



The New Jersey

SALute

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Special 2025-2026 Election Issue

Candidates for Elected Office for the Detachment of New Jersey



**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**



Commander's Message:



*2024-2025 New Jersey American Legion Family Officers
SAL Detachment Commander Richard Hodum,
ALA Department President Charline Gladden,
Legion Department Commander Charles "Andy" Jackson*



Hello everyone. I am looking forward to working with the incoming officers for the year 2025-2026. I hope their year is as much fun and as successful as the year I have had. Congratulations to them all.

For God and Country

Rich Hodum

S.A.L. Detachment Commander

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CANDIDATES FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR 2025-2026

Squadron Endorsements for Detachment Office, 2025-26 (Received by Detachment Adjutant Russell Myers III as of Tuesday, May 7, 2025)

Note: Nominations are still open until the day of elections at the 2025 Detachment Convention.

For Detachment Commander:

[Vote for One (1)]

WILLIAM MURPHY, DVC
Squadron No. 348
Brick, Ocean County

For Detachment Finance Officer:

[Vote for One (1)]

CARL W. ALBERN JR, PDC
Squadron No. 346
Neptune, Monmouth County

For Detachment Vice Commanders :

[Vote for Five (5)]

GREGORY B. SHAFFER
Squadron No. 174
Wayne, Passaic County

RUSSELL MYERS III
Squadron No. 105
Belleville, Essex County

VACANCY
Squadron TBD
Town, County

VACANCY
Squadron TBD
Town, County

VACANCY
Squadron TBD
Town, County



William Murphy, *Candidate for Detachment 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 be seeking office as Detachment Commander for 2025-2026. 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 Well-being 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:

Let me introduce myself. My name is Gregory Shaffer and I am running for the office of Detachment Vice Commander.

Gregory has been a member of The Sons of the American Legion for 19 years at Post #174 in Wayne, New Jersey. His eligibility is through his father, Gerald E. Shaffer who served in The United States Marine Corp. during WWII. (1944-1946) Fought in the battle at Iwo Jima. He is also very proud of his brother, Terry Shaffer, who is a Navy (Seabees) Veteran from the Viet Nam war. (Served 1966-1969) Below are some of the offices he has held since becoming a member of the Sons of The American Legion.

Local level with 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)
- F) He has also been a member of the Color Guard/Honor Guard at Post #174 since joining The Sons of The American Legion.

County level for Passaic County.

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

State Detachment Level:

- A) 1 year as Asst. Sergeant at Arms (2016-2017)
- A) 5 years as Detachment Vice Commander (2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2021-2022, 2024-2025)

As Detachment Vice Commander, I feel this will give me the opportunity to work with our Legion Family and support everything we do to help our Veterans and their families.

For God and County,
Gregory Shaffer

Carl W. Albern Jr., *Candidate for Finance Officer:*

Carl W. Albern, Jr. is a 35-year member of Neptune Township Sons of The American Legion Squadron 346.

He established his eligibility through his late father, Carl Albern, Sr., a veteran of the U.S. Navy and past County Commander and D.E.C. of the Monmouth County Legion.

Carl has served as S.A.L. Monmouth County Commander for the last 6 years, and had previously served 11½ years as the first S.A.L. County Commander when it was originally organized in 1998.

Carl has served the S.A.L. on all levels, including as Detachment Commander in 2014-15, Detachment Vice Commander, two terms as National Executive Committeeman and 1 term as Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Detachment Adjutant, Detachment Judge Advocate, and has chaired the Detachment's Finance Committee for the last 6 years, the Detachment Internet Committee Chairman for the last 22 years, and served on the National Community Service Committee from 2004 - 2009. He has served as Squadron Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant, Judge Advocate, and Finance Officer over the many years of his membership.

Carl has been an instructor for NJ S.A.L. College for the last 20 years, primarily as an instructor for the Advanced S.A.L. Course. In 2002-2003, he chaired the committee that updated and modernized the Detachment Constitution and Bylaws. Carl was a recipient of the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor in 2019. He constantly works to improve the organization by helping to educate its members and renders other assistance whenever he can. He has worked with the officers and chairmen of the Detachment of NJ to have the Detachment's budget meet the needs of the Detachment, and reconstitute its operational reserves.



Robert E. Phillips Jr., NEC and Henry F. Hasselhan III ANEC will continue to serve in the second year of their two-year terms of elected office.



(Left) 2025-2026 ANEC Henry F. Hasselhan III PDC
Squadron No. 311
Atco, Camden County

(Right) 2025-2026 NEC Robert E. Phillips Jr. PDC
Squadron No. 262
Audubon, Camden County