

IN MEMORIAM

Last year these New Jersey Sons passed into Squadron Everlasting. National's Charlotte, North Carolina Memorial Service in August will honor them.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Buggy, Joseph | Ryan, Edward |
| Buono, Louis | Stippick, Michael |
| Diorio, Alfred | Thran, Karl |
| Gillespie, Robert | Toles, George |
| Jozowski, Alfred | Vanwhy, Albert |
| Kostu, Stanley | Weibrecht, Kyle |
| Neville, Joseph | Wicha, Matthew |
| OHara, Brian | Wisniewski, Craig |
- Remember them. They live in memories.

BLUE STAR TRADITION

Families of those serving in the Armed Forces during WWI and WWII remember the blue banner with one to five blue stars for each member of the military hanging in the window. It showed pride in loved ones whose sacrifices preserve freedom.

In wars and conflicts since, the tradition was forgotten. Now the events of 9-11 recognize the Armed Forces, activated National Guard, and Reserves. Visit the Legion's internet website www.legion.org for more information.

FLAG AMENDMENT UPDATE

Fifty states, three-quarters of all Americans, 70% of Congress, and four chief justices all support the CFA. Still Senate Majority Leader Tom Dasche, D.-S. D., refuses to bring the issue to the floor for a vote. Additionally Judiciary Committee Chairman Pat Leahy, D.-Vt., is blocking committee hearings.

Make our votes count. Send The Citizens Flag Alliance, P. O. Box 361625, Indianapolis, IN 46236 your signed petitions (see sample below).

To honor America's war dead and in memory of all who have died at the hands of our enemies, we the undersigned petition the President of the United States for an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that will allow the U. S. Congress, by law, to prohibit the physical desecration of the Flag of the United States of America.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENTS

DATES/TIMES

CONTACT

- | | |
|---|---------|
| Father's Day | June 16 |
| Memorial Services, High Point State Park, Sussex County | June 30 |

NEWSPAPER DEADLINE

All articles for the next issue are due no later than July 1, 2002.

A TRIBUTE

The S. A. L. mourns the passing of Past Auxiliary President Elaine Trocchio (N. J.) at home on April 16, 2002. She dedicated herself to helping others. She was a real person, gentle, kind, giving.

CONDOLENCES

On Saturday, March 16, 2002, Art McLaughlin (Iowa), Legionnaire husband of National Auxiliary President Sherry McLaughlin died after a lengthy illness. Our hearts go out to this great lady who, in the face of personal grief, continues to do so much for others despite her own personal loss. We extend our sympathy to the family.

EMBLEM REVISED

Graphic artist King Doxsee has updated the designs of The Legion, Auxiliary, and S. A. L. While the symbolism remains, the artwork is simpler. It is available in black and white, color, and gray scale in the .tif, .jpg, and .pdf file types. It can be downloaded from Sons' web Home Page, www.sal.legion.org.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

by Tom Marsden

I am grateful to those who helped change the layout format, make deadlines, and get the paper out. I hope I continue as publisher. I did not do it by myself. Woodbury Sq. 133's gift of a digital camera helped news photography. Ed and Luc, Jim, Carl, Mike, Kent --thank you for your articles.

I did try to improve things as I went. I realize that papers have not been perfect. When I was named Editor-in-Chief, I told Mr. Wingler I would not edit his message. I feel every commander represents himself in his words. I apologize to you who wanted me to correct them. Ethically I felt that I could not do so.

The year is at end. Issues 3, 4, and 5 as well as the editorial 'The Eagle Weeps' were sent to NALPA. I have been unable to include Cmdr. Wingler's message because he didn't submit one as this went to press.



THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

EDITOR: TOM MARSDEN; ASSOCIATE EDITOR: EDWARD MARSDEN

COMMANDER'S PROJECT

Mr. Wingler, instead of designating his own SAL Commander's Project, chose to work within the Legion Family. Detachment thanks the Legion and Auxiliary for allowing the Sons of the American Legions to be part of it. Helping vets is what everything is about.

Top administrative changes at the center slowed repairs at Camden County's Veterans Haven. Now things are up and going again. Beds are on order, and Veterans Haven will receive its check in Wildwood. Closed circuit television systems with movies, sports, etc. are being installed at Lyons and East Orange VA Homes. This will enable vets to select their own special programming. Other nursing homes as well are being helped. Cash donations will go to Menlo Park and Paramus for needed projects.

BOYS STATE

Detachment Vice-Commander Luc Marsden has been chosen by Shore Boro Post 351 to attend Boys State. Luc will participate at Rider College, Laurenceville, for one week with 850 other young men from throughout the state. This is the second year that a Detachment officer has been chosen for the program.

Legion instructors train tomorrow's leaders in hands-on functional activities letting them become involved in a two-party system, developing a platform, holding caucuses and convention.

Delegates selected are exposed to the workings of local government units--county boards, agencies, courts, public welfare, and law enforcement. They get a chance to see precinct, county, judicial, circuit, senatorial, legislative, and state level politics in action.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics is still one of the Detachment projects. For information on upcoming events, becoming a coach, or how to attend coaching clinics, telephone 800-650-7665 where a program coordinator will be glad to hear from you. The organization needs your help.

ON THE BOARDWALK

New Jersey's Legion Family will be holding its Third Wildwood Boardwalk Walkathon for CMN 7:30 A. M., Saturday, June 14 with registration at 7:00. Be there to show your support. Then get ready for a laugh or two before breakfast as Ed Marsden and the rest of the PDC's wrought their best while wrecking Nick.

CMN

Children's Miracle Network encompasses 170 hospitals across America serving 17 million children. It treats them regardless of ability to pay. Since its 1983 founding, it has collected \$2 billion for children with special needs caused by disease, injury, or birth defect.

The Legion has donated \$4.7 million to it over the last four years, so Dairy Queen wants to show its appreciation to veterans and their families for this generosity. Nationwide, on July 6, Dairy Queen will serve free sundaes to the American Legion Family and the military. It will also donate a percent of every Red, White, and Blue Blizzard sale from July 1 through 28 to CMI.

CHILD WELFARE

This is the third consecutive year that New Jersey Sons went over the top in Child Welfare donations. As of May 31, the close of the official CWF year, National Headquarters reported Detachment contributions of \$6,825; Auxiliary \$2,145; Legion \$351; 8 & 40 \$110; United Way \$283.17; and Individuals \$10 for a grand total of \$9,723.17.

The Sons missed its \$1 per Member goal by only five cents. Let's applaud Chairmen Mike Arner and Neal Newlin for this fantastic accomplishment.

MEMBERSHIP

Our Detachment has enrolled to date 7,205 Sons. We made 100.783% of our target number. Membership is at an all time high. Congratulations, Mr. Stone, your committee did the best job ever!



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THE ADJUTANT'S CORNER

The opening of the new Convention Center brings with it many changes. Its space allows Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons to be located together for the first time ever. Its Convention Authority will regulate all sales.

National Commander Cliff Smith will be a distinguished guest at the SAL session. Leading Candidate for National Commander Steve Laws of North Carolina will be visiting us as well. Candidate for National Vice-Commander East 2002,-2003, Mark Smith (Maryland) is attending. New York plans to send its own delegation too.

The Detachment Convention itself will be interesting. Attendance should be at an all-time high with 17 rumored running for every elected office either as candidate or off the floor.. This may change if some drop out or others decide to run.

As of now candidates (listed alphabetically by office) include: Carl Albern and Luc Marsden, Commander; Amel Balega, Kent Hehl, Sean Howarth, Jim Lightcap, Russ Mallard, Gary Nelson, and Greg Stone, Vice-Commander; Mike Arner and Jim Noble, NEC; Ed Marsden, Ed McCloskey, Neal Newlin, and Nick Wingler, ANEC; Spike Abrams and Frank Jiosi, Chaplain.

Candidate brochures, submitted committee reports, attendance roster, and minutes all show exactly what each person has done. Who knows the most about Detachment and can do the most for Detachment are the key qualifications. Every squadron voting should consider the ability, experience, and involvement of each candidate vying for office before choosing who to select on the ballot.

The Detachment of New Jersey thanks Outgoing Legion Commander McCole and Auxiliary President Sue Griffith for including the Sons at public functions and in the Commander's Project. 2002-2003 Leading Candidates Billy Mack and Maggie McMahon promise to continue the Legion Family spirit.

DETACHMENT NEC GIVEN NATIONAL SHOWCASE AWARD

by Jim Noble

Jim and Debbie Noble were honored for their work with the Bayonne Fire Canteen during the September 11 attacks on our country. Jim and Debbie are the founding members of this volunteer organization composed largely of Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members from Post 19, Bayonne. Jim serves as Chief and Debbie as Captain.

The Fire Canteen was requested to serve as the Rehab unit at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal from which the firefighters, police, and emergency workers were dispatched to Ground Zero. All totaled the Canteen assisted over 750 emergency service workers from many different agencies.

For their dedication and untiring work during this national tragedy, Jim and Debbie were honored at the Awareness Assembly in Washington, D. C. where National President Sherry McLaughlin presented the Canteen with a check for \$5,000 and the National Showcase Award.



PROTECT OUR FLAG

by Luc Marsden

I have spend three years in the ROTC, preparing for a career in the service. With my homeland at war, I realize that I may someday be called into active duty. I accept that. I love America enough to put down my life for it. Please do not think that I do not appreciate what others have sacrificed in the face of liberty.

I along with all Americans was touched by the tragedy of 9-11. I wear a pin showing fire and rescue workers with the flag flying in the background toiling in front of the Twin Towers. I thank the heroes whose quick response saved so many. I mourn the 3,000 casualties of the terrorist's war. Without the quick response of civil servants how much greater that number would be!

I believe in the Citizens Flag Amendment too. I have been a long time supporter of the movement to protect our country's Star Spangled Banner from destruction, from desecration. It repulses me to think that my fellow countrymen urinate on it, spit it, burn it. Still they do.

Insurrectionists lessen the United States with such public displays of anti- government policy. Foreign powers question our creditability. The Bill of Rights may guarantee certain freedoms; still it should not abridge other freedoms in the guise of free speech.

Over the Memorial Day Weekend, I visited several services. Imagine my mixed feelings when a local politician carried a 4 X 6 flag inscribed with names filling the white stripes. The same thing had been attempted several weeks before at the American Legion Washington Conference. Luckily, a quick suggestion on the part of a member in attendance there averted that action. This time no one spoke out.

I feel that I must voice my disapproval. Even for what may seem good reason, the flag should never be defaced. People do have other ways to show support. Here's one: Use colored ribbons that attach onto flag poles and mounts instead. These ribbons can easily be distributed for signing. That way anyone who wants to testify will never be faulted for destroying the colors of the U. S. A.

LITTLE CLIFFORD



Pictured above is SAL Chris Gray, a member of the Children's Miracle Network serviced by its Toms River facility.



WHAT RED, WHITE, AND BLUE MEANS TO ME

by Ed Marsden

Several years ago I wrote the article printed below. With our country at war and Flag Day and July 4 approaching, I thought it was appropriate to share it with you.

What red, white, and blue means to me is America. I serve it for God and country. Its flag, my flag, is a symbol of many things. Its changes over the years show how America has grown.

The red banner reminds me of Great Britain, the country from which my forefathers sailed into Virginia in October 24, 1635. The red stands for the blood America's heroes shed. It shows their valor.

The white stripes show the original thirteen colonies standing apart from their motherland, England. That white is pure and unstained. It represents a new land born in liberty.

The blue field numbers the fifty states. It has stars. Those stars remind me of the heavens that one nation under God lies below. The blue records the justice, loyalty, and perseverance of our people and our government.

I believe in the United States of America. I hold its ideals of patriotism, health, knowledge,, training, honor, faith, helpfulness, courtesy, reverence, and comradeship. I pledge my allegiance to the flag of the U. S. A. It is a flag that flies proudly. May all Americans join me in honoring it.

BIG DAWG'S PROJECT

National Commander Cliff Smith's official project supports The Salvation Army Veterans Centers nationwide. While surfing the web, I found a site that even accepts cars on behalf of the organization.

Cmdr. Smith has sent a Veterans Programming booklet to Cmdr. Wingler and asked him to select a local center for our sate to help. Donations should be sent to The Salvation Army National Headquarters Community Relations/Devel Dept., 615 Slaters Kane, Alexandria, VA 22314.

In war and peace alike, The Salvation Army helps the needy. Be generous with your donaions monetary and non-monetary. It can use clothing, food, and toiletries. The cause is worthy.