



THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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WWW.NJSALUTE.ORG

TO MY FELLOW SONS

Are those four Navy airmen who died last week any less heroes than those deployed who die? I think not. In times of war, the battlefield is not always clear. Those four sailors were in my sister squadron. I knew them, trained with them, worked with them. It could have been me.

My original orders were for the East Coast. Then four hurricanes in 2004 changed everything. Although I really want to, I can't get home more. I'm proud that I enlisted and would still do it again.

Even though my folks are always there for me, it really felt good when one lady wrote me care of my parents. Please remember me and my comrades in your thoughts and prayers. It's lonely away from home, and servicemen have a lot to worry about.

There is a man here on North Island whose eighteen month old daughter has leukemia and has been in the hospital since before the holidays. It's hard for him and his family. Still he serves on active duty. His name is Arcy Espinelli. His address is 1620 Sandy Shore Street, San Diego, California 92139.

Fellow Sons, as the best service volunteers ever, take one minute to remember. Just a card or letter before you fall back into routine is the best news any serviceman can get.

For God and Country,
Lukasz A. Marsden, PDC

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons from all over our country will be join together for the Washington Legislative Conference. This event takes place March 4-7, 2007, at the Renaissance, 999 9th Avenue NW, in Washington D. C.

The American Legion (see February's Dispatch) will convene a fact-finding forum there at 2:00 P. M., Monday, March 5. All members of the Legion Family are invited. The information on illegal immigration and its impact on national security, public services, citizenship, and assimilation, it gathers will be used in formulating official policy. pm

WE REMEMBER

The remains of U. S. Navy Cmdr. Peter Mongilardi, Jr., of Haledon, N. J. missing since 1965 in Vietnam have been identified and returned. He will be buried April 11 in Arlington National Cemetery. tm

BIG EARL'S TESTIMONIAL

November 3, 2006, New Jersey Sons Tom Marsden, Ed Marsden, Carl Alber, and Pat Gallagher joined Cmdr. Earl Rutoffsky in Tecumseh, Michigan for his official homecoming. Festivities included a tour of the locale, a trip to the Henry Ford Museum, and a special auction. Following some lively bidding, Ed Marsden took home an autographed handmade ashwood sled. The \$600 raised for Fisher House was the record high. pm

FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION

Thomas E. Marsden

With today's hospital stays short, the Fisher House is a place for veterans to go upon their discharge from the service. Recently I toured one in Albany, New York. There I saw first hand a place that makes a difference for veterans in transition and their families.

Right now there are 27 respite throughout the U. S. with more in planning or construction. To quote Arnold Fisher, honorary chairman of the fund, "This is NOT a charity. This is the duty of a grateful nation to give back: a way for Americans to say 'Thank You.'"

One way to support Fisher House is donating your frequent flyer miles to its Hero Miles Program. Be a hero and help provide air travel for wounded or injured service members and their families. For more information, go to WWW.FISHERHOUSE.ORG and click on "Hero Miles."

THE EDITOR'S DESK

Does the Detachment of New Jersey really need the SALUTE? Obviously, those of you who submit articles and photos think so, but what about those of you who don't. No one sent in anything this month, so it is only two pages long.

The membership needs articles on Americanism, Color Guard, Commander's Project, Community Affairs, Constitution & Bylaws, Convention, Drug & Alcohol Prevention, Essay Contest, Finance, Flag History/Dedication, Internal Affairs, Internet, Legislative, Public Relations, Resolutions, Scholarship, Ways & Means, and Young Citizen's Award. Please support your newspaper.

MEMBERSHIP

National's SAL Membership Report as of January 30, 2007, shows New Jersey in 45th place nationally with 5, 268 members. It lists us as 12th within the Eastern Region. pm



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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Comrades,

I hope that everyone had a safe and joyous holiday season. We have reached the end of the first half of the administrative year, and we are behind in a few areas.

First and foremost, membership--we are at 53% but should be over 70%. It is important to our organization that we get out and push membership. I see a lot of 0's on the monthly report. If your squadron is one of them, please send your membership per capita to the Department as soon as possible. Also, our retention rate is at 51%. Let's get our members from last year signed up.

Next Child Welfare--our goal for CWF is \$15,000, but we are only at \$7,500. We need your support. I know that some squadrons have limited resources. Still anything that you can do will be appreciated. Send your donations to Chairman Ed Marsden at 151 Queen Ann Road, Brick, N. J. 08723.

Lastly, the Detachment Commander's Project also needs your help. This is a joint project with the Legion and the Auxiliary, so please help us complete this project. You can send your donations to Chairman Matt Davis at 53 Nautilus Drive, Leonardo, N. J. 07737.

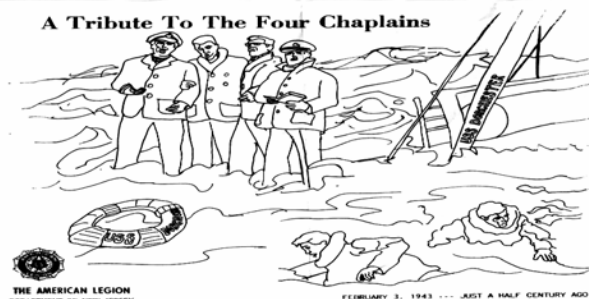
I would like to thank all who have helped me this year with a special thanks to the Legion Family of Post 338 for everything that they have done for me. Please support New Jersey's Candidate for National Vice Commander East 2007-2008 Tom Marsden. If you could have a fundraiser for him, that would be great! New Jersey needs to help him in his bid for office.

For God and Country,
Michael Arner

FOUR CHAPLAINS

On February 3, 1943, four men gave their lives for God and Country. They were Reverends Fox and Washington, Father Poling, and Rabbi Goode. They served with honor on the USAT Dorchester. This year, the American Legion honors them in its coloring contest.

In Past National Chaplain Edward T. Marsden's words, "We know that it doesn't matter if our brother is Christian, Catholic, or Jew. While the War on Terrorism which began with attacks on our homeland on 9-11, continues to go on in foreign lands, we must all live our lives with courage and determination, in faith." pm



BITS AND PIECES

The Eastern Area is hosting its homecoming for National Vice Commander East Andrew Newmann in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 30-April 1....Brett Stadler has been appointed Asst. Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms....Submit SAL Convention Delegate Forms to SAL Adviser Bill Breen... Franklin Sickle, Jr. is the new SAL Chairman. pm



DATES TO REMEMBER

Four Chaplain's Sunday	February 4
President's Day	February 19
Washington Conference	March 4-7
American Legion Birthday	March 15-17



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT SALUTE IS FEBRUARY 28, 2007