



# THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

EDITOR: TOM MARSDEN; ASSOCIATE EDITOR: EDWARD MARSDEN

## YOUNG CITIZEN'S AWARD

James Lightcap, Chairman

There are a lot of young people in our communities who do special and outstanding deeds for others or the towns they live in and do not get the recognition that is due. This award enables squadrons in the SAL to find someone special and show him or her that unselfishness has not gone unnoticed. FIND that young citizen, you know you have one, EVERY town does. Make this award happen next year.

## TROOPS ON THE LINE

In war men and women are faced with the supreme choice: WHO WILL LIVE? WHO WILL DIE? Members of our Armed Forces are engaged in a war knowing it can mean their own deaths. They do not stop to consider their preferences and their differences. They cannot stop to consider themselves.

Soldiers place the needs of others before their own. They tend to their fellow man. They prove true ethics transcends differences. They show true courage is pure and gallant. We at home here can well learn from their example.

Support the military. Lm

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Legion Family is returning to its founding father's roots. St. Louis, Missouri, will be the site of the 32nd Annual National Sons of The American Legion Convention from August 22 thorough 24. The Schubert Theater in Olive and Tucker was the site of 1,110 WWI vets' first caucus. That was back in 1919. It is gone now and lot has changed since.

Record numbers of our state's Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons will follow home-grown National President Elsie Bailey and local Eastern Division Vice President Laurel Matthews down the route. SAL Outgoing Commander Luc hopes it won't rain and cancel the parade like last year.

Housing for New Jersey is in the Adams Mark. I hope Sons can as the song goes, "Meet me in St. Louis."

tm

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SPOTLIGHTED

The Detachment of New Jersey and its Commander Lukasz A. Marsden proudly announce the winner of the first Ernie Wilson, Jr. Scholarship as Kim-Lu DelGuercio. She will be at convention to receive her plaque and \$500 award.

Kim is an all-round person. She was, to highlight some of her successes, President of the Thespian Honor Society, Junior Class Yearbook Editor, and Chapter President of the Future Business Leaders of America. She's involved in track, has performed with the musical Blue Note Express and Belles Voix, and has appeared on MTV's show Beat Seekers. She even finds time for a job.

Kim's father is a Legionnaire who served in Vietnam. The seventeen year old graduated as valedictorian from Mount Saint Dominic Academy who will attend Notre Dame in the fall. She plans on a career as a medical doctor in forensic science. tm

## WAYS & MEANS

In support of the U. S. A. keeping the words "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Gary Nelson chose the New Jersey 2003 SAL pin design with an American flag bunted by the words "One nation under God". Sons throughout the state have been responsible for the sale of almost 1,500 pins. Some have been set aside for convention sales. Stop by the SAL table to check the pin out. tm

## SON OF THE YEAR

Who will be chosen from the three Sons nominated by their squadrons for this award? Be in the audience Friday afternoon, June 13, to find out.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership in New Jersey's Sons of The American Legion is at a record number. Again it has gone over the top. New squadrons, reactivated squadrons, and a 89.67% renewal rate helped the SAL accomplish enrolling 7,750 to date. That's 102.16% of last year's totals. tm



## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Dear Comrades:

### DETACHMENT OFFICERS 02-03

**Commander:**

Lukasz A. Marsden  
*Ctycomdr0102@hotmail.com*

**Vice Commanders:**

Kent Hehl  
*Kehehl@aol.com*  
Sean Howarth  
*Sne4722694@aol.com*  
Gary Nelson  
*Gpnelsoncos@juno.com*  
Russ Maillard  
*Halfbreed143@yahoo.com*  
James K. Lightcap  
*Jdlightcap@msn.com*

**Adjutant:**

Thomas E. Marsden  
*Saltom@usa.net*

**Judge Advocate:**

Duane J. Conant

**Chaplain:**

Frank Jiosi

**Historian:**

William Polochak Jr.

**Sgt-at-Arms:**

Kermit Riley  
Amel Balega  
Joseph Colontone  
Spike Abrams

**NEC:**

James A. Noble  
*Njsalnec@aol.com*

**ANEC:**

Nicholas J. Wingler  
*Njsalanec@hotmail.com*

WWW.NJSAL.ORG

It seems only yesterday that I became involved in the Sons of the American Legion. That was back in '93. I had been a member almost my whole life but did not attend meetings until I could sit still and be quiet. My older brother Ed had become involved the year prior when my father was state commander. I wanted to be involved too.

As things would have it, the detachment chaplain resigned. No one else was around to take the job so I did. I began going to Locustwood, High Point, VA&R homes, Legion College, NEC's, national conventions, and so much more. I learned by experience; I trained by doing. I sat in every Executive Board office except NEC and ANEC (offices past commanders historically take) over eleven years.

When the Detachment Commander could not fulfill his duties at the end of '98, I was chosen by the Commander's Advisory to take over pro tem. That temporary position lasted until Wildwood the following June. Most people expected me to run for commander then. However, I looked at things and decided for myself, by myself, I was not the best man for the job. My brother Ed had been unsuccessful candidate in 1998. I took over for the man he lost to; therefore, I deferred to Ed. He ran and became detachment commander not once but twice. Both he and I made the right choices for the SAL and ourselves.

While Ed was still in office, I decided that I would not attempt to follow him. There are always comparisons, and I knew that I wanted to be known for my accomplishments, not for being the little *bother*. I chose to wait until 2002. That's when I threw in my fore and aft, campaigned, and swore my oath of office. Those who supported me did the lion's share. I could never have done it alone.

The committees and chairs I selected accomplished much. This year brought a rise in membership, new squadrons, reactivated squadrons, a new county, a commander's project that helped CMN kids like my own nephew, and the highest CWF donations ever. (Thanks, Mike.) Detachment, adding Veterans Haven to Lyons, Menlo Park, Paramus, Vineland and East Orange, expanded its commitment to vets. I got to be a delegate at Boys State; I even got to visit Girls State.

Along the line many good people helped--the Executive Board, members, and, of course, my dad. I'll remember them always. I want especially to recognize my father, Tom Marsden, for all he has done over the years. He was my teacher and role model. His example guided me.

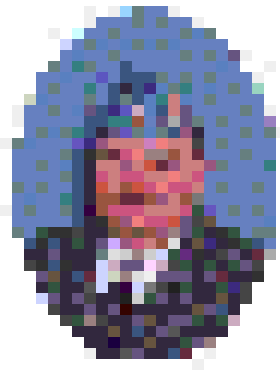
I mourn the death of my Judge Advocate, PDC Ray Miller. He loved and breathed the Sons. He was a good, dedicated man. I miss him and his wisdom. I think of him often and hope he's smiling. He once gave tribute to my family's work in the SAL praising the service of my father and his two sons. I never got the chance to thank him for all he did for the Duke. Sometimes, just sometimes, words do fail me.

I have a picture of Ernie Wilson taped to my desk. He was my idol, my inspiration. I often wonder what he would think. He brought New Jersey so far. He had so many plans for its future. My commander's pin commemorates him--he loved his country and the SAL. Its eagle represents his looking over this year, my year.

Our Legionnaires led by Cmdr. Billy are fantastic. Our Sons are unbelievable. Our Ladies are the best ever. National Auxiliary President, our own Elsie Bailey, truly is a great lady; National Vice Commander East, Laurel Mathews, another mother to me; NEC Sue Grif-fiths, a gracious, dedicated shining star; and Department Auxiliary President Maggie McMa-hon, beside me at official events, a friend.

As I leave office, I carry good memories and good feelings away. It was fun helping the children and vets. Thank you for your support and best wishes.

For God and Country,  
Lukasz A. Marsden  
SAL Commander 2002-2003  
Detachment of New Jersey



## LEADING CANDIDATE

William (Bill) Sparwasser is a proud member of Essex Squadron 148 in the Detachment of Maryland. His eligibility is through his father, William T. Sparwasser, who is a dual member of Essex American Legion Post and Squadron. William T. Sparwasser served his country during the Korean War.

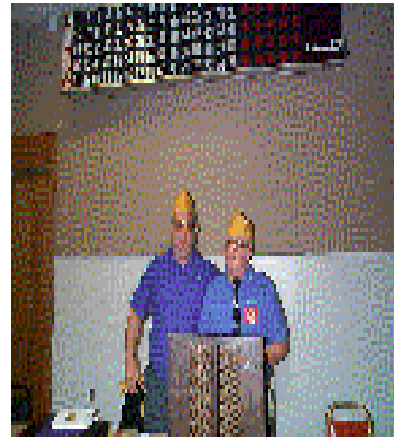
Bill has his own Legion Family. His mother, the late Carolyn A. Sparwasser, was a member of its Auxiliary unit. His wife, Kelly, and daughter, Kristen, are members of Unit 148. His two sons, BJ and Kevin, both are members of Essex Squadron 148.

Serving veterans is and has been one of Bill's major objectives since joining the Sons of The American Legion. Bill is currently serving on the Board of Directors at the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVETS). For the past seven years, Bill has been the state liaison for MCVETS. He also serves as deputy Representative at VA Hospital Green Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

Bill is National Chairman of Membership Training and Development. He has served as Vice Chair of the National Management Institute and of the Public Relations Committee. He has been Chief of Staff as well as Administrative Assistant to the National Commander. He was National Historian (1997-1998) and a three term National Assistant Adjutant.

Bill is Leading Candidate for National Vice Commander East 2003-2004. As candidate he understands that membership is the life blood of the SAL and is committed to membership growth, the Eastern Area's tradition. His goals include building membership retention and developing new membership applicants.

Bill's message to the membership is summed up in his statement: "Always remember our fathers earned us the privilege to become members of a 'Priceless heritage'. It is our obligation to carry on 'For God and Country'."



## AT NATIONAL

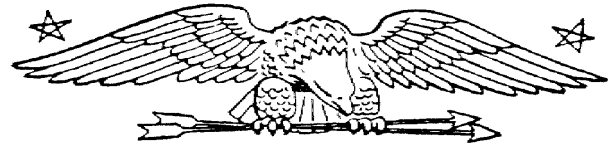
This year has gone by so fast. It seems like only yesterday that I was in New Jersey asking for your support. Now I want to thank you for the great jobs you have done promoting the SAL and American Legion programs.

As you meet at convention, you will complete this year's business, and you will elect a new slate of officers. Listen to their visions of your Detachment. I know you will install leaders who will lead New Jersey to greatness.

My year as National Vice Commander East is coming to an end. I wish to thank the Detachment of New Jersey for its support and confidence in electing me to office. With your help this has been a very productive and memorable year.

Thank you again.

Mark W. Smith  
National Vice Commander East



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Flag Day	June 14
Boys State at Rider College	June 15-20
High Point Memorial Service	June 29
Fourth of July	July 4
Testimonial Dinner for Laurel Matthews, Nat Vice Pres. E	Aug 16
National Convention, St. Louis, MO	Aug 22-24
Sal Watchfire Seaside Heights	Seot 19-20
Fall NEC, Indianapolis, IN	Oct. 3-5

## PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE

Fellow Comrades,

My membership in the Sons of The American Legion began in 1971 and has been continuous since then. My eligibility in the Sons of The American Legion comes from my father, Robert Hehl, who served in the army during the Korean Conflict. He is a member of Oaklyn-Beetlewood Post 84. He has been a member of the American Legion since 1965 with 39 years continuous membership.

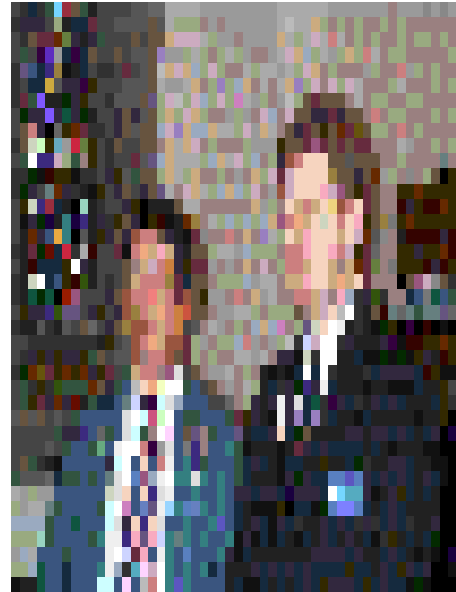
I am an active member of Oaklyn-Beetlewood Squadron 84. Currently I hold the office of squadron chaplain. I am a member of the Camden County SAL Committee. I was originally involved in its founding and am now its finance officer. I am a third term vice commander for the Detachment of New Jersey. I have held the VA&R chairmanship for the state the last two years.

I have been married to my wife, Theresa, for twenty years and have three children. My daughters, Kristen and Katherine, have been members of Unit #84 since birth. My son, Robert, has been a member of Squadron #84 since birth. I am a land surveyor with Wm. Bowman Assoc., Inc., a land development company. I have been employed there for the last 16 years.

I think it is important that as Sons we all remember who we are, "Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage", the first line in the Preamble to our constitution. This is why we belong to this great organization. If we continue with our basic programs dedicated to our veterans and children, we honor our forefathers and our parent organization, the American Legion.

Important to me this year is communication between squadrons, counties and detachment. Also, we must all work on membership and member retention to keep this great organization alive and growing.

For God and Country,  
Kent Hehl



### CARL ALBERM, JR., SEEKS TOP SPOT

Monmouth County Executive Committee

Carl Alberm, Jr., is running for Detachment Commander for 2003-2004. Carl hails from Monmouth County where he has been a member of Squadron 346 for 13 years. Carl is highly qualified for the office that he seeks. He has been his squadron commander several times and has sat on or chaired most of the committees in his years with the organization. He is presently the Squadron Adjutant/Finance Officer. His dedication to his squadron has been an uplift to Squadron 346 for many years.

Carl was instrumental in the start of the Monmouth County SAL. His persistence paved the way for future commanders to have a balanced budget and the establishment of sound committees. Carl was elected as the first county commander and served 18 months. His first objective was to get a county flag, and this was done in a relatively short time. Carl has held the offices of DEC for two years and presently is County Adjutant and Chairman of the Internet.

At the detachment level, Carl is a Past Detachment Vice Commander and currently chairs the Internet and By-laws Committees. He is a vice chairman for the SAL College Committee and also chairs the Commander's Project Committee.

We in Monmouth County are very proud of Carl and his accomplishments over the years. He has dedicated much of his time to the Sons of the American Legion at all levels. He works hard for this organization, and we know that when he says that something will get done it gets done. The State of New Jersey cannot ask for a better person to run this detachment.

## THE ADJUTANT'S CORNER

The Bergen County American Legion Auxiliary is hosting a testimonial for Laurel A. Matthews, Eastern Division National Vice President. This event will be at the Holiday Inn in Saddle Brook, New Jersey on Saturday, August 16, 2003 at 7 P. M. The cost of the dinner is \$30. For more information contact Linda Carroll, 201-933-1814.

## THE PUBLIC FORUM

*This letter was mailed to Cmdr. Luc, Jim Noble, Nick Wingler, Kent Hehl, Jim Lightcap, Spike Abrams, Bill Polock, and Tom Marsden about SAL College '03's Basic.*  
Dear Sir:

My name is Steven J. Rodriguez. I am the adjutant for Squadron 385, Fairview. I have been an S. A. L. member for 3+ years. You have managed to teach me more in one afternoon than I have learned in all my time with the Sons program. I would like to thank you very much for taking the time out of your day to spend with myself and the rest of the basic class. The class has made me even more proud to be an active member of the S. A. L. and even prouder yet to be an American.

I will be promoting this class to all of my fellow S. A. L. members and I will definitely be attending the advanced class next year. Thank you once again.

Steven J. Rodriguez  
Squadron 365, Fairview, Bergen Co.

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

Ed Marsden, Asst. Editor

Copies of all this years papers have been given to Carl Albern and Mike Arner for the website. Lack of articles by any detachment, county, or squadron caused the cancellation of the Spring 2003 edition of the SALute. Other than the editors, only one person submitted an item.

In this year's past four newspapers there were 57 features and blurbs. Of these, 43 came from the Commander or one of the two editors. There was room for many more if each committee did its job and submitted even just one article.

The constant effort of the SALute's editor-in-chief, Tom Marsden, has made the last two years what it is. I am glad I had the opportunity to work under him. I could never accomplish all he did much less do it alone.

We took on a duty and did our best. We are busy making plans and suggestions for 2003-2004's paper. We are committed to its growth. Help make that happen.

To those who sent in things, namely Carl Albern, Jr, Mike Arner, Duane Conant, Sean Howarth, Jim Lightcap, Jim Noble, Nick Wingler, Gary Jack, Ed Seely, and Kent Hehl--we extend a big THANK YOU.

## CHILD WELFARE HITS NEW HEIGHTS

Michael Arner, CWF Chairman

Child Welfare donations have hit an all time high for the Detachment of New Jersey. As of May 30, 2003, we sit at slightly under \$15,000 in contributions. What an outstanding effort by the squadrons in our detachment!

Squadron 133 of Woodbury has to be congratulated for a job well done. They raised \$3,600 for this cause. CWF Vice Chairman Spike Abrams, a member of Squadron 133, told me just a couple of weeks ago that we would reach our goal of \$10,000 and probably more at convention. Do you think he knew something?

My own squadron, #338 in Leonardo, kicked off the year with a \$2,500 donation then Neptune Squadron 346 donated \$1,000. These numbers are great. We need to keep up the good work in years to come.

Personal donations by some members of the Detachment are also to be commended: Bergen's Gary Nelson, Morris's PCC Ed McCloskey, Hudson's Jim Noble, Morris's PDC Ken Esposito, and Ocean's Marsdens kicked in \$100+ each.

County organizations such as Monmouth, Camden, and Hunterdon contributed as well. The whole detachment is on the same page. We will strive to keep building record numbers.

I want to thank PDC Nick Wingler then Commander Lukasz Marsden for giving me the opportunity to work with this wonderful charity as its chairman and to pursue the goals the committee set. I want to thank all the members of the committee, Vice Chairman Spike Abrams, Dean Staknys, Amel Balega, and Ed McCloskey, for a job well done. Don't stop now--keep the donations rolling in.

## THE COMMANDER'S PROJECT

Stitch

We are lucky to have the best president ever. President McMahan's Disney Dreams reawakened the childlike part in us. Seeing Mickey Mouse, Goofy, Pooh, Tigger, Eyeore, Piglet, Donald Duck, Minnie Mouse, and Tinkerbell made us happy. President Maggie brought things full circle by making volunteerism fun. We all know that's the best prescription for dealing with life.

I am proud that the Detachment was able to participate with Maggie in bringing critters, books, and videos to two trauma centers and Toms River's Children's Miracle Network facility. Sons have already collected stuffed animals and \$1,450 with more to come at convention. Wonderful feeling... Wonderful day....

Sometimes during the summer the partners in the project will attend its CMN presentation. Please continue actively soliciting for the Commander's 2002-2003 Project until then.



**NEWSPAPER DEADLINE**

All articles for the next issue are due no later than June 30, 2003.