



The New Jersey

SALute

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

Volume 60, Issue 4

January 2024

Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of New Jersey
171 Jersey St., Bld 5, 2nd Floor,
Trenton NJ 08611 www.NJSAL.org

Commander	Keith Barnes
Vice Commander	Richard Hodum
Vice Commander	William Murphy
Vice Commander	Joshua Seib
Vice Commander	Charles Taylor II
Vice Commander	(vacant)
Adjutant	PNVC/PDC Thomas Marsden
Ass't Adjutant	DEC Russell Myers
Finance Officer	PDC C. David Page
Chaplain	PDC Matthew Thalasinis
Judge Advocate	PNVC/PDC Gary Nelson
Historian	PDC Nicholas Wingler
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
SAL Committee Liaison	Sophia Dmoch
SAL Committee	Michael Smith



**BE THE
ONE**

NEVER FORGET OUR POW/MIAs

Happy New Year

In This Issue...

In Memoriam and Membership News	Pg 2
National Commander's Message	Pg 3
Commander's Challenge	Pg 4
Commander Keith Barnes' Project	Pg 5
Children & Youth Cookie Project	Pg 6
Editor's Veteran Dedication	Pg 7
Message from Sarge, the Service Dog	Pg 8
Special Olympics/Polar Bear Plunge	Pg 9
November Activities and Veterans' Day	Pg 10
Belleville Sq 105 in the News	Pg 21
That Festive Season around the State	Pg 22
NWS Earle Restock the Pantry	Pg 26
Remembering the Cats	Pg 27
Upcoming Events	Pg 28

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**

njSALute@gmail.com

©Copyright January 2024, Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of NJ.

© Copyright January 2024. The **NJ SALute** is published electronically several times a year, and is the official publication by and for the Detachment of New Jersey, Sons of the American Legion. All rights reserved. Excerpts may be used with permission of the publisher. Contributed photos and articles may be sent to the editor at (email) njSALute@gmail.com, or by USPS mail to **NJ SALute** Editor, c/o American Legion Post 346, 21 Gully Road, Neptune NJ 07753. www.njsal.org/salute

In Memoriam...

Francis B. "Frank" Hicks, Legionnaire Southampton Post 526, Father of Past Detachment Commander Jeffrey Hicks, June 15, 1949 – November 17, 2023.

Deborah L. (Watkins) Arner, Leonardo ALA 338, Wife of Past Detachment Commander Michael Arner. February 10, 1959 – December 1, 2023. (A celebration of her life was held January 13, 2024, at VFW Post 4303 in Hazlet.)

Matthew A. Bieda, Mystic Island SAL 493, Past Detachment Vice Commander and Past Ocean County Commander, July 3, 1952 – December 14, 2023.

Jeff Lemal, 1959 – 2023. Past Commander Woodbridge SAL Squadron 87. (A Celebration of Life was held on January 7, 2 pm, at Woodbridge Post 87.)



Membership News:

We Nailed It!

*A new National *all-time high* of 380,743 S.A.L. Members! And the 46 Detachments that made or exceeded 100% Membership for 2023!*

Here in New Jersey, we had a 2023 year-end Detachment goal of 9386 Members. Our final 2023 year-end total was 9885! We beat our goal by 105.32%. Our 2023 renewal rate was 90.64%. Good job, New Jersey!

Only 115 to go to break 10,000! A great incentive to recruit new Members.



Sons of The American Legion

For God And Country

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

P.O. BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055 * WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS * P: 317-630-1205

Stand for the Four Pillars, Stand for the Legion Family

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

We are off and working to make 2023-24 a great year! What an honor to be elected as your National Commander and be able to represent my grandfather's service in the Army during World War II. "Representing More Than Me" is my slogan for the year because I truly believe that is what the Sons of The American Legion should be all about. As we sign the membership paper it is a commitment to pay respect to our family member's service in our military. Let's make sure that our commitment is worth the sacrifices they made.

I believe in the Four Pillars of our organization, and what they stand for. The American Legion was built believing in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth and National Security and they are still the core beliefs of what the American Legion Family stands for. I have issued a commander's challenge to all Squadrons to support the Four Pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron. To do so, all you need to do is raise one dollar per member each for Operation Comfort Warriors (VA&R), the Child Welfare Foundation (Children & Youth) and your department's Boys State program (Americanism) and hold a blood drive (National Security). You will then receive an award for being a National Four Pillar Squadron. That is not that hard to do, if we plan and work to get it done.

I believe that the Sons of The American Legion can reach new heights and crush our records for hours volunteered and donations. It will take all of us working and believing in the work we do to help our veterans, children, and community. Aaron Tippin sang a song that said, "You've got to stand for something or you will fall for anything." Let's stand for what is right and show that our family's service is worth all of us being the best Son we can be. **"Be The One"** in more ways than one.

Donald L. "JR" Hall, Jr., National Commander,
Sons of the American Legion
"Representing More Than Me"



For God And Country

Office of the National Commander

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

NATIONAL FOUR PILLAR SQUADRON CRITERIA & VALIDATION FORM

Children and Youth

Donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Please list check # and submission date:

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R)

Donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 to The American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors. Please list check # and submission date:

Americanism

Donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 to your home Department's American Legion Boys State Program. Please list check # and submission date:

National Security

Host a blood drive or donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 payable to the hosting organization of the blood drive. Please list date blood drive held, quantity of blood donated & recipient organization and/or list check # and submission date:

Please list Squadron name and address, and person and title submitting the information:

Please return the Application to:

Thomas Deal, 1434 Clayton Street, Perryville, MD 21903 (email) tom.deal@verizon.net



BE THE ONE

**Detachment of New Jersey
Commander Keith Barnes
2023-2024**

July 13, 2023

Dear Squadrons + Members,

Detachment Commander Keith Barnes has decided to pair up with American Legion Department Commander Bishop and Auxiliary Department President Knight for a joint project helping our veterans which is part of the four pillars of the American Legion Family. Commander Barnes' part of the project is to set up outside recreational area for the residents of the Paramus Veterans Home consisting of shuffleboard courts, bocce courts, permanent weatherproof checker + chess tables, miniature golf area and more.

Any donations from Squadrons or individually will be greatly appreciated and will be sent a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the Commander and myself. This projects is what we do as an American Legion Family, helping Veterans that are in need.

Please make all donations payable to: **Detachment of N.J.**

And send to: **Detachment Commander Project**

P.O. Box 2095

Cliffside Park, NJ 07010

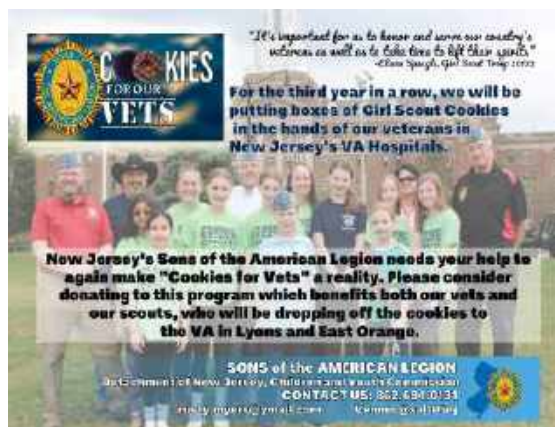
or you can come to a Detachment meeting and present it to the Commander personally. Commander Barnes and myself will be traveling throughout the state and you can present it to us anytime. Please **DO NOT** send donations to Department Headquarters in Trenton as you may not get recognized and your donation could get mixed up with something else.

Thank you in advance for your donation and we are looking forward to seeing all of you this year.

For God and Country,

Keith Barnes
Detachment Commander

Gary P. Nelson PNVC/PDC
Detachment Commanders's Project Chairman



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY
Children and Youth Commission**

137 Highfield Lane,
Nutley, NJ 07110
(862) 684-0131
rusty.myers@ymail.com

"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 Girl Scout Cookies to the VA in New Jersey in April 2023.

Continuing to showcase the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New Jersey Children and Youth Commission's commitment to two of the four pillars of the American Legion – Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – we will be conducting our highly successful "Cookies for Vets" program for the third year in a row.

Last year's "Cookies for Vets" project, carried out in April which is National American Legion Children and Youth Month, put over \$2,200 worth of Girl Scout Cookies into the hands of Veterans who are short- or long-term residents of VA facilities in NJ. A key component of the project is to have the Scouts again deliver the cookies and chat with the Vets in person, so they can see where the cookies go, and bring a little sunshine into the day of the residents of VA Lyons and East Orange. Girl Scouts, as well as our young Sons, took time from their spring breaks the past two years to deliver the cookies to staff at the hospitals who graciously accepted the donations of the cookies.

Last year's program also received nationwide news coverage via legion.org, News 12 NJ, and various local outlets. An article from last year's program is available on legiontown, USA.

"It's important for us to honor and serve our country's veterans as well as to take time to lift their spirits by delivering GS cookies", said then-10-year old Girl Scout Troop 20122 Junior Eliana Spangle, who helped make the April 2022 delivery to the East Orange, NJ campus of the VA.

What we are asking of you is to make a donation to this program – cookies on average are \$5 a box – with our goal to raise at least \$2,500 so we can deliver around 500 boxes to the two Veteran's hospital locations. Please consider making a donation of whatever you or your organization is comfortable with, and when we publish a release following the cookie delivery, we will credit you or your organization as donors. Should you wish to make a donation, please let me know - a check can be made out to Girl Scout Troop 20122, and sent to the address at the top of this letter ... or a donation can be made via Venmo @sal105NJ. The deadline to place the cookie orders is January 31, 2024.

Many thanks, and I look forward to "making our vet's day a little sweeter!"

*Russell "Rusty" Myers III
Children and Youth Commission Chairman, 2023-2024
Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of New Jersey*

Just as many of you do, I have pictures of the Veterans in my family, those who gave themselves to the service of their country and thereby made me eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion. I wish to share with you those important people in my life.



(Left) My father, Raymond Crawford, US Navy, Korea. (Center) My step-father David Jacobs, US Navy, Korea. (Right) Although not a blood relative, my father-in-law, Rodney Evans, US Army, Korea. Rod fought at the Chosin Reservoir and was later captured as a Prisoner-of-War by the North Koreans.



(Left) Rare chance to get all three of my Dads in one shot, along with my mother Shirley (left) and mother-in-law Vickie (right). As time goes on, we've lost Ray and Rod, but Dave is still alive and well. (Right) The Carty boys, my maternal grandfather's brothers. LtoR Felix, Charles (known as Jimmy in the family) and Claude. Jimmy fought in the Pacific in World War Two. Felix had previously lost his left hand and Claude had previously lost his right arm and both were 4-F. Still, they did civilian work to help with the war effort. They are posing to hide Felix's missing hand and Claude's missing arm. (My grandfather Haldon Carty took the picture. He was a civilian military policeman on Sandy Hook.)

I dedicate this issue of the NJ SALute to those Veterans in my family – Gary Crawford, Editor **SALute**



What we have here is a failure to communicate! If you are an American Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, or Rider member and you haven't given us your email address you are missing out on lots of information which is not always posted on Facebook. Please send your name and email to your Adjutant/Secretary to keep you in the loop. And to renew your dues for 2024. Thank you!

Message from Sarge, a Service Dog:

Did you know that I'm a new NALC Graduate for 2023? I graduated with my Veteran Handler this year and was not sure if others knew ADA laws and how to behave when I'm around. Laugh if you may, but do you?

Service dogs have a very important job to do, (yes I'm kind of a big deal).

*There are **several guidelines** people should follow when a service dog is present so that the dog and handler remain safe, and the dog can focus on its job.*

***Disregarding** these guidelines can distract the dog, which can create a dangerous situation for the service dog team.*

***Under the American With Disabilities Act**, people with disabilities are allowed to be accompanied by their service dog in all places the public is permitted.*



***Don't** touch, talk, feed, or otherwise distract the dog while he or she is wearing the harness or vest that identifies him or her as a service dog. Ignore the presence of the dog.*

***Do** allow the dog to concentrate and focus on its work for the safety of its handler.*

***Do** teach your children to NEVER pet a strange dog – any dog – without first asking permission.*

***Do** teach them to follow your lead.*

***Don't** allow pets to challenge or intimidate a service dog.*

***Do** allow them to meet on neutral ground when both parties can be supervised.*

I hope these tips help to keep you and my Veteran handler and me safe on the job!



Detachment of New Jersey Special Olympics Report

Special Olympics are going strong with the Winter Games. Athletes are in the midst of practicing and play as well as competing in all of the Winter Games sports. District bowling events are happening soon with the Area Four competition being held at Lakewood in February where members of the Detachment not only participate in competition but also volunteer to help run the event.

The local ***Polar Bear Plunge*** will be held on February 24 at Seaside Heights on the beach. I will be plunging again for the fifth time. If anyone is interested in participating you can go to www.sonj.org or www.plungeseaside.org to register or contact me and I will get you the information. Visit my donation page at: www.support.sonj.org/fundraiser/5163403

Special Olympics just wrapped up their season of giving. Making sure the Detachment did not sit at zero, moving forward I donated \$250 and that was matched three times by corporate sponsors.

Please help Special Olympics; one of our Pillars is ***Children and Youth***. We need to remember these kids as well. Without support from organizations like ours, programs will disappear. They deserve our help and support. Please consider a donation from your Post, Squadron, and Unit in the New Year.

Nicholas J. Wingler
Special Olympics Chairman





On October 21st, the Band of Brothers, American Legion Post 86 and Sons of the American Legion Post 86, hosted a Southern BBQ Dinner. *Family Promise* was once again the recipient of donations from this annual event. The donation will be earmarked to help Sussex County unsheltered veterans and veterans in need. Thank you for all your hard work to make this event a very successful fundraiser. American Legion Post 86, Newton, New Jersey 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸
(Credit: Family Promise of Sussex County)

November 2023



At Commander Larry Bishop's Official Visit to Monmouth County, at Neptune Post 346, 1-Nov. LtoR: Detachment Vice Commander Bill Murphy, PDC Carl Alber Jr., PDC Mark Natale, Commander Bishop, Detachment Commander Keith Barnes, Detachment Vice Commander Rich Hodum, and Squadron 346 Commander and *SALute* editor Gary Crawford.



(Left) At the Philadelphia Veterans Day Parade, Sgt-at-Arms Darryl Cunningham, Commander Keith Barnes, with Philadelphia Detachment Commander Steven Cox and two of his officers.
(Right) At the Parade, Vice Commander Charles Taylor II, Charles Ross, Commander Keith Barnes, and Sgt-at-Arms Darryl Cunningham.



At Philly Parade. (LtoR): (not identified), Charles Ross, John Baker, Mary Jo Burkhard, NJ Commander Larry Bishop, Anthony Santanello Jr., NJ ANEC Gene O'Grady, NJ Detachment Commander Keith Barnes, Harry Da Hat, and (not identified).



At the Detachment Meeting, 4-Nov, at Wayne Post 174. (Center) Judge Advocate Gary Nelson, Commander Keith Barnes, and Adjutant Tom Marsden. (Right) VCs Charles Taylor, Bill Murphy, Rich Hodum.



(Left) SAL Chairman Tony Gladden, Chaplain Matt Thalasinis, NEC Bob Phillips. (Right) Bob Phillips swears in Josh Seib as Detachment Vice Commander.



and gave the eulogy as the others stood Honor Guard for the ceremony.

On 4-Nov, Posts Freehold 54 and Neptune 346 provided an Honor Guard for the funeral of Air Force and Army National Guard Veteran Andrew Jude DeMartino, who sadly took his own life in August. His ashes were returned to his hometown of Manalapan and buried in Old Tennent Cemetery. The Honor Guard were LtoR: Monmouth County DEC Ken Pulchlopek, Post 54 Commander Vince Bruno, Monmouth County Adjutant Doris Richardson, Post 54 PC Jim Rice, SAL Sq 346 Commander Gary Crawford, Pat Lawlor, and Post 346 Color Guard Members Mike Kennedy, SAL Sq VC Paul Williams, Brian Collins, and Henri Pachana. Henri is the brother-in-law of the deceased. Crawford wrote



Hopewell Post 339 held their Veterans Day Service on 4-Nov.



(Left)Belleville Squadron 105 DEC Rusty Myers and (Center) the Myers kids Abigail, Jake, and Grace, with their Legion fundraiser table at the Belleville Shop-Rite. (Right) Steve Mercier and Dual Member Ed Hall at the Belleville Shop-Rite. A Legion Family affair. Belleville people take care of their Legion.

(Left)SAL 105 Donald Keddell and Commander Steve Sangemino at the Belleville Shop-Rite. (Right) Meanwhile, Isaac Murray (SAL 266), PCP



MC Boyle, Wil Fetherman (Comdr Post 346) and Victor Murray (Monmouth County Comdr

and SAL 266 Comdr) at SHI Stadium at Piscataway NJ on 7-Nov.





(Left) Nutley SAL Sq 70's Ken Ackerman with Kumar Patel, owner of Gary's Pharmacy in Nutley. Patel has donated to Post and Squadron 70 many times and is receiving a certificate for his support. (Right) "Season of Giving" \$2,273 donation from Belleville SAL 105 to James Babai, President of Gail's Angels.



On 8-Nov, several of us had the distinct honor to comprise the Color Guard for opening of the 236th Annual Communication of The Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient & Honorable Society of Free & Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey. The Color Guard was comprised of Masonic veterans and/or Masonic representatives of veterans in observance of Veterans Day on the 11th. 🇺🇸 Nice job, brethren! (PDC Jeff Hicks is at the center)



Detachment Chaplain and PDC Matt Thalasinis at Barnegat 232's Veterans Day Ceremony, with Post Commander Steve Furrule.



(Left) Harold "Bud" Magathan, awarded **Neptune Hometown Hero** status, poses with Neptune Post 346 Color Guard members (LtoR) Greg Thompkins, Mike Kennedy, Bud, John Skislak, and Paul Williams at Veterans Day ceremony. Bud is a Dual Member of Neptune 346. A short article appeared on legiontown.org's website. (Right) PDC and Post 346 Senior Vice Darryl Reid and Squadron 346 Commander Gary Crawford read passages during the 11-Nov ceremony.



(Top) Totowa Post 227 on 10-Nov, indoor ceremony. "Will Our Veterans Please Stand."
(Below) Totowa Veterans Day ceremony at Memorial Park on 11-Nov.





The 105 SAL crew at Whippany Post 155. LtoR: 2nd Vice Vinnie Ferriole, Donald Keddell, Legionnaire Mike Chioco, 1st Vice James Elsmore, and DEC and Adjutant Rusty Myers. Rusty's uncle belongs to Post 155.
(Right) Henry Hassehan(s) 4th and 5th pose with Uncle Gus at Atco Post 311.



The 105 in the Belleville Parade and the ceremony that followed.



(Left) Flyer for Camden County's Veteran Breakfast. (Right) Burlington County's Nov 11th ceremony.



Pine Hill Post 286 at their Veterans Day Ceremony.



(Left) Detachment Keith Barnes and Sgt-at-Arms Darryl Cunningham at the NYC Parade. (Center) Commander Larry Bishop, President Sharon Knight, and SAL Commander Keith Barnes. (Right) The New Jersey contingent who marched in the NYC Parade.



Toms River Post 129 Family in Toms River's Veterans Day Parade.



The members of American Legion Post 401, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7181 and their families are cordially invited to participate in our annual Veterans Day Ceremony. Place at the grounds of the Municipal Complex, Room 122, South Brunswick. When: November 11, 2023, at 11 a.m. Refrainments will be at 770 Post 401, 17 Hudson Rd., Roskill Park.

We look forward to your participation!
American Legion Post 401, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7181, Dear Captain, Commander, American Legion Post 401



Monmouth Jct. Post 401 Ceremony at Municipal Complex in So. Brunswick



Veterans Day ceremony at Stetser-Lamartine Post 281 in Gloucester.



Woodbridge Post 87 Veterans Day Parade.



Camden County SAL and ALA celebrating Veterans Day at Veterans Haven South. Football and all you can eat wings. Great representation last night (11-Nov) at Veterans Haven South from our Legion Family 262! Robert Phillips, Carolyn Phillips, Leslie Betts Woodward, ShannonLee Widmer, Rosie, Marty, Charles Ross, Harry Da Hat, Doug Noe, Michael Douglas. Also represented Post 311, Henry Hasselhan, Brian, Jane Babli. Post 281, Kent, Kristen, Post 286, Geraldine Fisher, Post 68 Bernie Kofoet.. It's a great feeling giving back to our Veterans!



(Left) On 17-Nov, Post 58 Vets and Sons and Sheriff's Officers passed out turkeys to Veterans. Included were: Bergen County Sheriff Cureton, Post 58 Commander Patterson, 1st Vice Ray Wynn, Detachment Commander Keith Barnes, and Past Detachment Commander Lenny Free.

(Right) Edison Post 435 Flag Retirement on 11-Nov.

There were many other Veterans Day ceremonies throughout the state; almost every Post had some way to celebrate our Veterans. Thank you to those who sent photos in, as well as Facebook posts.





At Toms River Post 129 at the Veterans Dinner on 19-Nov, (Left) Ocean County Commander Frank Landis, Department Commander Larry Bishop, Department President Sharon Knight, Detachment Commander Keith Barnes, and Debbie Lasky. (Right) PDC Mark Natale, Keith Barnes, and Detachment Vice Commander Rich Hodum.



SAL 105 took a trip down to South Plainfield today (21-Nov) to make a presentation to HK Truck Center for all of their support over the past few years, most recently to our annual Flag Fundraiser over the week before Veterans Day.

All of our thanks and gratitude to Henry Knabe III, Vanessa Ciervo, and the rest of their team for being a cornerstone of our commitment to the principles of the American Legion.

(Left) Commander Steve Sangemino makes the presentation. (Center) LtoR Rusty Myers, Steve Sangemino, Henry Knabe III, Ed Hall, and Vanessa Ciervo. (Right) The Proclamation to HK Truck Center.

Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage . . .

Belleville 105 in the News:



We had something amazing happen at a Sons meeting last week - which has been picked up at a few places as an op-ed..... Read on in The Observer- it also is in the Belleville-Nutley Patch, and will run in Essex News Daily at the end of the month. Thank you to the editors - Kevin Canessa, Eric Kiefer, and Joe Ungaro - for their constant support of our organization through the publishing of our material.



The kids from Sandy Lane Preschool invited members of Belleville's Veterans community and Vets who serve in the Police Department over to their school for lunch on Friday. (Right) 105 Dual Member Ed Hall and SAL Commander Steve Sangemino with the kids.



That Festive Season Around the State:



(Left) Festive Commander Keith Barnes at Saddle Brook Post 415. (Center) Califon Post 342 donation box for Vet Haven North. (Right) Vice Commander Charles Taylor with Mike Carroll at Lyndhurst Post 139.



(Left) National Commanders Daniel Seehafer and Donald Hall at the Punch Bowl in Hawaii. (Center) Some of the volunteers for the wreath laying at Doyle Cemetery Dec 16. (Right) Squadron 105 at Doyle.



(Left) Neptune Post 346's annual Egg Nog Sunday. (Center) Comdr Keith Barnes, Pres Sharon Knight, and Comdr Larry Bishop hold their \$1000 checks from the 346 Family. (Right) Grinchmas at Kearny Post 99.





(Left) Mr & Mrs Santa Hasselhan with a naughty crying Marty Widmer. (Center) Santa Hasselhan and the 311 crew at the Berlin Tractor Supply on Black Friday. (Right) Young Henry Hasselhan gives out Christmas cards he and his classmates made to Veterans at Vet Haven South.



(Left) Little Ferry SAL and Post Appreciation Dinner. (Center) Santa Marsden and Family. (Right) Santa Marsden at Toms River Elks with grandson Christopher.



(Left) VC Charles Taylor presents a membership certificate to Mike Voza at Lyndhurst Sq 139. (Center and Right) Pequannock SAL 450 celebrates the season.



"Saint Nick" Wingler at the WOBB Radio Christmas party. Nick and the missus, WOBB Radio personality Sue Moll.



Back to business in the new year at the January Detachment meeting at New Egypt Post 455. (Left) Judge Advocate Gary Nelson, Commander Keith Barnes, and Adjutant Tom Marsden. Dean Staknys in foreground. (Center) SAL Chairman Tony Gladden, ANEC Henry Hasselhan, and Chaplain Matt Thalasinis. (Right) PCC Steve Rodriguez, 174 Comdr Greg Shaffer, PDC Lenny Free, Ocean County Comdr Frank Landis, Bernie Kofoet, and PDC Bob Bascou, 105 VC James Elsmore in foreground.



(Left) SA Ranke and Lawrenceville Sq 414 with donation and toys to Captain Paul's Firehouse. (Center and Right) Warren SAL 293 and their Annual Coat Drive.



(Left) Califon Post 342 Family ready to lay wreaths on Wreaths Across America Day 16-Dec.
 (Right) Detachment VC Rich Hodum with Tristan Buck and Grace Keough Buck. The Ocean County S.A.L. visited 35 Veterans at Concord Rehab in Lakewood on 20-Dec. Gifts included a branch of service ball cap and a military ornament.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Americanism Commission
American Legion Family Day
2024 Guidance

Purpose: to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April (April 27, 2024). It encourages posts to open their doors to members of their community for a day and celebrate our accomplishments.

S.A.L. members can coordinate with their sponsoring Posts to showcase Americanism in the following ways:

- Make sure there is a serviceable American Flag present
- Pamphlets for all Americanism "Youth Programs" should be available.
- Contact your Department regarding the availability of the "Star-Spangled Kids Kits created by the Auxiliary.
- Host a blood drive (falls under Americanism in the S.A.L.).
- Host a flag-etiquette program, including a flag retirement ceremony.
- Place flags to honor veterans and record your event on the Flying Flags for Heroes website.
- A laptop and video screen could be utilized to showcase American Legion Programs supported by your Post.
- Have comic books and coloring books available. They can be ordered from American Legion Emblem Sales.
- Recognize individuals and businesses in your community at the event by utilizing the "SAL Flag Appreciation Certificate"

Questions: email Chairman Casey at aproudpatrot1776@gmail.com

@SonsAmericanism

RESTOCK THE FOOD PANTRY

American Legion Family #346
21 Gully Road Neptune, NJ 07753
Needs your help...

The Red Cross NWS Earle Food Pantry, which supports Monmouth County, needs our help restocking the shelves. Due to the Holiday season, the request for food items, will empty the supplies. Let's get together and show support to help our Active Duty and fellow Veterans.

As you know, our military members make the choice to serve, are dedicated, and give so much to our country. This is a tangible means to show our support and gratitude for their sacrifice. Your help is needed this year to take away some of pressure and make the New Year a bit brighter.

Suggested items include:

• Canned Tuna	• Pasta Sauce	• Deodorant
• Chicken Broth	• Baby Wipes & diapers	• Soap
• Snack bars/Granola bars	• Cereal for Adults & Children	• Packaged nuts
• Toothpaste/brush	• Crackers & Cookies	• Shampoo & Conditioner
• Candies & gum	• Cake Mix & Frosting	• Salt & Pepper
• Lip balm	• Hot Chocolate Mix (packets)	• Other Condiments
• Tissues	• Individual Meals (microwave)	• Drink Mix
• Hearty Soups	• Fruit snacks	• Gift Cards to grocery stores

Please check all items for expiration dates before we coordinate handoff of any donated items. They have limited staff and this helps tremendously!

All donations should be brought to Post #346.

Drop off on the following dates:

Sunday, 14 January (2pm-6pm)

Wednesday, 17 January (4pm-8pm)

Friday, 19 January (4pm-8pm)

We will be delivering the items on Saturday, 20 January 2024

For more information contact
WIL FETHERMAN
wilandmc@gmail.com or 732-865-4947

Ever wonder about the proper way to clean and restore Veteran headstones and markers? Interesting website for the approved care and cleaning of VA headstones in cemeteries other than federal cemeteries: www.ByMemorialDay.com



A gunner with the regimental cat in a trench in Cambrin, France, February 6th, 1918.

REMEMBERING THE CATS (Yes, the cats)

Thousands of cats were dispatched to the trenches during WW1 to keep rodent numbers down and act as early warning detectors for mustard gas. So many gave great comfort to the troops as companions and mascots. How many cats survived we will never know.

PAWS AT THE READY

The cats of World War One had significant role in all the campaigns, we must honour their bravery too.

Give thought to all the kitties who served in World War One.

A battalion of the finest who never fired a gun.

What was their role?

Whether hunting rodents out at sea, or loyal friends to men,
these many cats had vital roles, time and time again.

The food was saved.

A common sight in trenches deep, dispatching mice and rats,
the soldiers' had a special bond with many of these cats.

Many were treasured mascots.

Five hundred thousand cats were sent to serve in the Great War.

Some detected mustard gas, whilst others were off shore.

Some of the feline heroes -

Togo was the Dreadnought's cat. The Swan had their lad Ching.

Pincher was the Vinex's mog, it was luck they hoped they'd bring.

'Martinpuich' was aptly named, by The 9th battalion chaps.

Pitouchi was the orphaned kit, who'd survived on army scraps.

Spark Plug, Tabby and many more were companions to the troops.

The feline unsung heroes, those cats who became recruits.

We'll never truly realise just what these cats went through.

So spare a thought and give some thanks for what they did for you!

Lest We Forget!

Upcoming Events:

Dec 31: Irish New Year, Neptune Post 346
Jan 13: Leadership Training Workshop, Rochelle Park Post 170.
Jan 14, 17, 19: Drop off items for Red Cross NWS Earle Food Pantry, Neptune Post 346.
Jan 17: Two-Pound Party, Pine Hill Post 286.
Jan 19: "Winter Bingo", Neptune Post 346.
Jan 20: Chili Cook-Off, Audubon Post 262.
Jan 21: Breakfast is Back!, Wayne Post 174.
Jan 27: Sock Hop, Nutley SAL 70.
Jan 27: Breakfast Fundraiser, Pine Hill Post 286.
Jan 27: District Four Membership Workshop, New Egypt Post 455.
Jan 31: Deadline for orders for "Cookies for Vets", Belleville SAL 105.
Feb 04: Four Chaplains Service, Chews United Methodist Church, Glendora.
Feb 12: Atlantic City Bus Trip, Neptune Post 346.
Feb 18: Fundraiser for Charles "Andy" Jackson, leading candidate for Dept Comdr, Barnegat Post 232.
Feb 24: Polar Bear Plunge, Seaside Heights.
Mar 02: Comedy Show, Leonardo Post 338.
Apr 12-13: National Commander Donald "JR" Hall's Homecoming. www.mdsal.org.
Apr 20: COTA Picnic, Wayne SAL 174.
Apr 21: COTA Picnic, Belleville SAL 105.
Apr 27: National American Legion Family Day.
Aug 23-29: 105th Annual American Legion Convention, New Orleans.



Thank you to the many contributors who made this issue possible. I apologize for people pictured without being named. I can only go so far in asking for caption information, and I identify as many people as I can. **Please ID people in the photos you submit.** Please send pictures (jpg and png) and articles to njSALute@gmail.com.

Contributors:

Detachment Commander Keith Barnes, Englewood SAL (58)

PDC Patrick Gallagher, Neptune SAL(346)

PDP Doreen Gallagher, Neptune ALA (346)

PDC Carl W. Albern Jr. Neptune SAL (346)

PUP Marcia Magathan, Neptune ALA (346)

DEC Rusty Myers, Belleville SAL (105)

Michael Kennedy, Neptune Post (346)

PDC Nicholas Wingler, Lakewood SAL (166)

PDC Steven Fisher, Pine Hill Post (286)

PDP Colleen Breen-Lopez, Totowa ALA (227)

PDC Jeffrey E. Hicks, Southampton SAL (526)

PNVC/PDC Gary Nelson, Elmwood Park SAL (147)

PDC Matthew Thalasinis, Waretown SAL (232)

ANEC/PDC Henry Hasselhan, Atco SAL (311)

Charles Taylor II, Englewood SAL (58)

Mark J Marotta, Hopewell Post (286)

ShannonLee Widmer, Audubon ALA (262)

Caroline Phillips, Audubon ALA (262)

American Legion Dept. of New Jersey

Posts, Squadrons, and Auxiliaries: 58, 70, 68, 87, 99, 105, 129, 155, 227, 232, 311, 339, 346, 435, 526.



Happy New Year from the **SALute!**

*Gary and Dawn Crawford and Family
Grandkids Sayde, Connor, Murphy, and James
All Legion Family from Neptune Post 346*