



THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

EDITOR: THOMAS E. MARSDEN; ASSOCIATE EDITOR: EDWARD MARSDEN

YOUNG CITIZEN'S AWARD

This letter was mailed to our Legion Family November 22, 2004 by James Lightcap, Committee Chairman. Please help select a candidate.

I would like to let you know that the Detachment of New Jersey has an award to honor an outstanding male or female who has volunteered his/her time, served his/her community unselfishly, or who has done something extra to help others. This award is called The Young Citizen's Award. The winner will receive a savings bond and a trophy.

This special person must be of junior/senior high school age but not older than seventeen years of age. He/she cannot be a member of the Legion Family; however, a post, squadron, or unit must sponsor him/her.

Please make sure the applicant reads and follows all instructions completely. Applications may be copied both front and back if more are needed.

Please contact me by either calling me at home 856-845-9010 or on my cell 856-304-3953 if you have any questions. All applications and essays must be sent to me no later than April 15, 2005.

Send to: James Lightcap, 758 Chestnut Avenue, Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097. Find that special young citizen--you know you have one. Every town does.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS CHALLENGE

Steven Rodrigues, Special Olympics Chairman

Detachment Vice-Commander James Lightcap, at the December 11 Trenton meeting, issued his challenge: "If Special Olympics raises \$500 between December 11 and the February meeting, I will do a polar bear plunge in the Atlantic Ocean." Needless to say, the challenge was accepted whole-heartedly and, within minutes, those in attendance managed to raise \$240.

The Special Olympics Committee thanks Mr. Lightcap for his aid in fund-raising. It is greatly appreciated. If anyone would like to contribute, donations should be payable to the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of New Jersey and mailed to Steven John Rodrigues, 295 Wilson Av., Fairview, NJ 07022.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPLAINS CHAIRMAN

Kenny Esposito

I'm happy to say that the months of December and January show so much progress over the previous four months. This puts a huge smile on my face. The vice-commanders have done an exceptionally good job. Squadrons 43, 91, 133, 175, 242, 312, 408, 421, and 484 were visited as well as an Elk's club and a Moose lodge to drum up membership. Great job! Seven of the ten counties were visited by the vice-commanders in charge of them. Again, great job. Let's continue to do this every month.

Posts #57 and #78 are interested in starting up new squadrons. Essex and Union Counties are in the process of forming. I don't mean to harp on it, but please try to rustle up eleven new members for your squadron so we can make your Commander's Goal of 10,000.

As of the December 8 target date, we beat the 45% rate coming in at 50.88%. We need to keep this up. Remember February 9 is the 75% target and March 9, the 80% target. We can do this with everyone's help.

BITS AND PIECES

Squadrons and members who have not turned in cards are suspended as of January 30, 2005.... The floor voted that as of February 1, those who owe money for 1,200 pins from 2004 are not in good standing.... Nick Wingler has resigned as Chairman of the Son of the Year and Ernie Wilson Scholarship Committees. Cmdr. Gary has Tom Marsden and Joe Colontone in these positions....Cmdr. Nelson's Battle of the Bulge continues to gain pledges....Contact Chairman Noble for information on April's Legion College....The Detachment of New Jersey mourns the passing of Past County Commander Rusty Hazzard (Morris) as well as Adviser Tom McHugh's (Hackettstown) mother....DD214 is available on the web at http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/military_personnel_records/standard_form_180.html. Pm

THE EDITOR'S DESK

All officers and chairmen, please submit articles on your squadrons and counties as well as your commissions and committees. Our 8,000+ strong membership can involve itself only when it is in on what's up. The deadline for the next edition of the SALute is always is printed on the back page.



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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Dear Brother's,

First I would like to wish all members and there families a happy and healthy New Year! We started this new year with all good news. First we hit our membership goal back in December and surpassing it by almost 4%. Special Olympics is at an all time high in donations and we want to see our Detachment Vice Commander James Lightcap swim in that cold Atlantic Ocean in February if we raise another \$250.00 by the next Detachment meeting. We still need some more donations to reach his goal. of an additional \$500.00, so bring in your donations to Special Olympics Chairman Steve Rodriguez at the next meeting. Child Welfare is doing well and is expected to have a all time high this year and I was told to keep a look out for an up and coming letter from our Chairman Michael Arner in the near future.

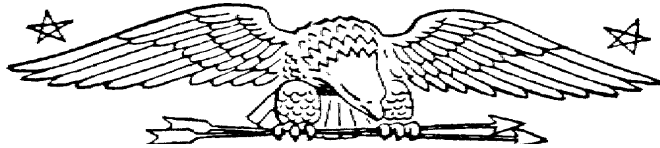
Detachment Vice Commander Frank Jiosi Jr., Chairman of VA&R reports December's Christmas Party at the Paramus Veterans Home and January's Pizza and Bingo Party at Menlo Park were both hugh successes. Bob Valania, Chairman of the Detachment Commander's Project reports that he is still accepting pledges for "The Battle of the Bulge" which ends on April 2, 2005. Also he reports that anyone that wants to help sell Detachment Commander's pins which all monies go to the project are still available on consignment and to be sold for \$5.00 each. Bob also asks to have all donations payable to the Detachment of New Jersey and put on the check S.A.L. Commander's Project. Lets make Bob happy and have some checks for him at our next meeting.

Our Historian Mickey Burhart requests that if you have any pictures of the Commander or any of our Detachment Events to please send them to him at 254 Court Ave., Lyndhurst, N.J. 07071. He is also running the Detachment Commander's Testimonial, which will be held at the Holiday Inn in Saddle Brook on Sunday April 10,2005 at 1 P.M., the cost is \$25.00 per person. Anyone needing tickets please call him at either (201) 438-7339 (Home) or (551) 486-5595-(Cell).

Past Detachment Commander Kent Hehl is selling our Convention pins which is the State of New Jersey with the S.A.L. logo and a yellow ribbon and a saying "We Support Our Troops". The cost of the pins are \$5.00 and he will give them to you on consignment to sell, please help him and take a bag at our next meeting. Also a reminder of some of our up and coming projects which are Son of The Year, S.A.L. College, Ernie Wilson Schlorship, Essay Contest, Young Citizens Award, see or call the Chairman for details on each or write them on the web at www.njsal.org. Anyone that needs to reach me you can call my office at (201) 943-6500 or my cell at (201) 370-1365. I can be reached on the web at commander@njsal.org.

For God and Country,
Gary P. Nelson

Detachment Commander



DATES TO REMEMBER

For God and Country Service, Lakehurst	February 6
2005 75% Membership Date	February 9
Washington Conference	February 27- March 2
Detachment Meeting Trenton	April 2
Department Presidents Dinner	April 2
Detachment Commanders Dinner	April 10
Department Commanders Dinner	April 23
NEC Indianapolis, IN	April 30- May 1

VA&R

Frank Jiosi, Jr.

Thank you to the twenty Legion, Auxiliary, and S. A. L. members of the Legion Family who came and helped out at the Paramus Veterans Home Christmas Pizza-Bingo party on Saturday, December 18, 2004.

Thank you to Commander Gary Nelson for dressing as Santa Claus, to Robert Hehl for being Santa's elf, to PDC Kent Hehl for bringing fruit for the veterans, to Shirley and Joe Colontone for donating the puzzle games they wrapped themselves for the veterans. To the others who were there, too many to list, thank you for all your help.

I would like to wish all Legion Family members a joyous New Year in 2005. Let's keep striving for even more in 2005.

FOR THE VETS AND CHILDREN

Joseph Colotone

On September 19, 2004, all veterans were invited to Commerce Ball Park for services in their honor followed by a ball game. About 400 veterans were there. Unit 284 in Whitehouse sponsored 40 veterans from Lyons Hospital. I had the honor of being invited. I got kisses and handshakes as I handed out 1,500 American flags that night.



Whitehouse Hair Salon & Day Spa held a benefit for the local YMCA. While four bands of 16 year old young people played all day, Hunterdon County raised \$4,000 for children to go to camp.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS CHAMPION VISITS



Jennifer Pacin of Milford, New Jersey, visited the Sons at the December meeting. She is sponsored by Post 359, Hopewell. In the individual competition, she scored a perfect 800 and set a new shot record of 101.6. Her team also won a first place. pm

EMBLEM SALES CATALOG AVAILABLE

More than 150,000 2005 catalogs are already in the mail. Additional ones are available by calling **888- 453-4466**. Most merchandise can be ordered 24 hours a day online at www.emblem.legion.org. pm

GRANTS HELP THOUSANDS

(from The American Legion, January, 2005)

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, now in its 50th year, recently awarded \$585,275 to 19 non-profit organizations. 2005 grants are:

American Liver Foundation (New York)
Children's Hospital Foundation (Omaha, Neb.)
Children's Organ Transplant Assn. (Bloomington, Ind.)
Christian Community Inc. (Fort Wayne, Ind.)
Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation Inc. (Avon, Conn.)
Family Forward (Austin, Texas)
The Foundation Fighting Blindness (Owings Mills, Md.)
Huntington's Disease Society of America (New York)
Immune Deficiency Foundation (Towson, Md.)
International Rett Syndrome Assn. (Clinton, Md.)
Kids in Danger (Chicago)
KidsPeace, Inc. (Orefield, Pa.)
National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (Washington)
National Marfan Foundation (Port Washington, N. Y.)
Organization for Autism Research (Arlington, Va.)
Pennsylvania State University (University Park, Pa.)
Substance Abuse Foundation Educating Today's Youth (Phoenix)
Spinal Bifidia Association of America (Washington)
YMCA National Safe Place (Louisville, Ky.)

EASTERN REGION GATHERING

On February 19, 2005, the Eastern Region will gather at American Legion Post 89, Vestal, New York. Tentative plans include a tour of a local war memorial monument and visits to local posts in West Endicott and Binghamton. The homecoming dinner for National Vice-Commander East Thomas G. Smallcomb, Jr. will culminate weekend activities.

For further information contact either the NEC Thomas Marsden or the ANEC Carl Alber. Deadline for making arrangements to attend is February 8, 2005. pm

AUXILIARY TESTIMONIAL

Cape May County is planning a testimonial dinner on Saturday, April 2, 2005 to honor Department President Penny Kraus. The Boardwalk's Wildwood Convention Center on will be the site for 5:00 P. M. cocktails/6:00 P. M dinner. Contact Kelley Becica, 20 Race Track Drive, Town Bank, N. J for reservations. pm

DETACHMENT TESTIMONIAL

New Jersey is hosting a dinner dance in honor of Gary Nelson, SAL Commander. The event is being held 1:00 P. M., Sunday, April 10, 2005 at the Holiday Inn, 50 Kenny Place, Saddle Brook, N. J. For further information contact Michael Burgart at 201-438-7339 (home) or 551-486-5595 (cell) .pm



SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTY ONGOING

On November 24, 2004, SR Lukasz A. Marsden graduated from Great Lakes Naval Training Center with honors. There he distinguished himself by showing exemplary responsibility and respect for authority. His honor, courage, commitment, and academics earned him a top leadership position. He served in boot camp as RLPO (Asst. Recruit Chief Petty Officer), second in command.

Now an airman, grade E-3, Luc remains stationed at TSC Great Lakes in the Chicago suburbs. He will be transferred to another base with planes and ships for technical schooling in aviation as soon as a slot becomes open. His tentative rotation date is after January 1, at which time he will receive his duty station orders.

Luc followed the tradition of his grandfathers, both who served in the navy. He is the son of Thomas E. Marsden, PDC 1993, the current New Jersey NEC. His mother Pat. is a member of the auxiliary. His brother Edward, PDC 1999-2001, is Past National Chaplain 2002.

Luc, a lifelong Son and distinguished PDC, has been a member of the Detachment of New Jersey's Executive Board continuously since 1992. His service to God and Country continues as he wears a dual Legion-S.A.L. pin proudly having become a member of American Legion Post 166, Lakewood, New Jersey.

Currently all mail should be addressed to him c/o Pat. Marsden, 151 Queen Ann Road, Brick, New Jersey 08723. tm



POW-MIA TREE LIGHTING

Shore Boros American Legion Post 351, Seaside Heights, hosted its 14th annual ceremony honoring those missing in war on December 4. Vice-chairman of the National Security POW/MIA Committee Chuck Robbins planned the service which had over 100 in attendance.

Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons were well represented. The heads of our Legion Family, Cmdr. Jim Viliardi, Pres. Penny Kraus, and Cmdr. Gary Nelson stood together in a room filled with national, state, and local dignitaries.

Guest speaker Tom Engkilterra, Region II Coordinator for the National League of POW/MIA Families, pled for everyone to maintain its interest in the issue as a way to honor and remember our vets.

He recounted how, although each year victims are recovered and identified, the seemingly endless years without proof have not ended for too many families and friends.

He asked that America show its concern, support, and commitment in order to resolve the past and not allow it to repeat itself. There must be a full accounting for the many survivors suspected of being left behind.

Mr. Engkilterra stressed that we must use whatever bargaining chips including economics that we have to get the information not yet given us. America must keep the issue open and public. Many would like our country to forget about the wars. Don't let this happen.
pm



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 28, 2005.