's VA&R Project

Operation Comfort Warriors represents the Legion's expression of gratitude to those who sacrificed to protect our freedoms.



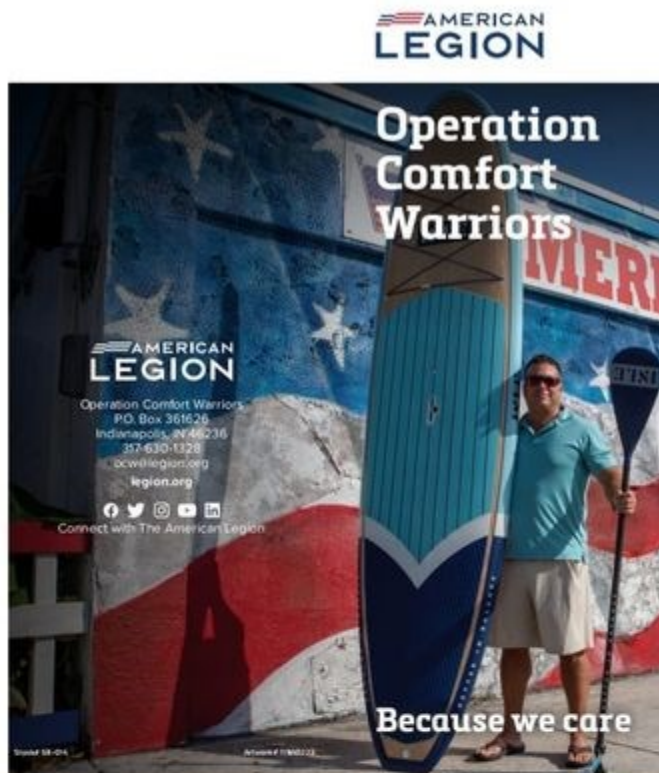
### HOW RECIPIENTS BENEFIT

Today, wounded warriors need a variety of items to help in their recovery. Some patients require loose-fitting sweatshirts to cover their healing wounds without adding pressure to burns sustained in combat. Others use fitness equipment to rebuild strength in their muscles. Still others enjoy the camaraderie and fresh air that come from a fishing trip, thanks to donated gear.

Some gifts have included sports equipment for the adaptive therapy program at Fort Jackson, gift cards to patients at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and fishing and kayak gear at Fort Drum.

The success of the program relies entirely on donations, which are used to purchase items for U.S. servicemembers.

To make a donation, go to [legion.org/ocw](http://legion.org/ocw).



## OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS

As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have drawn to a close, many servicemembers left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. Those with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) returned home in unprecedented numbers. In fact, the Army has estimated that up to 20 percent of the men and women who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered a TBI.

Even when not at war, those in the military still face inherent dangers during training exercises and while performing other hazardous duties.

While the care at military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was created to provide "non-essentials" – items that help wounded warriors in their recovery but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets. OCW is not a program designed to help with bills (mortgage, rent, utilities or credit cards), car repairs or home repairs.

### HOW TO HELP

Most military medical centers are not equipped to store large quantities of care packages. The Legion strongly prefers monetary donations so that it can expedite the purchase and delivery of items to servicemembers.

**HOW TO GIVE:** Visit [legion.org/ocw](http://legion.org/ocw) to donate electronically, using your credit card. Checks may be mailed to The American Legion, Operation Comfort Warriors, PO Box 361626, Indianapolis, IN 46236.

**HOW TO RAISE MONEY:** A fundraiser such as a motorcycle run or a fish fry can be a great way to gather donations. A Legion post, Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron, Legion Riders chapter, church group or other charitable organization could assist in sponsoring a fundraiser. Proceeds from a fundraising event can be donated to OCW via the website or mailing address listed above.

**HOW TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Check out [legion.org/ocw](http://legion.org/ocw) for the latest news and information about the program.



### HOW IT WORKS

The American Legion is contacted by individuals, VA hospitals, warrior transition centers and communities with needs for wounded, injured, disabled or ill servicemembers. Once a need is identified, the items are ordered by the Legion and delivered in an expeditious manner. It's as simple as that. No red tape.

All of OCW's administrative and marketing costs are paid from Legion membership dues, meaning that 100 percent of donated funds go directly to purchasing comfort items for the servicemembers.

## September Around the State:

On September 9, 2023, the Ocean County American Legion Family, led by Ocean County Past Commander and Past Detachment Commander Nicholas Wingler, held the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual End of Summer BBQ bash for children with autism and their siblings. 2023 set an all-time record having over 650 autistic children and family members attend the four hour barbecue. This year again the committee was honored to have Department Commander Larry Bishop, Department President Sharon Knight, and Detachment Commander Keith Barnes in attendance for the festivities. Donations for the barbecue came from various Posts and Squadrons throughout the state of New Jersey. If you would like to get involved with the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual BBQ for autistic children, it will be held the Saturday after Labor Day in 2024. Please contact Chairman and event organizer Nick Wingler.



At VFW Post 8867 in Brick on 9-Sept, the Annual End of Summer Bash BBQ for Autistic Children. Check the list on the right for the Legion Family involvement!



Kieran Wingler with Sonic. Dept Commander Larry Bishop and PDC Nick Wingler. PDCs Mark Natale, Nick Wingler, and Dave Page. Careful in the sun with those bare noggins, boys.



What this event is all about. (Right) WOBB radio personality Sue Moll poses with Sonic, Bluey, JJ, and Mickey.

An excellent article appears on the Legion.org website:  
<https://www.legion.org/sons/260258/new-jersey-legion-family-celebrates-day-autistic-children>



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



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

Dept Commander Larry Bishop, Dept President Sharon Knight, and Detachment Commander Keith Barnes at the Gathering of the Chapters of the Riders at Spotswood Post 253 on 9-Sept.



(Left) SAL and ALA 262 Juniors baked cookies and wrote thank you cards for their 9/11 Day of Service for local police and fire departments . Audubon 262 Members Rosie and Marty Widmer with Austin Goldman from Oaklyn Sq 84. Marty is the Camden County Chaplain, while Austin is the Chaplain for Squadron 84.

(Right) Magnolia Post 370 welcomes National Commander Donald JR Hall. Austin Goldman from Oaklyn SAL 84, Michael Douglas, Rosie and Marty Widmer of Audubon SAL 262.



Sept 11 Ceremony at Atco Post 311. Burlington Co. DEC Barry Conaway and PDC Jeff Hicks at Mt. Holly Post 11.



Cherry Hill Post 372 Family Day on 11-Sept.

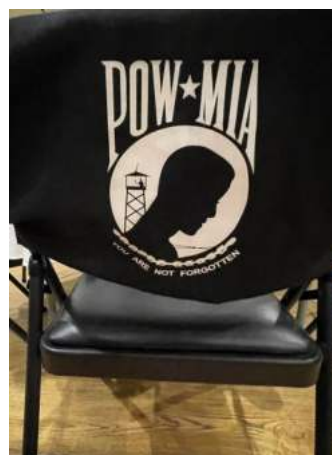


Gary Crawford with Senator Vin Gopal at Post 346's September 11th Ceremony      PDC Carl Alber Jr plays TAPS



September 11<sup>th</sup> at Neptune Post 346. (Left) LtoR: Commander Wil Fetherman, PDC Carl Alber Jr., Connor Izquierdo, Detachment Commander Keith Barnes, SAL Commander Gary Crawford, PDC Patrick Gallagher, and Auxiliary President Amanda Trail. (Center) 346 Color Guard LtoR: Captain Paul Hulse, Mike Kennedy, Matt Confrey, SAL Sq. Sgt-at-Arms John Skislak, Jim Struble, SAL Sq. Vice Commander Paul Williams, Brian Collins, Dan Sanford, and Greg Thompkins. (Right) Detachment Commander Keith Barnes and Senator Vin Gopal.

*Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage . . .*



POW/MIA Ceremony at Neptune Post 346 on 15Sept. (Left) Color Guard stands by at Six Branches of the Military table setting. LtoR: SAL Vice Commander Paul Williams, Mike Kennedy, Brian Collins, and Matt Confrey. (Center) PDC Carl Alberm Jr displays the POW/MIA Flag. (Right) Anticipating their return, the Empty Chair awaits.

### *Official Visit of National Commander Donald “JR” Hall:*



(16Sept) (Left) A visit to the Audubon Memorial. (Right) At Belleville 105’s Annual Picnic. LtoR: Post Commander Joe Bianchi, PDC Mike Arner, PDC and NEC Bob Phillips Jr., PDC and ANEC Henry Hasselhan, PDC Mark Natale, Detachment Sgt-at-Arms Darryl Cunningham, and Detachment Commander Keith Barnes. Seated LtoR: National Commander Donald “JR” Hall, and Commander’s Aide Tom Deal.



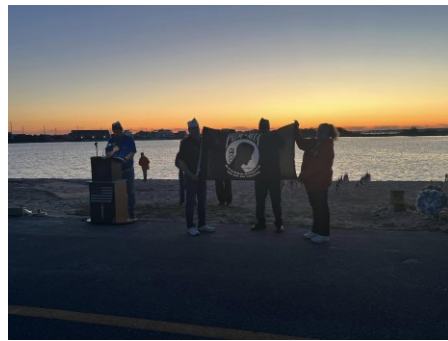
National Commander Hall’s Official Visit to Gloucester Squadron 281 and visit and commemorative cake at Audubon Squadron 262. Commander Hall also visited Camden County College for a POW/MIA service on R.E.D. Friday, 15Sept.

### *33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Watchfire Pictorial*

*This Watch is dedicated to the brave men and women who sacrificed their freedom in the service of our country. In honor of all American Prisoners of War, those still missing, and those Americans who still may be held prisoner: **YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.***



(Left) PDC Carl Alberm Jr MC's the event. (Center) Detachment Commander Keith Barnes welcomes the attendees. (Right) SAL National Commander Donald JR Hall says a few words and thanks NJ for the invitation.



(Left) Legion Commander Larry Bishop speaks to the audience. (Center) Commander Larry Bishop, President Sharon Knight, and Commander Keith Barnes display the POW/MIA flag. (Right) NEC/PDC Bob Phillips Jr presents National Commander Hall with a special presentation.

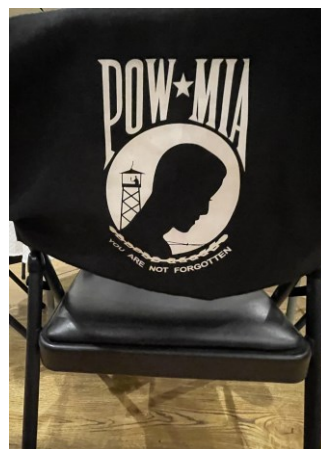
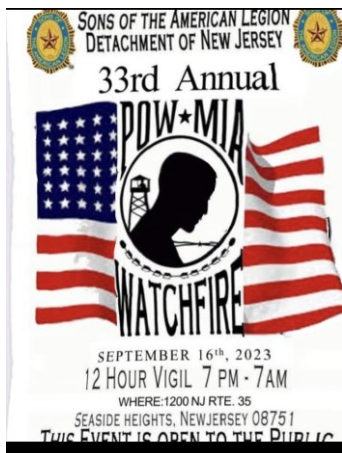


(Left) Saluting those who aren't with us. (Center) The Watchfire Committee: Carl Alberm Jr., Henry Hasselhan, Richard Hodum, Bill Murphy, Matt Thalasinios, and Keith Barnes. (Right) The NJ Crew.



(Left) Detachment Vice Commander Richard Hodum displays items on the Empty Chair and Table as they are being described. (Center) The crew from Neptune 346: SAL Vice Commander Paul Williams, Post Commander Wil Fetherman, and PDC Carl Alber Jr. (Right) A salute as a worn American Flag is dispatched to the Watchfire.

More pictures of the Watchfire can be found on Toms River Post 129's website: <https://alpost129.org/photo-gallery/>





## American Legion Post 331 Annual Fund Raiser Supports Veterans Transitional Housing Program

(17Sep2023) Each year, Stone Harbor's American Legion Post 331 and its Sons of The American Legion (S.A.L.) Squadron, supported by the Yacht Club of Stone Harbor, host a spaghetti dinner fund raiser for a designated veterans' charity. This year's charity was Veterans Haven South of Winslow, New Jersey, a veterans transitional housing program operated by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for homeless veterans. After being medically evaluated at a VA Medical Center, eligible

veterans must agree to a long-term program focusing on psychological, social, and vocational rehabilitation.

Legion and S.A.L. members with support from cadets from the Middle Township High School Navy National Defense Cadet Corps served 263 meals throughout the evening. At the end of the dinner, a donation of \$5,000 was presented to Brigadier General (BG) Patrick Kennedy, superintendent of Veterans Haven South, by co-hosts Jon Ready, Post 331 Trustee, and Reese Moore, acting S.A.L. commander. Previously, Post 331 had donated \$17,500 to the Veterans Haven South program.

Photo: BG Kennedy (center) accepting donation from J. Ready (right) and acknowledging previous Post donation held by R. Moore, acting S.A.L. Commander (left).



At the Detachment meeting on 23Sept at Magnolia Post 370, Henry Hasselhan 5<sup>th</sup> receives a certificate for raising over \$2500 for COTA. It was also his 7<sup>th</sup> birthday and a cake was in order for the event. (Left) Vice Commander Bill Murphy and Commander Keith Barnes present Henry with his certificate as Vice Commander Rich Hodum looks on from behind. (Right) Henry blows out the candles as Keith Barnes holds the cake. Proud Dad Henry 4<sup>th</sup> is behind young Henry, along with PDCs Danny Dunn, Carl Albern Jr., and Dave Page, among others.



(Left) (23Sept) At Starview Diner after the Detachment meeting at Magnolia NJ Post 370 with (LtoR) Detachment Chairman Tony "That Legion Guy" Gladden, Project Chairman Danny Dunn, Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms Darryl Cunningham, Commander Keith Barnes, PDC Bob Bascou, and SAL Liaison Michael Smith. (Right) Marty and Rosie, those Widmer kids from 262, at the Cherry Hill Standdown on 22Sept.

*And into October:*



Gibbsboro Post and SAL 371 Golf Outing on 1-October. (Left) PDC Bob Bascou keeps an eye on the festivities. (Center) PB Partitions, a major sponsor. (Right) Some of the prizes.

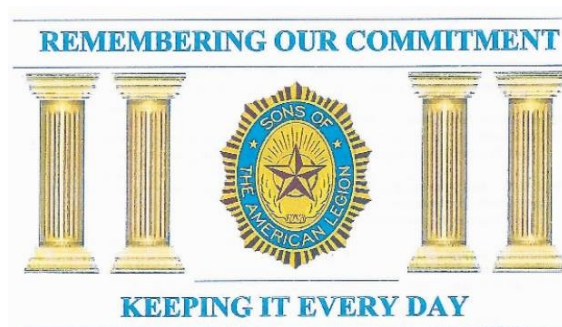


At Chester Post 342 on 1-October, Korean Veterans were feted with a dinner and an outdoor ceremony. (Left) SAL and Rider Richard Michael speaks to the Vets. (Right) SAL Landon Marciano, son of Commander David Marciano, stands by at the flag during the ceremony.





Detachment Chaplain Charles Taylor and Jeff Evers from Wayne SAL 174 advertising Oct 15 Breakfast.



### *NEC Fall Meetings, 6-8 Oct, Indianapolis*



(Left) The American Legion 2023-2024 National Commander Daniel J Seehafer addresses the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee Fall Meetings. He's asking everyone to ***Be The One*** and fill out your reports. (Right) Friday night at the National Sons of The American Legion NEC Fall Meetings with leading candidate Joseph Navarrete (left) and trailing candidate Bill Clancy (right) with SAL Commander JR Hall.



Our 2023-2024 Leaders: American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer (Wisconsin), ALA National President Lisa Williamson (Alaska), and SAL National Commander Donald JR Hall (Maryland).

Among items mentioned, the Children's Welfare Foundation (CWF), probably the largest fundraising effort of the SAL, is close to have donated **\$10 MILLION DOLLARS** over the years. There is \$309,000 to go to reach that milestone, in hopes to reach it by the New Orleans Convention next year.

As of September 28, \$103,000 has been donated by the SAL, a \$25,000 increase over the previous year. Thirty-seven Detachments donated this amount. The \$10M goal is in sight and the Sons were encouraged to keep up the good work with donations. Young Henry P. Hasselhan, 7-year-old Son of Atco Squadron 311 and grandson of PDC Henry F. Hasselhan, was mentioned several times for the \$2500 he has personally raised for CWF. If every member of every NJ Squadron donated \$1, almost \$10,000 could be realized for CWF.

(As of the last Membership Report, NJ SAL Membership stands at 9,819, just 181 away from 10,000)

In 1952, Dr. Garland D. Murphy Jr. gave to The American Legion a large contribution that would benefit children. The Legion and Murphy entered into a trust agreement that established the Child Welfare Foundation, approved by the National Executive Committee on Oct. 15, 1953.

Established in 1954, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. Our foremost philanthropic priority is to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth by aiding progress in the field of child welfare through dissemination of knowledge about research, studies, surveys, projects, or by supporting programs and activities benefiting the welfare of children and youth.

Not all American children grow up inside the comfortable definition of normal childhood development. For thousands, each day is a challenge marked by pain, prayer and perseverance. Many of these children require specialized care. To overcome their obstacles, they need help from you and The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. More at: <http://www.cwf-inc.org/>





Belleville Post 105 and Nutley Post 70 Families in the Nutley Columbus Day Parade, (8-Oct)



At Keansburg Post 273's Pig Roast, the Wheelbarrow-O'-Cheer and the Apron-O'-Loot drawing prizes.



Save the Tatas donation by the NJ SAL Delegation to the Maryland breast cancer program. PDCs Jeff Hicks, Bob Phillips Jr., Carl Alber Jr., Bob Bascou, and Henry Hasselhan show off their pinkies.



SAL 105 of Belleville held another blood drive on 9-Oct. Pictured are Aux Chaplain Jackie Elsmore, and SAL 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander James Elsmore.



Built by the "doughboy" veterans of WW1 from Audubon, their first Post home will meet its end in just a few months. On Sunday November 5th at 9 am American Legion Family and guests will take one more walk through these hallowed halls. Join them for the end of an era. The first meeting of the Murray-Troutt Audubon Post 262 was held on 15-July-1924.



Detachment Chaplain Charles Taylor attending the *Roast at the Post* in Little Falls Post 108, on 14-Oct, with SAL Detachment Commander Keith Barnes. They enjoyed meeting new American Legion Family Members.



At the Auxiliary's POW/MIA service at Neptune Post 346 on 14-Oct, Legion Family Officers were LtoR: Sharon Knight, Department President; Larry Bishop, Department Commander; Legion NEC Berley Hanna Jr., SAL Detachment Vice-Commander Richard Hodum (representing Commander Keith Barnes), and SAL NEC Robert Phillips Jr





(Left) The SAL crew in attendance included: PDC Mark Natale, Squadron 346 Commander and *SALute* Editor Gary Crawford, PDC Carl Alber Jr., and NEC/PDC Bob Phillips Jr. (Right) Mark Natale, Camden County Past Commander Josh Seib, Detachment Vice-Commander Bill Murphy, and PDC Amel Balega.



(Left) Kathy and SAL Carl Beams Jr at Freehold Post 54's car and truck show 15-Oct. (Center) A few cars showed up. (Right) Ken Pulchlopek and the Post 54 crew at their table.



On 18-Oct, Camden County Legion Family crew at their Bridgeton Standdown tent. (Center) Jane Babli, Rosie, Marty, and ShannonLee Widmer and Sam, the South Jersey WAWA Veterans' Liaison.



(Left) Marty and Rosie at work making Pinata Witch Cookies for Halloween Bingo at Veterans Haven South. (Center) The finished product. (Right) Stuffing Wawa water bottles with candy.



Nutley SAL Sq 70: (Left) At Wendy's for their fundraiser, 19-Oct. (Right) Halloween Party on 22-Oct.



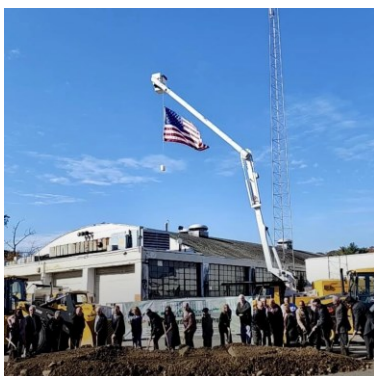
(Left) Hopewell Post 339's Rifle Squad at Shelley Pennington's Memorial Service, 22-Oct. (Right) ALA Vice-President Lisa and PDC Mark Natale at President Sharon Knight's Official Visit to Ocean County, 23-Oct.



New Egypt Post 455's Halloween Party, 27-Oct.



Somerville Post 12's Family Outing, 28-Oct.



Groundbreaking for Veterans' Affordable Housing Project for Passaic County, on Ringwood Ave. in Pompton Lakes. 26-Oct.



(Left) Warminster Post 798 pub crawling at Trenton Post 458 on 28-Oct. (Right) At Westwood Post 206 on 28-Oct, NEC Berley Hanna, Dept Commander Larry Bishop, Detachment Commander Keith Barnes, and ANEC Gene O'Grady.

## CWF Best Beard Contest



**Henry Hasselhan**



**Tom Marsden**

As I have traveled around this great State of ours for the Detachment, I have noticed some very impressive chin whiskers. It seemed to me people were trying to outdo each other for the best beard. So I decided to have a little fun with this and at the same time to raise money for the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF). I've created a best beard contest.

Right now the two poster children for this contest are two PDCs, Tom Marsden and Henry Hasselhan III. They have graciously offered their hairy mugs for this endeavor. Of course there are other people out there who may think their or someone else's face full of hair is equally or better qualified so the contest is opened to all Legion Family members.

Here is how the contest will work. Please see the attached contest form. Vote for one of our poster children or send a name and photo of your choice and vote for them.. It is \$5 per vote with all the proceeds going to CWF. This is one time when I can actually encourage you to vote early and vote often. All photos will be incorporated into future forms. I will keep a running tally and get them out periodically so we can see where everyone stands.

The Child Welfare Foundation is a program of the American Legion that assists children in many ways. It supplies grants to children in need for transplants, transportation to far away hospitals etc. It also supplies grants for books and publications that teach Americanism and Patriotism as well as many other uses.

Please make out all checks to the Detachment of NJ and put CWF in the memo line. Mail to: Bill Murphy, 92 Brand Road, Toms River NJ 08753.

Any questions or suggestions are welcome. Please reach out to me. This is meant to be fun and at the same time raise funds for a very worthwhile cause.

Thank you! And may the best beard win!

For God and Country,  
Bill 'Murph' Murphy  
CWF Chairman  
Cell: 732-278-4237  
E-mail: [bmurphy1229@aol.com](mailto:bmurphy1229@aol.com)

### CWF Best Beard Contest

- \$5 Per Vote
- Vote for one of the above or send a send photo and vote for a Legion Family member of your choice.
  - All votes due by April 1, 2024
  - For Henry or Tom, write in number of votes next to name
  - For Your Choice, write in name and number of votes
  - All proceeds go to CWF ( Child Welfare Foundation )
  - Make checks payable to Detachment of NJ and put CWF in memo line
  - Mail checks and contest forms to 92 Brand Road, Toms River NJ 08753

Henry Hasselhan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Marsden \_\_\_\_\_

American Legion Squadron 455  
Would like to invite...

## Members and Guests to a Dining and Dancing Dinner Party

Saturday October 28, 2023  
Social Time: 4-5 pm / Dinner 5:00 pm  
\$25.00 per person

Dinner to include:  
Herb Stuffed Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Green  
Beans, Applesauce  
Dessert and coffee

2 Meadowbrook Lane New Egypt NJ 08533

For ticket information contact:  
Roberta Francis  
609-209-4666  
[ala.roberta.nc@gmail.com](mailto:ala.roberta.nc@gmail.com)

Music provided by DJ Icky

All proceeds to benefit the Ocean County Sons of the  
American Legion Candidates Fund.

Please Join  
**American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.**  
**OPERATION HOLIDAY SALUTE**  
Holiday Cards will be delivered to Veterans in Hospice Care  
across the United States.

1. Address your holiday card to "Dear Hero" or "Dear Veteran"
2. Mail your cards to:  
American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.  
P.O. Box 197  
Lincoln University, PA 19352

Postmark Deadline 19 November  
For more information go to  
[AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](http://AmericanGoldStarMothers.org)

American Legion Post 372 Auxiliary PRESENTS

# Holiday FOOD DRIVE

For in need  
VETERANS and  
their families

ACCEPTING CANNED FOOD AND NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS, WITH A  
FOCUS ON HOLIDAY MEAL ITEMS.

**ACCEPTING Donations Oct 15th - Nov 12th**

DROP OFF AT: American Legion Post 372, 1532 Martin Ave, Cherry Hill, NJ between 12noon  
and 8pm daily - Oct 15th - Nov 12th

83rd ANNUAL  
**CHRISTMAS  
TOY  
DRIVE**  
DECEMBER 9, 2023  
2:00-5:00PM

PLEASE DONATE NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS  
FOR CHILDREN OF VETERANS AND  
OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.

Hot Chocolate & Candy Corns 12:00-1:00pm  
American Legion Post 170  
33 West Pleasant St., Northvale Park, NJ  
Project G Garden (Sage Gals NJ)  
Merrill's Xmas Toy

Anthony Wayne Veterans Legion Post 717 is an approved  
New Jersey drop off point for Toys for Tots.

Unwrapped, New Toys can be dropped off Monday thru Sunday  
Between 12pm and 8pm through December 8, 2023 at the  
American Legion Post 174  
51 Mountain View Blvd.  
Wayne, New Jersey 07470

We will be hosting a 2 day Toy Drive Party!  
Bring a new, unwrapped toy or make a \$10 donation and enjoy Live Music  
& Free Food, High energy entertainment each day.

Friday, November 17, 2023, Live Music, Free Food 1pm - 10pm  
Saturday, November 18, 2023, Live Music, Free Food 1pm - 10pm

**FAMILY**

## SHARE THE WARMTH

We are collecting donations of **NEW**

- \*Hats
- \*Gloves
- \*Scarves
- \*Pajamas

thru December 4th for Madonna House.  
Sizes from infants to teens.  
Monetary donations will also be accepted.

**Please help make a difference!**

Contact: Mandy (732) 267-3496 or Bette Jo (732) 681-9435  
Email: [alaunit346@gmail.com](mailto:alaunit346@gmail.com)

Sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 346

## Veterans Making a Difference in Our Community

Serving All Veterans & All Services

### Union County Regional

VFW Post 2648  
2012 High St.  
Union, NJ 07083

Monday, November 13,  
2023  
10 am - 2 p.m.  
Refreshments Provided

**hope** VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
New Jersey Health Care System

**Services Include:**  
DD 214's Benefits Claims Housing  
Employment Clothing Ongoing Support

Questions or Comments—Please Contact  
Michael Bell 973-332-1556  
Larry Platt 908-487-8672  
Bob Looby 908-494-0746  
[mibell@veteransunion.org](mailto:mibell@veteransunion.org)  
[lplatt@veteransunion.org](mailto:lplatt@veteransunion.org)  
[bellooby@veteransunion.org](mailto:bellooby@veteransunion.org)

# MURDER on the WATERFRONT

A Multi-Mystery Dinner Theatre

American Legion Post 129  
2023 E. South St.  
Trenton, NJ 08611

A Benefit for COTA  
Children's Organ Transplant Association

Saturday November 11, 2023  
Doors open 6:30 pm  
\$60  
Show, Pasta Dinner, Dessert, Beer, Wine, Soda  
For tickets and information  
732-255-8259

The Godfather, Nola Contardo, has called  
all the families together for a major  
announcement... and YOU'RE invited!

**"Dads is gonna come and your is gonna LIKE it"**

To book a Murder Mystery or Interactive Event, call Theater To Go  
800-780-2367 [www.theatertogo.com](http://www.theatertogo.com) [info@theatertogo.com](mailto:info@theatertogo.com)

## FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION

### FOR THE GREAT FALLS MILITARY PANTRY

SERVING ALL VETERANS  
IN PASSAIC COUNTY AS  
WELL AS NEARBY  
COUNTIES

Items needed include:  
PASTA, TUNA, TOMATO SAUCE, PANCAKE SYRUP, RICE, JELLY, MAC  
AND CHEESE, PERSONAL CARE ITEMS SUCH AS SHAVING CREAM,  
SHAMPOO, DEODORANT, MOUTHWASH, TOOTH PASTE, AND FEMININE  
CARE PRODUCTS, TISSUES, TOILET PAPER, AND PAPER TOWELS.

**ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE POST  
MON-FRI 4-7PM AND SAT & SUN 12-6**

American Legion Post 289  
177 Lincoln Ave West Milford

## STAY. TOGETHER.

++ A VIGIL FOR VETERANS ++

NOVEMBER 11 7:30 PM

PATRIOTS THEATER AT THE WAR MEMORIAL  
TRENTON, NJ

A concert honoring those who have served  
featuring artwork from **FRONTLINE**

## Soldiers' Angels TREATS FOR TROOPS

**GOT CANDY?**

Don't get stuck with piles of leftover  
Halloween candy this year! Donate  
your excess candy to Soldiers' Angels  
Treats for Troops.

Soldiers' Angels  
will get this candy  
to our Troops and  
Veterans for a  
sweet treat!

For more info & locations to donate:  
[www.SoldiersAngels.org/TreatsForTroops](http://www.SoldiersAngels.org/TreatsForTroops)



The InfoAge Holiday Spectacular includes all the museums on-site, including a huge collection of military vehicles and equipment, computers and communications over the years, and much more.

## SPAM

Spam is a brand of canned cooked meat made by Hormel Foods Corporation. It was first introduced in 1937 and gained popularity worldwide after its use during World War II. By 2003, Spam was sold in 41 countries on six continents and trademarked in over 100 countries (except in the Middle East and North Africa). In 2007, the seven billionth can of Spam was sold.



### HISTORY

Spam was introduced by Hormel in 1937. Ken Daigneau, brother of a company executive, won a \$100 prize that year in a competition to name the new item. Hormel claims that the meaning of the name "is known by only a small circle of former Hormel Foods executives", but popular beliefs are that the name is an abbreviation of "spiced ham", "spare meat", or "shoulders of pork and ham". Another popular explanation is that Spam is an acronym standing for "Specially Processed American Meat" or "Specially Processed Army Meat".

The difficulty of delivering fresh meat to the front during World War II saw Spam become a ubiquitous part of the U.S. soldier's diet. It became variously referred to as "ham that didn't pass its physical", "meatloaf without basic training", and "Special Army Meat". Over 150 million pounds of Spam were purchased by the military before the war's end.

During World War II and the occupations which followed, Spam was introduced into Guam, Hawaii, Okinawa, the Philippines, and other islands in the Pacific. Immediately absorbed into native diets, it has become a unique part of the history and effects of U.S. influence in the Pacific.

As a consequence of World War II rationing and the Lend-Lease Act, Spam also gained prominence in the United Kingdom. British prime minister during the 1980s Margaret Thatcher later referred to it as a "wartime delicacy". In addition to increasing production for the U.K., Hormel expanded Spam output as part of Allied aid to the similarly beleaguered Soviet Union. Nikita Khrushchev declared: "Without Spam we wouldn't have been able to feed our army". Throughout the war, countries ravaged by the conflict and faced with strict food rations came to appreciate Spam.

## *Events and Things to do around the State:*

*Veterans' Day, Nov 11: Mood's Farm Market gives Veterans a bag of donuts and a gallon of cider. 901 Bridgeton Pike (Elk Twp) Mullica Hill, N.J. [www.moodsfarmmarket.com](http://www.moodsfarmmarket.com)*

Mondays: Bowling for COTA, Montvale Lanes (Bergen County Legion Family)

Mon-Fri 4-7, Sat-Sun 12-6, Food Drive – Great Falls Military Food Pantry, Wayne Post 174.

Wednesdays: Authentic Italian Dinners, Little Egg Harbor Post 493.

Friday Night Dinners, Dunellen Post 119.

Nov 03-04: Clothing Drive & Bake Sale, Branchville Post 157.

Nov 04: Legion National Membership Workshop, Blackwood Post 81.

Nov 04: Bergen County Regional – Veteran Services, Rochelle Park Post 170.

Nov 05: End of NASCAR Season & Traditional St. Patrick's Day Dinner, Nutley SAL 70.

Nov 05: Breakfast at Little Egg Harbor Post 493.

Nov 05: Last chance to walk through the original Audubon Post 262 building.

Nov 10: Sussex Meats Gift Certificates Raffle Drawing, Wharton ALA 91.

Nov 10: The Sock Hop, Toms River Riders Post 129.

Nov 10: Beefsteak Dinner, New Egypt ALA 455.

Nov 10 and Nov 17: Sabaton's "The War to End All Wars" movie, National Guard Militia Museum of NJ, Sea Girt.

Nov 11: Veterans' Music Fest, D'Jais, Ocean Ave. Belmar.

Nov 11: Murder on the Waterfront – Mob Mystery Dinner Theatre – to benefit COTA, Toms River Post 129.

Nov 11: Veterans' Day Ceremony, (Free Hot Dogs Following), Pine Hill Memorial Park (if rain) Pine Hill Post 286.

Nov 11: Turkey Dinner, Middlesex Post 306.

Nov 11: Veterans' Day Dinner and 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans' Walk, Atco Post 311.

Nov 11: Veterans' Day Ceremony, Neptune Post 346.

Nov 11: Vigil For Veterans Concert, Trenton War Memorial.

Nov 11: Veterans' Day Parade, Toms River.

Nov 12: Audubon HS Project Memorial and Post 262 Veterans Day 5K Run.

Through Nov 12: Holiday Food Drive, drop off 12 noon – 8 pm, Cherry Hill ALA 372

Nov 13: Bus to Atlantic City, Neptune Post 346.

Nov 13: Union County Regional – Veterans Making A Difference In Our Community, Union VFW 2648.

Nov 15: NJ Dept of Corrections Career Fair, Glassboro VFW Post 679.

Nov 17-18: Toy Drive Party, Wayne Post 174.

Nov 18: Basket of Cheer Drawing, Williamstown Riders Post 252.

Nov 19: Breakfast Buffet, Wayne Post 174.

Nov 19: Tree Sales Begin, (until sold out) Wayne SAL 174.

Nov 19: "Stretch The Mootz" Queens of Fresh Mozzarella, Little Ferry Post 310.

Nov 22: Veterans' Thanksgiving Dinner, Graycliff Moonachie.

Nov 25: Craft and Vendor Fair, Toms River ALA 129.

Nov 28: COTA Giving Tuesday, [www.cota.org/givingtuesday](http://www.cota.org/givingtuesday).

Dec 01: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ocean County AL Family Holiday Christmas Party, New Egypt Post 455.

Dec 01-02: Eastern Div. ALA National Vice-President's Visit to New Egypt 455 and Neptune 346.

Through Dec 04: Share the Warmth – Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Pajamas – Neptune Post Family 346.

Through Dec 08: Toy Drive (New & Unwrapped), Wayne Post Family 174.

Dec 09: Toys for Tots Drive and Holiday Celebration, Freehold Post 54.

Dec 09: Toy Drive, Rochelle Park Post 170.

Dec 14: Toy and Coat Drive, Belleville Post 105.

Dec 16: Breakfast With Santa, West Milford Post 289.

Dec 20: Veterans Angel Program, NJ Veterans Home, Menlo Park.

### *Thank You to our Contributors:*

Please send pictures (with people ID'ed please), articles, and info to [njSALute@gmail.com](mailto:njSALute@gmail.com).

Detachment Commander Keith Barnes, Englewood SAL 58	DEC Rusty Myers, Belleville SAL 105.
DVC William Murphy, Brick SAL 348.	Comdr David Marciano, Chester Post 342.
Detachment Chaplain Charles Taylor II	Francine Posner Ehrenberg, Chester Post 342.
Michael Brown - Public Relations, Atco Post 311	James Evers, Wayne SAL 174.
PDC Henry Hasselhan, Atco SAL 311	Dean Staknys, Brick SAL 348.
PDC Carl Alber Jr, Neptune SAL 346.	Mark J Marotta, Hopewell Post 339.
PUP Marcia Magathan, Neptune ALA 346	Meghan Myers, Belleville ALA 105.
PCP MC Boyle, Neptune ALA 346	Maureen Davies, Keansburg ALA 273.
PDC Patrick Gallagher, Neptune SAL 346	ShannonLee Widmer, Audubon ALA 262.
PDC Mark Natale, Leonardo SAL 338	Matthew Webb, Audubon Post 262.
PDC Nicholas Wingler, Lakewood SAL 166.	<a href="http://www.legion.org">www.legion.org</a>
Comdr Greg Shaffer, Wayne SAL 174.	<a href="http://www.mylegion.org">www.mylegion.org</a>
Bernie Kofoet, Dual Member AL 68/SAL 84. (Dual is Cool).	



We give thanks for our freedoms and for those who protect it.

Happy Thanksgiving from the staff of the *NJ SALute*.