



THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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

TRIBUTE TO A COMRADE

Gary P. Nelson, PDC

It was my great honor and privilege to serve with a great man named Dan DeRose. On August 17, 2005, Dan was called to Squadron Everlasting. He was a true American Legion Family member, helping not only his squadron but his post and unit from Saddle Brook #415.

Dan held many offices in his squadron and in the county. One of the first people to implement the Bergen County S. A. L., he was serving as its County Commander by unanimous vote at the time of his death.

Everyone always seemed to run into Danny. He was busy at his post cooking breakfast for a fundraiser, doing karaoke at a special event, managing the Bergen County Legion web site, working on the S. A. L. Christmas talent show, doing whatever was needed to help out.

Danny was held in high esteem by everyone. At the state convention, I had the privilege of presenting him with the high honor of 2004-2005 Son of the Year. Danny will never be forgotten. His legacy will go on forever.

From one S. A. L. member who will always remember Danny as a model to our community, state, and nation, rest in peace!

WAYS AND MEANS

Gary P. Nelson, Chairman

The new pins have been ordered and should be in by the October Detachment meeting. They are hexagonally shaped pins with a white background and a navy blue image of the State of New Jersey. Next to figure of New Jersey are three emblems, those of The American Legion, The SAL, and the Auxiliary, and the phrase, "We Are Family."

Please help sell these pins. They are \$5 each and can be taken out on consignment. Remember this is our fundraiser for our budget. We need to support this worthy cause so our programs can continue.

If you want to pick some up, see me at the next Detachment meeting. You can also call me at 201-943-6500 (office) or 201-370-1365 (cell), and I will mail them to you.

RATS

Ed Marsden, Chairman

55 RATS across the United States are working to help children. Our own Regional Action Team here in New Jersey has designed a pad for computer mice. Sales will kick off at the Fall NEC. Order yours now. The cost is \$5.00 apiece. The money goes to CWF.

WAIKIKI, HAWAII--AUGUST 19-21

Gary P. Nelson, Outgoing Commander

The 34th Convention of The S.A.L. had delegates Gary Nelson, Tom Marsden, Carl Albern, Jr., Sean Howarth, Brett Stadler, Michael Burhart, Jim Noble, Kent Hehl, Robert Hehl, and Amil Balega representing the state.

Our Sons did very well. The Detachment got firsts in the Eastern Region for the most per capita donations to Child Welfare and total donations to Child Welfare, a 100% ribbon and an all time high ribbon for membership, third place in the nation for best newspaper. Fairview Sq. #365 was judged #1 Squadron in Americanism for the nation. It was the high point of my year as commander to accept all these awards on the behalf of this great group.

The resolution to change the way delegates were to be set up for national conventions passed by 8 votes, 67% to 33% with New Jersey voting NO.

On Saturday night, we went out to the Hard Rock Cafe as a group and exchanged many pleasantries. The parties, tours of the island, Pearl Harbor, motor scooters, the beach, side trips to Maui, Amil Balega getting married are just some of the good times that were had by all.

MEMBERSHIP

Probably squadrons holding on to applications until the membership chairman gets "enough" is one big reason why the Detachment of New Jersey is, as of September 20, nationally in 34th place. The Sons know that more than 969 people (that's just 10.815%,) have either joined or renewed their membership. Please get the forms in whenever you get them and as often as you get them. Don't keep them until someone is going to Trenton.

Counties and squadrons, Post #133, Woodbury is having an open membership drive for people from various posts, the VFW, and other organizations. The date is October 29, 2005, from 3:00 until 7:00 P. M. Guest speakers from various veterans organizations as well as city and state politicians will be there to talk about joining. There will be refreshments. For further information, contact Spike Abrams. If you can help, thanks.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

I am proud to announce that NALPA has awarded the Detachment newspaper, The SALute, third place nationally. Thanks to all who helped. tm



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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As I begin to write the Commander's message the first thing that comes to mind are the victims of Hurricane Katrina. This storm has wrought immeasurable loss of life and destruction of epic proportions, the magnitude of which is still unfolding. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and families.

I'm asking all the Squadrons to help in any way that they can. The American Legion is seeking donations for the National Emergency Fund (NEF), as this fund is intended to furnish immediate assistance for food, clothing and shelter. If you can remember, New Jersey benefitted from the NEF not too long ago, it's time to pay something back.. It should also be pointed out that every cent to the fund is distributed to those in need. There is no overhead. Another way you can help is the Auxiliary is collecting bottled water, Diapers, cereal, breakfast bars, or donations to The Red Cross or the Salvation Army can be made. It is a situation such as this that we as Americans join together and rise to the occasion to help our fellow Americans in need

Since the last Salute, I've had the privilege of speaking to the American Legion Boys State Delegation at Rider University at their opening ceremony and was invited to speak to the Girls State Delegation at their closing ceremony. We can be proud of the work that we do in sponsoring delegates to Boys State.

Bill Wilkins, the Director at Boys State, passed away on August 29th, 2005. He was appointed Director in 1990 and served since 1991 as the Director of Boys State. Director Wilkins has brought the program a long way where it has been recognized by the National Organization and modeled by Boys State programs. Director Wilkins will certainly be missed.

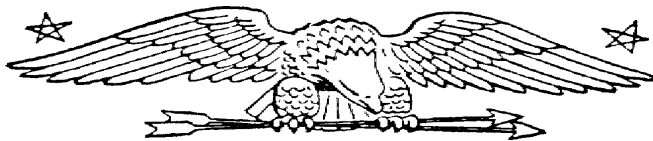
June was topped off by the Detachment participating in the High Point Memorial Service.

Squadron #72 was involved with their Post and Legion Baseball team as Brooklawn Memorial Post #72 hosted the American Legion Baseball Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament. I'm proud of the Squadron as they helped the post along with the Auxiliary raise the \$30,000.00 needed to run the tournament. This was done by running a carnival, beef and beer nights and Comedy socials, to name a few. By the way Brooklawn went to the World Series in Rapid City, South Dakota. They came in third place. Not too shabby with more than 5400 teams in the country.

In August I was invited by NEC Leo McKernan and Commander Joe Gugliuzza to attend the Get Acquainted Dinner where I had a chance to meet all of the Department Committee Chairman, County Commanders and Past Department Commanders. We had a chance to exchange some information and ideas for the year.

Finally it was off to Hawaii for the National Convention. New Jersey was well represented as besides myself, NEC/PDC Tom Marsden, ANEC Carl Albern, PDC Kent Hehl and his son, Robert, PDC Jim Noble PDC, Sgt. at Arms Brett Stadtler, and Delegation Chairman/PDC Gary Nelson. We were all there to see Bill Sparwasser be elected as our National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion. Congratulations to him and his staff.

Sean D. Howarth



DATES TO REMEMBER

Fall N.E.C.	October 1-2
2006 Membership Target 25%	October 13
Detachment Meeting, Trenton	October 15
Veteran's Day	November 11
2006 Membership Target 35%	November 16
Thanksgiving Day	November 24
Detachment Meeting, Trenton	December 10
2006 Membership Target 45%	December 14

LEGIONNAIRES OFFERED ASSISTANCE

A. L. Public Relations Division, 9/8/2005

Members of the nation's largest veterans organization impacted by Hurricane Katrina can now apply directly to national headquarters for immediate relief cash grants from the National Emergency Fund (NEF).

Legionnaires can apply to receive up to \$1,500 to cover costs of food, shelter and clothing needed as the result of devastation created by the nation's largest national disaster that affected several Gulf Coast states.

A cash grant will be immediately placed in the member's credit card account upon approval to cover costs created by displacement from the storm. If the individual does not have a credit card, funds can be transferred direct to the hotel/motel to cover the cost of lodging.

"We want all Legionnaires to know that help is just a toll free call away," said National Commander Thomas L. Bock. "Our goal is rapid processing of each application to get money into the hands of our members and their families within a matter of hours."

Legionnaires can call toll-free 1-800-433-3318 to apply by phone. Another option for those with computer access is secure online application at www.legion.org.

The American Legion National Emergency Fund was established in 1969 in the wake of Hurricane Camille. Established by Legionnaires to provide relief to Legionnaires impacted by natural disasters, the fund has provided assistance to thousands of members.

"Given the massive scale of this disaster, I ask that all Legionnaires who have not been affected by Katrina consider donating now to the NEF," Bock said. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to all Americans suffering in the aftermath of this devastating hurricane. It is imperative that we contribute whatever we can to help them through this very difficult time."

Donations can be made to The American Legion NEF also online securely at www.legion.org.

OUR CITIZENSHIP IN HEAVEN

The S. A. L. Memorial Service, held on August 19, 2005, at the Honolulu Convention Center, remembered :em

Abbatello, Albert	Miller, Robert R.
Babula, Joe	Muhleisen, Thomas
Claussion, George M.	Owens, Jeffrey W.
Coughlin, Robert E.	Paluski, Edward P.
Courter, Donald W.	Pimanjonek, Kenneth
Daszkowski, Ray J.	Rensing, John C.
Degeorge, Michael	Richter, Ronald J.
Demyan, Richard A.	Schultz, Renald
Elia, Dante L.	Seip, Duncan
Elko, James M.	Smith, Robert G.
Erdie, Matthew	Suliga, Joseph S.
Evans, Ralph G.	Taylor, Milton
Garvin, William J.	Tirado, Steven E.
Leonard, Ray	Vadino, Pasquale C.
Ludwigsen, Arne	Wasilton, Ted
Maroney, John J.	Yannetta, Gene
Massey, Raymond T.	

NEF DONATIONS NEEDED

These are the words of S. A. L. PNC Royce Doucet, a native of Louisiana. "I encourage all of you to support the National American Legion Emergency Fund as many veterans and their families will have many needs." The New Orleans area is severely impacted--no power, compromised water supplies, limited communications. Please help. Send your donation; none is too small to those who have lost everything. tm

BEACH "WATCHFIRE" HONORS POWS-MIAS

M. Bonafide, Asbury Park Press excerpt, 9/19/2005

SEASIDE HEIGHTS--The annual 12-hour "watchfire" tended by the Sons of the American Legion burned throughout the night in a hole on the Hering Avenue beach in remembrance of those who were declared prisoners of war and those missing in action. The Watchfire followed a week of nationwide events aimed at recognizing POWs and MIAs.

The flames were also used to respectfully retire 8,000 old and tattered American flags.

Lukasz Marsden, 20, of Brick came home for the event from the Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, where he is learning to repair helicopters in his role as a naval airman. Paying his respects, Marsden was one of about 132 people, including military, veterans, family, and friends of veterans, who stopped by at the 12-hour Watchfire, which burned Friday evening into Saturday.

The traditional POW/MIA empty seat and table setting signifying the missing was aglow from the firelight. The third Friday of September is nationally dedicated as the official day to remember POWs and MIAs. The annual Watchfire held by the state's Sons of the American Legion has been moved over the years, but the purpose remains the same: "Never forget."

That idea is comforting to Marsden, who said he doesn't mind sounding like a commercial for joining the armed services.

His dad, Tom Marsden, is a member of the Sons of the American Legion and has organized the annual event for more than a decade. At midnight, the flags were retired in a special ceremony after being collected over the past year.

The Watchfire spans generations for the Marsdens. Though Tom Marsden is not a veteran, he won't pass up the opportunity to pay homage to those who have and will put themselves in harm's way for their country, he said.

Lukasz Marsden's mother, Pat Marsden, said she could not imagine life if her child were to be lost and left behind enemy lines. She feels the same for all families who would suffer such a loss whether in this war or past wars.

Tom Engkilterra of Kenilworth, a regional coordinator for the National League of Families of American Prisoners, was also at the event.

BITS AND PIECES

Condolences to SAL Sgt.-at-Arms Emeritus Kermit Reilly and family on the passing of his mother....Get well wishes to recently hospitalized PDC Ed Marsden.





Top across left to right—
Ken Esposito, Tom Marsden, Carl Alber, and Mike Arner Visit with New York's new commander during its Detachment Convention;

Outgoing CWF Chairman Arner and Newly-appointed Chairman Ed Marsden Present Sq. 348 Brick with a Plaque;

The Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor Honors Those Who Died There;

Down—
New Jersey's Delegation Joins National Cmdr. Deacon and PNC Winkleman for the Dedication of the SAL Memorial at the Punchbowl, the National Cemetery of the Pacific;



Sons Gather to March in Hawaii;

Down across left to right—
Regional Coordinator for the National League of Families Tom Engkilterra, Detachment POW-MIA Chairman Tom Marsden, and Navy Seaman Luc Marsden Take Part in the Memorial Service;

The Detachment Retires Old Glory;

NEC Bill Rakestraw, Cmdr. Joe Gugliuzza, Seaman Luc Marsden, Pres. Debbie Noble, and POW-MIA Chairman Tom Marsden at the 14th Annual Watchfire



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS OCTOBER 31, 2005.