



The New Jersey

# ***SALute***

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

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**Special Election Edition**

**June 2024**

# *Special 2024-2025 Election Issue*

*Candidates for Elected Office along with results of the CWF Best Beard Contest*



**SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION**



## *Commander's Message:*

*I would like to congratulate the incoming Commander  
and his nominated staff, as well as his appointed staff.*

*May you all have a successful year and help our  
incoming Commander  
achieve all of his goals. Let's make his year as great as mine.*

*For God and Country*

*Keith Barnes*

*Sons of the American Legion, Commander, Detachment of New Jersey 2023-2024*



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## ***CANDIDATES FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR 2024-2025***

Squadron Endorsements for Detachment Office, 2024-25 (Received by Detachment Adjutant Marsden as of Tuesday, May 7, 2024)

*Note: Nominations remain open until the day of elections at the 2024 Detachment Convention.*

### **For Detachment Commander:**

[Vote for One (1)]

RICHARD HODUM, DVC  
Lakewood SAL Sq. 166, Ocean County

### **For Detachment Finance Officer:**

[Vote for One (1)]

C. DAVID PAGE, PDC  
New Egypt SAL Sq. 455, Ocean County

### **For Detachment Vice Commander :**

[Vote for Five (5)]

WILLIAM M. MURPHY, DVC  
Brick SAL Sq. 348, Ocean County

GREGORY B. SHAFFER, DEC  
Wayne SAL Sq. 174, Passaic County

CHARLES TAYLOR II, DVC  
Englewood SAL Sq. 58, Bergen County

\*VACANCY\*

\*VACANCY\*

### **For NEC (Nat'l Exec Committeeman):**

[Vote for One (1)]

ROBERT E. PHILLIPS JR, NEC/PDC  
Audubon SAL Sq. 262, Camden County

### **For ANEC (Alternate Nat'l Exec Committeeman):**

[Vote for One (1)]

HENRY F. HASSELHAN, ANEC/PDC  
Atco SAL Sq. 311, Camden County

*The candidates' pictures and biographies continue on next page*

**Richard Hodum, Candidate for Detachment Commander:**



Richard Hodum (left) with leading candidates for 2024-2025 Charline Gladden and Charles Andy Jackson.

My name is Richard Hodum. I gained my eligibility to the Sons of The American Legion through my father, Carl Hodum, who was a Korean War Veteran. He was a 60-year Member of Joseph M. Lane Post 136, Lodi NJ, when he passed away in 2015. My family all belonged as well. I moved to Nevada for 18 years, then came back to New Jersey and rejoined The Sons Detachment of New Jersey in Ocean County, where I have been a member for 11 years. I have held positions in Squadron 166 Lakewood; Squadron Commander for 6 years, Finance Officer for 2 years and Membership Chairman for 2 years. I have also held positions in Ocean County; D.E.C for 5 years and Sergeant-at-Arms for 2 years. I have also been POW/MIA Chairman for 2020-2021 and 2022-2024. I am currently the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New Jersey Vice Commander (serving three one-year terms) and am a candidate, running for Detachment Commander.

For God and Country, Richard Hodum Vice Commander, Detachment of NJ



**C. David Page, *Candidate for Detachment Finance Officer:***



Dave Page is currently the 2023-2024 Detachment Finance Officer and is running for reelection. He is a member of New Egypt Squadron 455 – Ocean County – and has served as Detachment Commander for 2017-2018 and was awarded the prestigious Son of the Year.

**William Murphy, *Candidate for Detachment Vice Commander:***



My name is Bill Murphy, known to most as "Murph". I am the District 5 Detachment Vice Commander serving Atlantic, Camden, Cape May and Salem Counties. I will again be seeking office as a Detachment Vice Commander for 2024-2025. I am a member of Squadron 348 in Brick of the Great County of Ocean. (Whoop!!!) I have served two terms as Squadron Commander of 348 in addition to other Squadron offices. At the County level I have served as DEC, Commander, Vice Commander and Sergeant at Arms. I am also the Detachment CWF (Child Welfare Foundation) Chairman and serve on the Finance Committee. Thank you, Murph.

**Gregory B. Shaffer, *Candidate for Detachment Vice Commander:***



Gregory Shaffer  
Squadron #174  
55 Mountain View Blvd.  
Wayne, NJ 07470

To: The Detachment of New Jersey

I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Gregory B. Shaffer. I am running for the position of Detachment Vice Commander, 2024-2025.

I have been a member of the Sons of the American Legion for 19 years. During my 19 years as a member, I have held offices at the following levels.

Local level, Squadron #174:

- A) 2 years as Squadron Sergeant at Arms (2006-2007, 2007-2008)
- B) 5 years as Squadron Second Vice Commander (2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013)
- C) 2 years as Squadron First Vice Commander (2013-2014, 2014-2015)
- D) 2 years as Squadron Adjutant (2015-2016, 2016-2017)
- E) 4 years as Squadron Commander (2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2020-2021, 2022-2023)

County level:

- A) 4 years as SAL Passaic County DEC (2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2020-2021, 2022-2023)

State Detachment Level:

- A) 1 year as Asst. Sergeant at Arms (2016-2017)
- A) 4 years as Detachment Vice Commander (2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2021-2022)
- B) C.O.T.A. Chairman for The Detachment of New Jersey since 2018.

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



As Detachment Vice Commander, I feel this will give me the opportunity to step up and help bring awareness to all about this organization and what good we do to support our Veterans and their families. During my time as a member of the Sons of the American Legion I have been able to talk and work with many good people through our Post #174. I would like to take this experience and spread it to all Squadrons throughout New Jersey. As Detachment Vice Commander, I will support our new Detachment Commander in all his activities through the year. I hope that you will consider me and give me the opportunity to work with our Commander and all our members to make this a better organization and help to make it grow.

I hope that you will allow me to visit your squadron [or county] to meet with you and your members and answer any questions you may have about me and my candidacy, or the Detachment in general. You can reach me at: (201) 665-0228 or email me at [shiftyshaff@gmail.com](mailto:shiftyshaff@gmail.com).

For God and Country,  
Gregory B. Shaffer

**Charles Taylor II, *Candidate for Detachment Vice Commander:***



Charles Taylor II is running to continue his position of Detachment of NJ Vice Commander. He joined and has served Englewood Squadron 58 since 1998.

From 2004-2005 Charles served as Chaplain, from 2005-2011 as Squadron Commander, 2021-2022 as Squadron 58 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, 2022-2023 as Detachment of NJ Chaplain, 2023-2024 as Squadron 58 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, 2023-2024 as Detachment of NJ Vice Commander, 2024-present as Bergen County Vice Commander, and 2024 to the present as Detachment of NJ Vice Commander.

**Robert E. Phillips Jr., *Candidate for National Executive Committeeman:***



My eligibility is through my father P.D.C. Robert E. Phillips Sr. U.S. Army. I have been a Member of the Sons of The American Legion for 16 years and have attended both Basic and Advanced courses of The American Legion SAL College. In 2013, I completed The American Legion Chaplain course. In 2016 through 2018, I completed the National Management Institute course. This is a three-year commitment held during the National Executive Committee meetings in Indianapolis. I am a Charter member of Murray-Troutt Squadron 262, Audubon, serving as the first Commander. I have filled many rolls within our Squadron such as Finance Officer, Adjutant, and Judge Advocate. I have participated in fundraisers, memorial services, and I am a member of our Color Guard. On the County level, I have held the positions of Chaplain, D.E.C., First Vice Commander, and Commander for the years 2012-2014. As Commander of Camden County Committee, we successfully raised money to purchase room size refrigerators for each room at Veterans Haven South. On the Detachment level, I have served as Historian, Chaplain, Vice Commander, and Commander for the year 2015-2016. I am completing the second year as National Executive Committeeman. I served as the Finance Chairman for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 administrative years. I have been the co-chairman and chairman of the Mentoring Committee. Currently I am the Membership Chairman. I am a Charter Member of Stetser-LaMartine Chapter 281 American Legion Riders and have served as Sergeant-at-Arms for one year, and Secretary for two years. I like to thank our Officers for a job well done and look forward to collaborating with our Officers elected for the administrative year 2024-2025. Thank you for your consideration in electing me again as your National Executive Committeeman.

For God and Country,

Robert E. Phillips Jr. NEC Detachment of New Jersey



**Henry F. Hasselhan, Candidate for Alternate National Executive Committeeman:**



As my Dad would say, "**Semper Fidelis**" ("Always Faithful")

ANEC Bio  
2024

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

Henry has been a member of Waterford Township, Squadron 311, for 20 years. At the Squadron level he was persuaded to reactivate Squadron 311 and has served as Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, and Membership Chairman.

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

His first position for the Detachment of New Jersey was Assistant Sgt-at-Arms, then 5 years as Vice Commander, Detachment Commander 2021-2022 and ANEC term 2022-2024. He has served as Commission chairman for the Employment, Homeless, and Education Commission (VEH&E), and the SAL Liaison to the American Legion Dept. of NJ VEH&E. He has served on the Public Relations, and Media committee, he currently sits on the planning committee for the South Jersey Regional Stand Down.

Henry has completed NJ SAL College Basic and Advanced, National Management Institute 1, 2, and 3, National Commanders Class, and the American Legion Extension Institute. He has also participated in Boots-to-Business programs, along with numerous Job Fairs, and Stand Downs across the State of New Jersey. He has also attended many conferences on VEH&E, while at National Executive Committee

meetings and Washington Conference. Henry has also been a Delegate at the National Convention for 4 years and has helped judge the History Book contest.

Henry graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Sciences from Stockton State College (now Stockton University). He also graduated from Camden County College with an Associate Degree in Fire Science Technology.

Henry retired from the New Jersey Forest Fire Service as an Assistant Division Fire Warden. He continues to fight fires in New Jersey and nationally, as a Logistics Section Chief or a Supply Unit Leader, on a Great Basin Incident Management Team.

He has been married to Jean for 48 years has 2 children and 5 grandchildren.

### **Speaking of Voting...**

#### *CWF Best Beard Contest*

The beards are in, the votes are in and tallied and the money has been collected. Thanks to everyone who participated and donated to our "Best Beard Contest" for the Child Welfare Foundation. (CWF). Especially all of you who lent us your fuzzy faces for the cause. See the accompanying "Best Beard" list with the votes in parentheses.

The winner is John Koczon whose beard was entered in memoriam by Squadron 348 from Brick. John was a Past Commander and one of the founding fathers of our Squadron. Unfortunately we lost him about a year and a half ago. John epitomized beard. It seemed he could grow one in a week and it was always in proportion. The Beard Contest was a way we could honor him and raise some money for a good cause.

The real winner here though is the Child Welfare Foundation. We raised \$3,005 with this contest. For the first year, I am very satisfied with those results. This coming year I want to expand on this. Perhaps have a contest at individual Posts with pictures on a donation can. People can make donations throughout the year and you can pick the Best Beard in your Post. I am open to all suggestions.

All together we raised over \$6,000 for CWF so far this year. We raised \$2,400 by having a Family Feud Nite at our Post 348 in Brick. I like to do different things to raise money so if anyone has any ideas send them my way. I certainly will give them consideration.

I want to thank everyone who has donated and helped in any way for raising funds for CWF.

Bill "Murph" Murphy - Detachment Vice Commander  
CWF Chairman



Pfft. Amateurs.

## *Detachment of New Jersey*



### CWF Best Beard List

Bill Noone, Post 348 (150)



Tom Marsden, Sq. 348 (84)



Henry Hasselhan III, Sq. 311(50)



Rusty Myer, Sq. 105 (50)



Chris Scherzinger, Sq. 321 (5)



Bernie Kofoet, Sq/Post 68 (10)



John Koczon Sq. 348 IN MEMORIAM  
Winner (200)