



# THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY  
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## LOCAL NVCE'S HOMECOMING SET

Hold the date. The Homecoming for National Vice Commander East Tom Marsden is set for March 7-9. The Quality Inn, Rt. 37, Toms River, New Jersey has been booked for an all you can eat dinner with turkey, beef, salmon, and pork entrees Saturday at 7:30 P. M. directly after a 6:30 open bar cocktail hour.

The Quality Inn has set aside a block of rooms for Sons of the American Legion. The rate is \$82.95 per night plus tax. For reservations, contact the hotel by e-mail (qltr@qualityinntr.com) or phone (732-341-4000). Deadline for reservations is February 9, 2008.

Plans for the rest of the weekend are still in the works. A bus, boat ride to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, and a get together brunch, and more are being worked on. More will follow ASAP. In the meanwhile, contact Jim Noble, Chairman at PDCJN19@aol.com. for further information. pm

## NEW JERSEY'S SAL LAUDED

Ed Marsden, CWF Vice Chairman

The Child Welfare Foundation, in its annual report, recognized these donors for the year ending May 31, 2007. They include Heritage Circle Gift Club Benefactor (\$5,000+)-SAL Detachment of New Jersey; Children First Gift Club (\$1,000+)-SAL Sq. 338 Leonardo and SAL Sq. 346 Neptune; Advocate ((\$750+) SAL Sq. 321 Union Beach; Caretaker (\$500+) SAL Sq. 102 Linden; SAL Sq. 166 Lakewood; SAL Sq. 175 Rockden; President's Club (\$500) Michael J. Arner, Edward T. Marsden, and Thomas E. Marsden; and Foundation Partners (\$250+) Lukasz A. Marsden. The Board of Directors thanks them for being the lifeblood of the CWF organization.

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

At the October 21 Press Club Dinner Meeting at Post 70, Rochelle, the SALute took two First Places NJALPA awards. The article "To My Fellow Sons" (see V-45, I-4) written by Luc Marsden won the Norma Briigliodoro Award. The SALute won Best Department Publication for the fifth consecutive year. To all those who supported the Detachment newspaper over these five years, you did this. Thank you.



## VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT

Dave "Duke" Haring, Vice Commander

I hope everything is doing well in Somerset, Mercer, and Hunterdon Counties. I didn't hear anything from any of your commanders, squadrons, or counties. Ocean County is doing fine with Barry Littlefoot, a great leader and commander, and his officers. The squadrons have many events and fundraisers which I try to attend, and I do try to attend as many as my schedule allows me.

Toms River Post 129 is having its grand opening very soon, probably the first week in November. I was invited to come and visit before they opened. What a beautiful post--five big screen T. V's, pull tabs, shuffleboard, a pool table, big bar with 16 taps, oversized kitchen, a giant hall that is carpeted with a wood dance floor, many rest-rooms, and handicapped accessible! If you are around, come and see for yourself.

## BITS AND PIECES

The weekend-long Air Dome concert event at Post 455 New Egypt has been rescheduled for December 15-16. Call 609-758-8131 for details or visit <http://www.alpost455nj.org>...The Press Club is reorganizing and taking on new members. If you are interested in becoming one, please check website [alpcnj.org](http://alpcnj.org) for more information and an application....The American Legion has named Bill Breem SAL Vice Chairman Emeritus. Congratulations.... Best wishes for a speedy recovery to past Auxiliary President Barbara Newlin mother of PDC Neil Newlin.

## MEMBERSHIP

Dave "Duke" Haring, Membership Chairman

At this point in time, we are doing very well in membership and are getting the cards in to Trenton. We met our target date for September at 25%. I am pretty sure we will hit our target date for November at 35%. Keep sending those membership cards in. This year we owe it to Detachment to show our Department that we got their backs by going over last year's members for our state.

Always remember that membership in this, as any other organization, is the lifeblood that makes it successful. To you and your families, have a happy holiday season.



## DETACHMENT OFFICERS 07-08

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## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

The very festive season is fast upon us. In this time of giving, it is equally important to remember all the veterans (alive and deceased) who gave the ultimate sacrifice, the troops overseas serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and the vets living in the six veteran facilities in New Jersey. As I continue to travel the state of New Jersey and visit every county in New Jersey, I have gained valuable information and ideas to bring to others who need help getting going.

By the time you read this, I will have visited Post 304 (Somerset County) to speak about the SAL program to post membership. Then at the time of Department Legion Commander Frank Calandrillo's official visit to Warren County on Halloween night, October 31, I will have performed a squadron installation for Post 164 Hackettstown.

I've been invited to the Annual Bergen County Auxiliary Veterans Day Luncheon Saturday, November 20, at the Maywood Inn. Also coming up November 27 is my official Commander's visit to Monmouth County at Post 346 Neptune. I thank everyone for the invites to functions and look forward for even more to come. For invites, you can contact me at: Frank Jiosi, Jr.; SAL Detachment Commander, 545 Kingsland Avenue, Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071-2726.

The five vice commanders this year are doing tremendous jobs. They all have gotten out to visit their assigned counties and attended things both there and outside their own counties. Super job by all. I'm proud of all five of you.

This year's Commander's Project is a joint one with the Legion and the Auxiliary. The Detachment will run a Legion Family Idol Production similar to the Idol program on Fox Television. With enough input from posts throughout the state, we can have several evenings of Idol programs ending in a Grand Finale which will be held in Bergen County at Post 147 Elmwood Park. Half of the proceeds go to the joint project, the other half to the post. Call Project Chairman Lenny Free (my Detachment Chaplain) at 201-384-0044 for more information or questions.

Frank Jiosi, Jr.,  
SAL Detachment Commander



## UPCOMING EVENTS

State Meeting, Trenton	December 1, 2007
45% Membership	December 13, 2007
Christmas	December 25, 2007
New Years Day	January 1, 2007
State Meeting, Trenton	February 2, 2008
Four Chaplains, Lakehurst	February 3, 2008
Presidents Day	February 18, 2008
Homecoming National Vice Commender East	March 8, 2008
American Legion Birthday	March 15, 2008
Easter	March 23, 2008
Washington Conference	March 30-April 2, 2008
SAL Spring NEC, Indianapolis	May 2-4, 2008
Memorial Day	May 26, 2008

**DECEMBER 31, 2007 NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE**

## PARADISE LOST

Rob Lasky, Sq. 455, New Egypt

PEARL HARBOR - As you stand on the shoreline at Pearl Harbor on the Island of Oahu in Hawaii, you see a bustling of activity in the midst of Paradise. As the soothing trade winds rustle through your hair, you are awestruck at the beauty of the harbor with swaying palms, sun-glistened waves, and flora that beholds the most fascinating colors you have ever seen. Even as you witness the U.S. Naval yard to the east carrying on with its daily routines, it does not assuage the absolute grandeur of being in Hawaii. As you look out southward into the harbor, a white covered bridge-like structure stands out with the U.S. flag proudly waving from above. You notice the birds sweeping around and hear the calming waves as the structure seems to be floating in the middle of the harbor. Beyond the structure, you see a majestic battleship moored to the nearby island projecting its massive size as well as its power and strength from an era not too long ago.

It is hard to believe that 66 years ago, this Paradise was transformed into the most horrific scene imaginable as a sneak Japanese attack interrupted the tranquil morning of December 7, 1941. It was 7:53 A. M., Hawaiian time, when a Japanese force consisting of hundreds of bomber and fighter planes began what was to become the spark to the flame that ignited the United States into World War II. 2,390 servicemen were killed and 1,178 were wounded along with 49 civilian deaths from neighboring Honolulu that fateful day.

Twelve U.S. vessels were destroyed that day encompassing the large loss of lives, but the huge blow was a single bomb that fell upon the USS Arizona battleship landing in its artillery storage below deck and resulted in the greatest loss of life on any U.S. warship in American history. Even though the attack temporarily handcuffed the U.S. Naval forces in the Pacific, it was only temporary. All but three of the twelve ships destroyed that day were salvaged and saw action during World War II. The USS Utah and USS Oklahoma were the other two unsalvageable ships to join the Arizona. While the Utah and Oklahoma were subsequently scrapped and removed from the harbor, the USS Arizona remains there in reverence of the lives lost.

The USS Arizona exploded and sunk, settling on the bottom of the harbor taking its crew of sailors and marines with her. In all, 1,177 crewmen of the Arizona perished in the attack. Most of them remain entombed in her hull today. Of the 334 survivors of the Arizona, 23 were subsequently interred within the ship to rest in eternity with their shipmates. Immediately following the attack, the Arizona was decommissioned.

In 1950, she was 're-commissioned' by President Eisenhower when a U.S. Flag was flown from her in the harbor. It was then that the talk of a memorial began. Finally, in 1962, the USS Arizona Memorial was dedicated and millions of visitors come to pay their respects to the servicemen who lost their life in the attack.

As you enter the Arizona Memorial Visitor Center, you will see the 19,500 lb. anchor from the ill-fated battleship. You then stop at the desk to get your free tour ticket. While waiting for your tour to begin, you are invited to the Pearl Harbor Attack museum and gift shop. When your tour number is called, you enter a theater and watch a 23-minute documentary on the attack. Immediately following, you get aboard a shuttle boat and off to the memorial. The National Park Service is the host of the visitor center, but the shuttle is manned by service men and women of the U.S. Navy. You are told that this is a reverent place and that you should be as quiet as possible while at the memorial.

As the shuttle boat approaches the memorial dock, you notice the USS Missouri just beyond the memorial. Tours of the historic Missouri — where the Japanese signed the retreat treaty - are also available. The significance of the Missouri being docked there is not lost as you realize that this is a sister ship of the Arizona. You can see the grand dame in the harbor looking as the Arizona and the other battleships looked on the morning of December 7, 1941.

Finally, the tour enters the memorial. There is a chapel in the first section as you enter. As you pass the chapel into the main section, you notice that it is completely open, as you can see the U.S. flag waving from above the memorial. Then, you look out onto the water and below. You can see the two buoy markers signifying the stern and bow of the 665-foot battleship. As you look down, you can see a rainbow colored film on the surface of the water from the oil still seeping from the sunken ship. As you turn around to look back leeward and see the gun turret still protruding above the surface of the water.

As you continue deeper into the memorial, you see an open section in the bottom of the memorial where you can look directly down into the galley area of the Arizona. It is an eerie feeling as you look down and see fish swimming around what used to be a majestic battleship.

As you come to the last section of the memorial, there is a marble wall with the engraved names of the 1,177 crewman who lost their lives that day along with a small section reserved for the 23 survivors subsequently interred. Visitors are told that wreaths and flowers may be set in the water in remembrance of the men entombed there and prayers are encouraged.

As you depart, you are left with a pang in the pit of your stomach. It is hard to believe that such terror and carnage could ever take place in such a place of beauty. However, on December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was truly Paradise lost.



## AMERICA NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW

To The Legion Family Everywhere:

My son Luc drove to the Navy base on North Island the morning the wildfires started--three hours on the freeway for a trip that should have taken thirty minutes. "His windshield was covered with ashes. He said it brought to mind descriptions he had read of the holocaust where people looking out in the night saw the ashes covering the ground and thought it was snow.

There were at least 13 big wildfires. As soon as workers got one down, another started. 6,157 firefighters worked from October 21-25 to contain the fires. Only later could they control them. Santa Ana winds gusting up to 100 mph made sparks jump highways and even climb mountains. Thank God for the volunteers who helped out. Almost a million evacuees went to family, friends, or 42 evacuation centers--sports stadiums like Qualcomm, public buildings, and malls.

Flames engulfed the area around Mount Soledad and its cross. Dense, white smoke not clouds blanketed the harbor's six naval bases. Only the heat of the intense flames was visible from the overlook high on Point Loma. One blaze then another was fought in Camp Pendleton. Miramar MAS was threatened. Arson was suspected in Riverside and San Diego.

Death, injury, loss of homes and property stretched down the California coast through Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego County almost to the Mexican border. Four more surrounding counties were also engulfed in flames. Statistics are staggering.

In San Diego County where 80% of the burning occurred--major fires in Witch Creek, Harris, Poomacha, Horno, and Rice Canyon brought 12 related deaths with 7 directly from fire, 310 firefighters and 244 non-firefighters injured, 366,720 acres burned (almost half Rhode Island), 1,207 homes, 34 commercial buildings, and 252 outbuildings destroyed, another 312 homes and 10 commercial buildings damaged, 239 autos destroyed, and a half billion dollars estimated in damage...and reporting is still going on.

Southern California's devastation affected many members of our Armed Forces. It is a natural disaster likened to Hurricane Katrina. Who knows how many people who had little will end up with nothing? Help as you can, if you can.

Support the NEF (American Legion National Emergency Fund). It is one way to show that you support American's troops. Those eligible can apply for grants of up to \$1,500 if their primary residence was damaged by the wildfires to cover immediate needs for cost of food, shelter and clothing. Please help Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and SAL members in California.

Send your tax deductible contributions to The American Legion National Emergency Fund, PO Box 6141, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

For God and Country,  
Pat. Marsden, A. L. Aux. Unit 351  
Blue Star Mother

# The Detachment of New Jersey Sons of the American Legion Extends Best Wishes to Our Legion Family, Our Veterans and Armed Forces Everywhere.



## Merry Christmas

**Cmdr. Jiosi,  
the PDC's,  
Officers,  
& The SALute Staff**

