



# THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

EDITOR: TOM MARSDEN; ASSOCIATE EDITOR: EDWARD MARSDEN

## A EULOGY TO RAY

Luc Marsden

The Detachment of New Jersey and I deeply mourn the loss of our fellow comrade PDC Raymond K. Miller. He dedicated himself to God and Country. He looked out for the Sons program and saw the best in its members. Ray always was there for us, right up to the end. Where others quit, he kept on. Asking nothing from others, he gave himself.

How can I ever forget the man who with a twinkle in his eye was there always for "the Duke"? Five years ago Ray thanked me for doing my job when it was he who deserved thanks. There was no finer judge advocate than him. He was truly good: gracious, caring, intelligent, and savvy.

Ray was a devoted son, loving father, grandfather, loyal American, trusted friend, and more.

## YOUNG CITIZENS AWARD

Jim Lightcap

Please start thinking about any outstanding youths in your community. Packets for this award will be arriving at squadrons soon. We're (the Detachment) going to need you to send in those applications for that special youth who did an unselfish deed for the community or someone in need. Put those thinking caps on and recognize someone special.

## CHILD WELFARE

What better charity is there than Child Welfare? Some of this years grants include Camcervice, the Children's Organ Transplant Association, the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation, the NRA, and the Schwachman-Diamond Syndrome International.

Chairman Mike Arner has set his sights high. In each of the last four years CW donations in New Jersey have been over the top. National records show current SAL donations at \$3,236. Keep squadron dollars for members, employer dollars, and individual donations coming.

## SEASONS GREETINGS

Cmdr. Luc cordially invites the Legion Family to stop by at 8:30 A. M. on Saturday, December 7, prior to the regular meeting in Trenton, to celebrate the holidays with him and the SAL. and enjoy some goodies. em

## DISNEY DREAMS

The SAL is joining Pres. McMahon and the Auxiliary in its project. Their goal is getting Disney stuffed animals for every young patient in two local trauma centers as well as the Ocean County CMN hospital, a Disney book library for patients in that Children's Hospital facility, and a check to Mountainside Hospital which oversees Children's Miracle Network in New Jersey.

Cmdr. Luc has written personal letters to both Disneyland and Disneyworld asking for Disney contributions. He looks to our membership of 7,578 Sons to help carry out this. Carl Alber, Jr. is project chairman. Please help if you can. tm

## PROJECT GUIDELINES

Carl Alber, Jr.

Counties and squadrons can work to collect toys. Contact your local toy stores, shops, and manufacturers about donating. The toys need to be new and boxed or bagged due to health restrictions.

The Detachment will recognize businesses and manufacturers for their donations in the SALute and with press releases to local newspapers. For more details and information, contact me via e-mail [cwjr@infi.net](mailto:cwjr@infi.net) or at home (107 Riverview Av., Unit 168, Neptune City, N. J. 07753).

## MEMBERSHIP

Current membership as of October 31, 2002, is 2,355. SAL retention of members is strong. Lets work on forming new squadrons and reactivating old ones. tm



## THE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

### DETACHMENT OFFICERS 02-03

**Commander:**

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**Judge Advocate:**

Duane J. Conant

**Chaplain:**

Frank Jiosi

**Historian:**

William Polochak Jr.

**Sgt-at-Arms:**

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Amel Balega  
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Nicholas J. Wingler  
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Comrades:

The passing of PDC Raymond K. Miller was a tremendous loss to all of us. Just a few days before his death, several of the Sons visited him in the hospital. His thoughts and concerns were that the detachment move forth together. I have appointed PDC Duane Conant as Judge Advocate to fill the remainder of Ray's term. Duane is well-versed in both the existing Constitution and Bylaws and Roberts. The Detachment welcomes Duane back to its Executive Board.

Ideally SAL members should be active and involved in at least squadron activities. They should be friendly and social. They should help the Legion Family, volunteer whenever possible, and promote fundraising. This sounds like a tall order, but it really isn't. The Sons need to get together more and dwell on personalities less.

On behalf of the Detachment of New Jersey and myself, I would like to thank all the people who came out for the POW-MIA Warchfire. Tom Marsden has hosted the last ten in Ocean County. He has never cancelled or moved the date advertised. Pouring rains kept some from attending. If only our armed forces could have missed the fighting because of bad weather!

National President Bailey's Homecoming went well. The generosity of the Leonardo post, home of Mike Arner, and the hospitality of the Neptune post and our own Carl Alber, Jr., did Jersey proud. It was good to see so many of us together at the banquet. I'd like to recognize Tom Marsden, Jim Noble, Joe Colotone, and Gary Nelson for the fantastic job they did in helping transport guests.

Recently I went to another Halloween parade. I think I've missed only two in my whole life. That Halloween parade is claimed by some to be the second largest in the whole U.S.A. The Big Pumpkin and, of course, Santa Claus are the New Millennium heroes. Throngs of participants march a two mile route regardless of weather. Crowds of thousands jam the streets. Strange... we still can't get that kind of interest on national holidays like Memorial Day, The Fourth of July, Labor Day, and last but not least, Veterans Day. What does that say about citizens of the U.S.A.?

It honors the Legion Family that so many Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons came together for September 11 memorial services. The people who died then and after because of the attacks on our homeland are hero casualties in the war against terrorism.

Veterans Day is November 11. Let us all keep faith in God and Country. America has been at war over a year now. We know that the war will be long and difficult, but we shall overcome. Keep patriotism on high; keep those flags flying. Pledge allegiance to the greatest nation under God on earth.

Pearl Harbor is December 7. Let us never forget that day of infamy. Let it be a reminder to us to remain ever watchful, ever vigilant.

One of my goals for this year is to get out to every county in New Jersey. Since my installation, I've been at various convention activities (Cape May), Boys State and Girls State (Mercer), a testimonial (Ocean), High Point Memorial Services (Sussex), Carranza Services (Burlington), and the Veterans Haven Picnic (Camden), a pig roast (Gloucester), and President Bailey's Homecoming (Monmouth). I have thirteen to go. Please send me an invitation. I'd really like to be there with you.

With the holidays soon upon us all, my best wishes.

WWW.NJSAL.ORG

For God and Country,  
Lukasz A. Marsden  
Detachment Commander  
2002-2003

## THE READERS FORUM

Any article printed in "The Readers Forum" is the opinion of the reader and not necessarily that of either the editors of the Salute or the Detachment itself. The newspaper takes no side--pro or con--on contents. Its editors allow space for opposing points of view.

### Other Thoughts on Life Membership

Some Legion posts lose their charter. Others just fold. Some squadrons fall in membership. Others change to paper. Local programs fall apart. Sons move long distances away. All of these are realities in a busy society.

What does a life member do when one of the situations above hits him personally? It all depends. Naturally, he tries to keep his squadron together. He volunteers and works for the good of the many. Yet often that just is not enough, and in the end he is forced to find himself another squadron. Many active Sons have switched squadrons.

Things change. That's why standards for life membership in the Sons of the American Legion are decided by the squadron itself. If a man is following SAL Constitution and Bylaws, if a man is out working for the good of the organization, if a man is volunteering to help vets, a squadron can recognize and reward him as it sees fit without checking against some arbitrary standard.

National, detachment, and district/county have no place deciding what is best for local membership unless there is a conflict. Would you take life membership away from a member on probation within larger organizations?

If PNC Ernie Wilson were alive today, what would you do with his life membership if his squadron were down? There are individuals who pay for memberships of others; there are individuals who pay their county's dues. Are these truly better solutions than letting a man transfer?

Remember life membership is not transferred from one squadron to another. Only a squadron can decide to bestow life membership (in that squadron). If someone with a long-time career of service feels the needs of the Legion Family are best served by moving elsewhere, who are you or I to penalize him? Personally, I think that man must be pretty good for two groups both to offer him life membership.

Everyone has the right to choose the niche where he can best serve without others second-guessing. Give the life member the respect that his award carries. Change is usually considered good.

Duane Conant

## THE ADJUTANT'S CORNER

The Detachment Commander Luc's testimonial has been changed to 4:00 P. M. Sunday, April 13, 2002, at Shore Boro Post 351. His committee is finalizing plans for a sit down dinner. Plan on joining him and Jersey's Legion Family for a sit-down dinner, music and dancing. Fliers will be sent out giving particulars for making reservations. Information on dinner book ads will also be sent. tm

## THE HERO CAMPAIGN

Sean Howarth

The purpose of the John R. Elliott Hero Campaign for Designated Drivers is to encourage people to drive sober, become designated drivers, and help keep drunks off the highways.

John Elliott was recognized for his achievements in academics, leadership, and athletics. He was a true officer and gentleman. He attended the United States Naval Academy graduating in May, 2000, with a B. S. in Systems Engineering.

John received his commission of ensign in the United States Navy and was preparing to attend Naval Flight Officer School in Pensacola, Florida, when he was killed in a head-on collision with a drunken driver.

While at the Academy, John distinguished himself as A Human Education Resource Officer (HERO) and was selected as outstanding HERO in his class. The Hero Campaign has been established in his honor as an effort to end drunk driving fatalities and accidents.

For additional information contact The John Elliott Foundation at 1-866-700-HERO or [www.herocampaign.org](http://www.herocampaign.org).

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

The American Constitution guarantees freedom of the press yet some would try to dictate, to censor, to control what is put into the news or taken out of it. No one has the right to deliberately muckrake and engage in slanted yellow journalism. Everyone has the right to present an issue honestly and fairly. There is no libel in the truth itself. It's in how someone tells the story. And, for those who don't like being quoted, be sure of not only what you say but also how you say it. No one else but you is responsible for what you are represent.

I hope you find the paper pertinent, informative, and well-written. Some mistakes may slip by, and I apologize for them. I would like to thank those who sent in articles. Your writing makes this publication represent the membership. If you are curious what the initials at the end of many of the articles represent, where there is no byline, it's the initials of a staff writer. Keep the articles coming! tm

## WATCHFIRE

The day's gale winds and rainstorms did not stop the Detachment of New Jersey from holding its 11th Annual POW/MIA Watchfire as scheduled. The September 27-28 event in Seaside Heights had been planned to closely coincide with National Remembrance Day.

Cmdr. Luc Marsden welcomed all attending. POW-MIA Chair Tom Marsden extends personal thanks to Seaside Heights, Post 351, DEC Robbins, Past National SAL Chaplain Ed Marsden, NEC Noble, Ocean County SAL Cmdr. Bieda, and Bill Diedrich (WV) for their efforts. Honored guests included Commander Billy Mack, President Maggie McMahon, and Ted Behr, sponsor of New Jersey Resolution 172 at National.

Memorial services began at dusk. The words of the POW tape especially touched the hearts. "Oodles" of flags were retired in the flag retirement ceremony held following the official opening. Then an all-night vigil followed despite pouring rains. It ended at dawn with Sons and their families holding hands together high, singing "God Bless the USA".

The embers from the watchfire that blazed throughout the night may be out for now, but they will be rekindled. Plans are currently being made for the next POW-MIA ceremony. Hope you can join the Legion Family next year. tm

## SQUADRON HOLDS PIG ROAST

Jim Lightcap

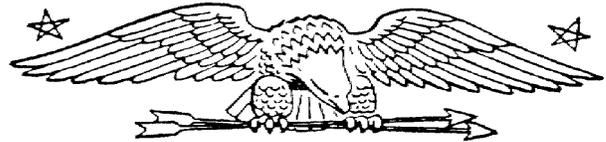
Squadron 133, Woodbury, hosted its annual pig roast September 28. Hap Litle was honored by Past Squadron Commanders with a September 11, 2001 flag for everything he has done for them.

Detachment Commander Luc "Minimander" Marsden was in attendance along with Detachment Adjutant Tom Marsden. Thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary for making the salads and desserts. Thank you everyone for attending and making our pig roast a success.

## CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE

This is where Jersey's legislators stand on the CFA: House—Andrews, LoBiondo, Saxton, Smith, Brennan, Garrett, Pallone, Ferguson, Pascrell, Rothman, Glouss, Payne, Wirtz, Frelinghuysen, Soaries, Mendez (supporters), Medrow and Holt (opponents); Senate—Lautenburg (opponent). Congressmen Farkas, Strada, Summers, Carden, Silverman, Pawar, and Geron currently are undecided

When you go out to vote, be sure that as a member of the Legion Family that you make yourself heard. Write your representatives either asking or thanking them for their support. em



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Auxiliary Birthday, Somerset.....	12/7/02
East National President's Visit, Flemington.....	1/3-5/03
For God and Country Service, Lakehurst.....	2/2/03
Washington Conference.....	3/2-5/03
Legion College, Sea Girt.....	3/22 /03
Aux. President's Testimonial.....	4/5/03
Det. Commander's Testimonial, Seaside Hts.....	4/13/03
Dept. Commander's Testimonial.....	4/26/03
Informational Conference, Cherry Hill.....	4/25-27/03
Spring NEC, Indianapolis, IN.....	5/3-5/03



## NEWSPAPER DEADLINE

All articles for the next issue are due no later than December 31, 2002.