



# THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

EDITOR: THOMAS E. MARSDEN; ASSOCIATE EDITOR: EDWARD MARSDEN  
WWW.NJSALUTE.ORG



## SON OF THE YEAR

Edward Marsden, Chairman

The Detachment of New Jersey is again accepting nominations for the 2006 Son of the Year. Nominations are open to all Sons regardless of age. Every nominee should be in good standing with his squadron, with his dues paid up to date. He should exhibit knowledge of the ideals and principles of the SAL and have knowledge of the programs of the American Legion and the SAL. He should be active within the Legion Family.

The nomination must come from the nominee's home squadron and have all paperwork attested to by both the post and squadron. Eligibility paperwork (DD214) and a detailed explanation of the nominees qualifications and achievements must be submitted with the application. Incomplete applications will be disqualified automatically. The deadline for all applications is May 1, 2006. The American Legion is sending applications to every squadron with the April mailing. A copy of the application is also available on the SAL website *njsal.org*. The winner will be announced at the Sons' convention.

## REBUTT TO KIDDER

Edward Marsden., CWF Chairman

Knight-Kidder reporter Alison Young made headlines when she criticized the management of charitable donations by veteran organizations. She certainly did not know the facts. Don't believe those headlines in the Philadelphia Inquirer!

The American Legion as the largest veterans service organization is doing a great job. Donations to charities like CWF is money well spent. I came upon an article written by Kenneth Danilson in Legion. I quote:

*The Child Welfare Foundation--*

The CWF was created in 1954 to provide grants from projects and programs that "contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth." The fund has produced more than \$7 million in grants since its inception, including 19 in October 2004, totaling \$585,275. At the end of 2004, the CWF had a balance of \$5,806,881. Revenues were \$895,064, including \$619,643 in donations and \$275,441 in investment earnings. Expenses were \$719,554--81 percent of which were the grants--and included \$66,369 for promotions and \$32,084 in investment fees.

Now you decide for yourself. The SAL can be proud that the Sons of the American Legion is the single largest contributor to CWF. So, keep the Child Welfare donations coming.

## DETACHMENT COMMANDER'S PROJECT

John N. Gillman, Chairman

With \$325 collected at the February meeting the Detachment Commander's Project total stands at \$1,661.25. This total is far below Commander Howarth's goal so he would like to encourage everyone to contribute. Both the National Emergency Fund and the Children's Miracle Network will benefit from your donations. Please be generous and give.

## OUR FUNDRAISER PINS

As I write this, over 1,200 pins are outstanding--this year's plus 250 to 300 from last year and another 95 from the year prior. Please send a check or money order payable to the Detachment of New Jersey to the address below. Please try to sell all the pins you have. Also, if you want to sell pins or need more, please call or write me.

Gary P. Nelson, PDC

P. O. Box 2095, Cliffside Park, NJ 07010

(2301) 370-1365 (cell on 24 hours a day)

nelson@njsal.org (e-mail)

## VA&R

Frank Jiosi, Jr. Chairman

Back on January 21, 2006, the Detachment of New Jersey's SAL visited the Paramus Veterans Home. Those who attended were Frank Jiosi, Jr., Frank Jiosi, Sr., John Deveany, Carl Alberm, Jr., Mike Arner, Gary Nelson, Tom Marsden, and Tom Arner. All who attended helped out with the bingo or the gifts given to each veteran in attendance.

We had 75 residents in attendance that afternoon who all had a tremendous time, with plenty of laughs had by all. It's too late to invite you to turn out for the Lyons Bingo/Pizza Party on February 25 and the East Orange VA Party on March 25 (those dates will be long gone by the time you read this), but please come to the Vineland Veterans Home 1:00 P. M. Sunday, April 9, and help the Detachment out. Thank you.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is everyone's responsibility. Membership and renewals are the keys to success. As of 2/28/06, SAL membership is at 7,328. pm



## DETACHMENT OFFICERS 05-06

**Commander:**

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Kevin Ritz

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**ANEC:**

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## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

On February 5, 2006, I, along with several of our Detachment Officers, participated in the Department's "For God and Country" Service. LCDR. Michael Hall, Command Chaplain USCG Sector New York gave the Memorial address honoring the Four Chaplains entitled "What Makes a Hero." LCDR Hall compared acts of bravery throughout our history and what made these people, "Heros" with their courageous acts and told the story of the Four Army Chaplains who were serving aboard the USAT Dorchester when it was hit by an enemy torpedo and sank in the North Atlantic on February 3, 1943. These Four Army Chaplains, Lt. George L. Fox, Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Lt. Clark V. Poling, and Lt. John P. Washington, all of different faiths, who had given away their only means of saving themselves in order to save others.

During the first half of February I received a Membership letter from Brian J. O'Hearne, National Adjutant, congratulating 27 states who achieved the 75% Membership Target Date on February 8, 2006. New Jersey was number 33 in the standings with 71.358% and 331 members short of their goal. The next goal is the 80% target which will be on March 8<sup>th</sup>. As of the writing of this letter I hope we made it. A second SAL Renewal Postcard will be coming out to all our members who record at National shows unpaid for 2006. Hopefully, this renewal postcard mailing will give us another boost for our next target. Thank you to all the squadrons who achieved this goal.

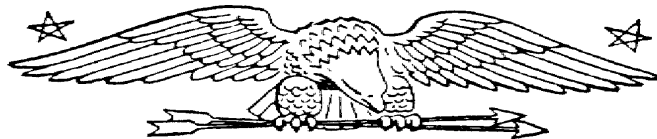
On April 1, 2006, the Detachment will be conducting business at the War Memorial Building while some of our members will be heading to Cohasset, Massachusetts to participate in the Eastern Region Unofficial Gathering and the homecoming for National Vice Commander Thomas W. Wigmore. We wish them a safe trip and know that they will make New Jersey proud.

Many of us will be attending the Testimonial Dinner on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006 honoring The Department of New Jersey Auxiliary President Debbie Noble. President Noble has served her Department with dignity and pride and deserves our representation of us who are left behind. For information, contact our Judge Advocate, Jim Noble.

The deadline for SAL Leadership College is fast approaching, and hopefully your applications are in. The date for the College is Saturday, April 22, 2006 and will be held at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J. The college is a great learning place especially for members seeking offices on all levels.

The American Legion Department of N.J. is planning a Support the Troops Rally. Plans are to conduct the Rally during the Department Convention in Wildwood on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 2006 at 2:00 P.M. We want to make this a BIG showing of Support and would appreciate all SAL members and their families that are down at Convention that day to show up at Convention Hall and join the Legion Gamily to let OUR troops know that we support and stand behind them. To do this we will need the help of everyone to put out the word.

For God and Country  
Sean Howarth  
Detachment Commander



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Detachment Meeting, Trenton	April 1
Department President's Testimonial	April 2
S.A.L. College, Sea Girt	April 22
Department Commander's Testimonial	April 29
Memorial Service at Locustwood	June 4
State Convention, Wildwood	June 9
Boys State, Ryder College, Laurenceville	June 18-23
Memorial Service at High Point	June 25

## WAR TEARS EVERY SOLDIER APART

When our son volunteered, he did not know if he would be stationed on the homefront or deployed. He knew only that his job was to follow orders. Our son is out there willing to give his all for God and Country.

Each time we turn a newspaper page, every time we turn on the news, there is something on the ravages of war, the casualties of the conflicts. The dangers are frightening. Still they make us even more proud of our son.

We thank God that he loves the U. S. A. enough to put his life on the line unlike many of the Vietnam Era young men who evaded the draft, who ran away to Canada. He serves as best as he can. We stand behind him.

We must support all our troops because they all protect our values and way of life. There are an awful lot of lonely young men/women out there far from home and loved ones. Their separation their husbands and wives, children, relatives, friends, and loved ones hurts them more than any civilian can ever imagine.

We, the people, need to praise "our soldiers in this time of war" instead of "our men in foreign lands". We must work to strengthen not demoralize the spirit of America's Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marines. We can begin by helping collect old cell phones, sending phone cards and care packages, and writing often when we cannot call.

*Every member of the military needs to know America supports him/her 24-7 wherever he/she is. tm*

## POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

When Dual Member Darren Leonard soloed in the Polar Bear Plunge three years ago, he began a growing tradition for Woodbury's Legion Family. Eight dedicated volunteers--Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and a Junior--braved frigid 39° Atlantic waters and 35 mph northeast gusts. Our own C&Y Chairman Jim Lightcap was among the 2,000 participants in Pt. Pleasant on February 26.

The Detachment of New Jersey thanks them for supporting Special Olympics. So far this year #133 has \$1,150 in pledges for the icy event. Their contributions will help a lot of kids. pm

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

The next issue of the SALute will be the Convention issue. It will be available in Wildwood at the sign in tables. Its deadline remains the same. So the membership knows something about the men whom the vote for, I have asked all candidates for all offices, both unopposed and contested, to submit brief biographies.

In the last four years I've been able to print everything I receive. Please remember that it takes almost a month after the deadline for our newsletter to get to the post. I have often noticed that some of the articles promote events after they happen. I'm sure many members of the SAL would be out and doing if they knew beforehand what is coming up.

## RECOGNIZING OUR PROGRAM'S LEADER

Lukasz A. Marsden, PDC

As a dual member of the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion, I can only praise the efforts of American Legion National Commander Thomas L. Bock in servicing children and veterans, teaching Americanism, and supporting strong national defense. As sailor on active duty, I thank him for supporting Legion Resolution 169, which supports America's War on Terrorism.

I hope to be at the National Convention in Salt Lake City later this year. I only wish that I could meet Cmdr. Bock and shake his hand. He knows that the full support of American troops is best for the well-being and morale of enlisted men like me who volunteered when their country needed them. I pray that his son, now deployed in Iran, and all those deployed return home safely soon.

## WHAT MAKES FOR SUCCESS?

I stopped in Seaside Heights last evening. Its S. A. L. was in the back cooking up a storm literally. (That night the blizzard of 2006 hit the coast). Its Auxiliary had organized a real Polish night. They served up homemade golumpki, noodles, babka, pierogies, kielbasi and kraut as a live polka band played on.

Besides the locals, people came from New York City, Northern New Jersey, and down south. The Shore Boro Legion Family put together a sell-out event using newspapers, the radio, relatives, and friends to publicize the event.

It was great to see Legionnaires, Ladies, and Sons together. Only good leaders coupled with good followers make things happen. Anyone putting together a fundraiser should look to the example of the membership of Post #351. tm

## BITS AND PIECES

Did you know that Robert Mendez currently is in favor of the Flag Protection Amendment...David Bagateelle, the new Boys State Chairman, is a Son...it costs \$185 to sponsor someone to Boys State?

When the Constitution was redone, the Children and Youth Commission was inadvertently omitted. A resolution to correct the error will be voted on at convention. C&Y Committee Chair Jim Lightcap reports he has donations for ten Spinoza military bears. Keep those dollars coming in!

Condolences to PDC Ken Esposito and his son K. J. on the death of Ken's mom...Get well wishes to recently hospitalized S. A. L. Adviser Tom McHugh...Here's hoping for a speedy recovery for Ocean County DEC Matt Beida who just had a knee transplant.

The dates for the Fall National Executive Committee meetings at the Radisson Hotel downtown have been moved to October 14-15, 2006. pm



## TO MY COUNTIES

I would like to thank the counties I'm assigned to for their support throughout the year and look forward to their continued support in the future. Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, Sussex, and Essex are superior counties that do a great job getting things done. If needed, please contact me at [vcjiosi@sal.org](mailto:vcjiosi@sal.org) (e-mail) or 201-893-5501 (cell). I look forward to visiting each county again before this year ends. Thank you.

Frank Jiosi, Jr.  
Detachment Vice Commander

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Steven John Rodriguez, Chairman

At the February Detachment meeting, Ms. Diane Paraskevas, a representative for NJ Special Olympics was presented with a check for the \$3,945 raised last year and another \$340 in donations at the meeting. She told how previous to this year each state hosted its own games and how this year there will be a National Special Olympics.

Presently the Sons are involved in two fundraisers, the Polar Bear Plunge (which Jim Lightcap is in) and the 20th Annual Lincoln Tunnel 5K Fun Run/Walk on April 23 (which I am in). I will be looking for sponsors so get the word out to the counties and the squadrons.

For more information check out the Special Olympics New Jersey website at [www.sonj.org](http://www.sonj.org) under the calendar Law Enforcement events.



## WHY?

Respected Legionnaires have asked time and time again, "Why do you attend the Washington Conference? My immediate answer is, "As part of the Legion Family, the S. A. L. is here to help support you." Some fellow Sons have questioned what that participation means to them. An immediate response is that a detachment is only one of fifty-five. The achievements and examples of others helps members see things first hand.

The New Jersey Sons of the American Legion needs representatives from our ranks there. Every Son should be glad to get the opportunity to show respect for the veterans of bygone eras at Arlington, the WWII and Korean Monuments, the Vietnam Wall. The Legion, the Auxiliary, and the Sons should be a truly united front. <sup>tm</sup>

## WASHINGTON CONFERENCE



*Commander Sparwasser, Vice President Cheney, A.L. Leading Candidate Morin Attend Conference*

The Sons of the American Legion National Organization is working to make legislation real. It has spoken out and sent representatives to the Hill to lobby for Americanism, Children and Youth, and VA&R.

At its recent legislative Rally, National Commander Bill Sparwasser committed all Sons working for the Citizens Flag Amendment to get out there and provide the *one* vote that is needed in the Senate when the vote is called. With all eyes now on us, let's get out there and make sure New Jersey does the right thing.

Specifically, The Sons support constitutional amendments to protect the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance, PERA (Public Expression of Religion Act), and legislation banning public protests at funerals. They also support a bill to protect military children, an amendment of the Child Abuse and Protection (PROTECT) Act to open public records, and stand behind Federal efforts to prevent and prosecute crimes of violence against children.

The SAL backs bills to provide long-term health care and to reduce the age for military retirement pay, an amendment U. S. Code Title 38 to guarantee health care funding. It promotes means to reduce the VA&R claims backlog, give veterans prescription drug assistance, reimbursement for medicare offsets, and improved of prisoner of war benefits. <sup>tm</sup>

## LEADING CANDIDATE VISITS

Andrew W. Newman, Jr. from our neighboring state of Pennsylvania recently visited the Detachment of New Jersey. Andy has been an ANEC for the last five years. Now he is running for the office of National Vice Commander East 2006. His campaign theme is TEAMWORK. <sup>tm</sup>

## ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL ERROR

Brian O'Hearne, National Adjutant

The new SAL Administrative Manual has been printed and distributed in November/December of 2005. Three (3) forms in the rear section of the manual i. e. VAVS Certification form on page 53, Volunteer of the Year form on page 55, and Newsletter article report form on page 57 all lack the heading at the top of the page. The computer did it. We apologize for this inconvenience and error. Corrected editions of these forms can be obtained by going to the SAL Web page {[www.sal.legion.org](http://www.sal.legion.org)} and clicking on "Publications". These forms can be downloaded.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS APRIL 30, 2006.**