



# THE SALUTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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## GREETINGS

Brett Stadtler, Chaplain

Greetings to all the members of the Detachment of New Jersey! Our chaplains at all levels have been very busy throughout the year. They have participated in the open and closings of meetings, sent get well cards and prayers, participated in memorial services, and have been available for support when requested.

Our chaplains are an important part of the organization, and we need to have your reports reflect that at National. Please make sure to send them as soon as possible so they will be included on the year-end report. May God bless you all.

## ERNIE WILSON, JR. SCHOLARSHIP

Amel Balega, Jr. Chairman

The 2010 Ernie Wilson Scholarship will be awarded to a graduating Son at this year's convention. If your squadron did not fill out its Officer Report Forms then it did not receive an application. If it did not pay dues, this disqualified an application. It is vital to the success of this program that all officer report forms and dues are received in Trenton ASAP.

This award has been going on strong for years now, and we need to keep it that way. Good luck to all who have applied. All the rules and regulations are being enforced by the Scholarship Committee.

## WE NEED AN INFORMED ELECTORATE

Too bad some candidates for office chose not to submit biographies. What do you know about the men running for office? Why should you vote for them?

How a man performs in office or not should never be a surprise. What he stood for and accomplished or failed to accomplish is what is important. Simply being in attendance means nothing. What a man has said and done is what it all comes down to.

Voting is a privilege not a popularity contest. The man who wins represents you. What you see is what you get. Be sure you select qualified leaders with motives beyond reproach. Don't cast your ballot just to vote in one or more of the good old boys. Don't ever settle for the game of Let's Make a Deal.

Always vote but only for the BEST candidates.



## CWF

Ed Marsden, Chairman

Hi, again. I'm Ed Marsden, and I believe in CWF. When its chairman had to be replaced this year, I volunteered to step up and was given the position at Detachment's February meeting. Just because you haven't seen me doesn't mean that I am not out there doing.

National's Rob Brewer (OH) aided by Mike Arner (NJ), John Meia (CA), Pete Sierminski (CO), and Scott Williams (VA) are working hard to reach this year's \$500,000 pledge goal. Contributions are gaining.

Your money does really help save kids. This year the Sons sponsored grants for Caring Kids Television, Children's Organ Transplant Association, KidsPeace, National Autism Association, Our Military Kids Inc., Reach Out and Read, and ZERO TO THREE.

On the homefront, New Jersey has posted \$9,300, \$1.00+ per member, so we will be receiving our own per capita banner. Thanks for your generosity.

## ESSAY CONTEST

Phil Boyd, Chair

Sons of the American Legion, we need you help promoting any future essay contests. This year's topic was "How Can I Help a Veteran". Any sixth grader who wrote a 100 word essay was eligible. It is a shame that its three prizes \$100, \$75, and \$50 went unclaimed.

## MEMBERSHIP

The charts for the five national SAL regions clearly show that membership is down and national is only at 92.323% of goal. Here in New Jersey things are dire. We are at 7,365 not 9,019 and only 81.661% of May 12, 2010's 100% target.

Membership affects everything. It determines our budget. It influences how 54 reporting detachments see us and what we are doing. We didn't get any national visits this year. We didn't get any more national appointments.

Right now we are running #48. I know we can do better, so let's pull together, get memberships in, and go over the top.



# Detachment Officers 09-10

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Jay Gillman

### Commander:

John Gillman  
*commander@njsal.org*

### Vice Commanders:

Amel Balega  
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Phil Boyd  
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William Chwalyk  
*chwalyk@njsal.org*  
Harold Houseworth  
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Joe Korba  
*vckorba@njsal.org*

### Adjutant:

Jeff Hicks  
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### Judge Advocate:

Gary Nelson  
*nelson@njsal.org*

### Chaplain:

Brett Stadler  
*chaplain@njsal.org*

### Historian:

*historian@njsal.org*

### Sgt-at-Arms:

Kermit Riley  
Edward Downs  
Matt Bieda  
William Lanham

### Asst. Sgt-at-Arms:

Carl Kline

### NEC:

Carl W. Albern, Jr.  
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### ANEC:

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A wonderful year has been had by all. I would like to thank American Legion Department Commander Robert Phillips, American Legion Auxiliary Department President Debbie Tomasetti, and American Legion Junior Auxiliary President Jessalee Rose Cruz for all their hard work in promoting the Legion Family and the programs of the American Legion. Without their efforts all that has been accomplished would have never come to be. I would also like to thank all of the detachment officers and committeemen for the hard work that they have done this year. Without their efforts our programs would not have gotten off the ground.

This year's detachment convention is dedicated to the memory of PDC Kenneth M. Esposito, Sr., who passed away earlier this year. May his accomplishments and dedication to our organization be an inspiration to all.

With the detachment convention coming up, remember to fill out the Consolidated Report Form and the new Officer's Report Form. Both forms are important to your squadron as well as the detachment. Without this information you may not receive mailings like the SALute or get credit at the National level for what your squadron has done. So, if you have not done so, please send them in.

Recently I made a visitation to Veterans Haven with the Department Auxiliary for a birthday party for the facility. This is their fifteenth year in existence, and it was nice to meet many people who work or have worked at this facility. It was also a pleasure to enjoy a luncheon with the residence of Veterans Haven. I look forward to the Detachment's visitation there on July 17, 2010. Construction is under way to expand the facility, and I wish the endeavor well.

This year I was able to join forces with American Legion Department Commander Robert Phillips on his Commander's Project which is Project Yellow Ribbon. Project Yellow Ribbon helps and assists the families of those now currently serving in the military. The Commander's Project got off to a slow start but has rebounded recently. I would like to thank Squadron 371, Gibbsboro, for their generous donation of \$1,000.00. Their generosity is greatly appreciated, and I hope it is contagious to other posts, units, and squadrons in the state.

Lastly, I would like to see all of you at our detachment convention in June. I would like to wish the new detachment commander and his staff all the best of luck in the upcoming year. I look forward to attending the SAL National Convention in Milwaukee. Hope to see you there.

## JOE KORBA. CANDIDATE FOR COMMANDER

It is with great pride that I seek the high office of Detachment Commander for 2010-11. I have gained eligibility through my father, Joseph Korba, who served in the United States Navy during World War II. I currently serve as Vice Commander for Atlantic, Cape May, Ocean and Monmouth Counties. I also currently serve as Adjutant and Finance Officer for Squadron #352 in Somers Point, New Jersey

I have served the last three years as Detachment Vice Commander. I also currently serve as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and SAL liaison to the Convention Committee.

I was instrumental in reorganizing Squadron #352 in Somers Point that was inactive since 1993. We have built the squadron up to 86 members. We have become a viable part of Post #352 and the community of Somers Point. We have also made several trips to the Vineland Veteran's Home to deliver various items and participate in the Bingo and Pizza Party annually. I am an accountant and life-long resident of Margate City, New Jersey.

If elected I will work closely with the Auxiliary President and Department Commander to promote the Sons of the American Legion across the state. As Commander of the SAL, a program of the American Legion, I will help support the programs that the Legion Family supports with emphasis on Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans, and our active service personnel. I will support the Department Commander's project which will involve Veteran's Haven.

I want to thank Norm Marlin and all the officers of the Detachment of New Jersey for your help and guidance over the past years. The knowledge and experience that I gained over the years has prepared me for this giant step as Detachment Commander. I ask for your support on my election for the high office of Detachment Commander 2010-11.

## **MATTHEW BEIDA CANDIDATE FOR VC**

I am Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms. I am running for vice commander of the Detachment of New Jersey. I have been a Son of American Legion Post 493, Mystic Island for twenty years. I work with vets. I do bingo at Menlo Park once a month and bingo at Arcadia Nursing Home once a month. I run different functions for the Sons and Legion. I support and help other squadrons. I was Ocean County's commander, vice-commander, DEC, historian, and chaplain over the years.

## **PHILLIP BOYD, JR., CANDIDATE FOR VC**

Phil gained his eligibility through his father Phil Boyd ,Sr., who served in WWII. Phil has been a member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 281 for 20 years. He has served the squadron on many committees that include Membership, Community Service, and Veterans Rehabilitation.

Phil has work his way up the squadron chairs, serving as squadron commander for the years 1999-2001. He is presently adjutant.

On the Camden County level, Phil has served as junior vice commander, senior vice commander, adjutant and commander. He is presently historian.

On the detachment level, Phil is serving his fourth year as a vice vommander. He has been responsible for Camden, Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland counties. He is Essay Chairman as well as Commander's Project Chairman.

He has been married to his wife, Joanne, for 38 years. They have three children Danielle, Melanie, and Kevin. They also have three grand children. They all are SAL or Auxiliary members of Post 281.

Phil would like to thank everyone for the great year the detachment has had. He asks that you please try to visit veterans facilities and continue to support their needs.

## **TOBY HOUSEWORTH, CANDIDATE FOR VC**

I have been a member of Francis W. Robbins Squadron 194 for eight years. I have worked my way through the chairs on the squadron and county levels. Presently I hold the offices of squadron and county commander and also on the county level DEC.

At the detachment level I was nominated and elected on the floor of the 2009 Convention and presently serve as vice-commander. The past year it has been an honor to be involved with the Legion Family throughout the state. It may be at the Veterans Home in Vineland, placing flags on the veterans' graves Memorial Day, or the service at High Point. This is what is it all about--the veterans and their families.

## **GARY P. NELSON, CANDIDATE FOR ANEC**

Gary gained his eligibility in the Sons of the American Legions through his father's service, WWII Army veteran who served at Normandy Beach, European- Asian Theater, and The Battle of the Bulge. His father is a retired Cliffside Park Police Chief and a 64 member of American Legion Post 365, Fairview, New Jersey.

A charter member of Squadron #365 Fairview, Gary served as commander for three years and has served as adjutant and finance officer. He is currently judge advocate for the past six years. In 2005, Squadron 365 presented Gary with Life Membership.

On the county level, Gary has served two years as County SAL Commander, During his term as commander, the county came close to doubling its membership and started several new squadrons. It also began the creation of the American Legion Family Holiday Party, the sponsorship to Boys and Girls State, and the establishment of the Chick Betcher Memorial Scholarship. He also served the county as adjutant and finance officer.

At the detachment level Gary served two terms as vice commander. He has assisted three counties in the starting of county organizations and the starting of squadrons in other counties. As Chairman of the Ways and Means, the sale of pins broke an all time high. Gary has chaired both Basic and Advanced SAL College and has taught both also. He also is a graduate of both. He has been on committee's including Membership, Internal Affairs, Detachment Commander's Advisory, Special Olympics, and Ernie Wilson Scholarship. He served as the first Home Land Security Chairman and Finance Chairman.

In 2004, Gary was honored by being elected to the high office of Detachment Commander. The Detachment of New Jersey 2004-2005 was to bring many new achievements: all time high in Membership, Special Olympics, the Commander's Project, #1 in Child Welfare contributions, and #1 in per-capita in the Eastern Region. Other awards for the SAL Newspaper and also honored in Hawaii by bringing back #1 Squadron in the Nation the Americanism Award earned by his own Squadron 365.

Gary had the honor of being chosen "Son of the Year" for the 2006-2007 year for his hard work and dedication to the Sons of the American Legion.

On the National level for the past nine years Gary has attended almost every Spring and Fall N.E.C. meeting and National Convention. In 2005 he represented the Detachment of New Jersey as Delegation Chairman at the National Convention. Gary was also chosen to attend and graduate the Detachment Commanders Course and the three year courses at the National Management Institute.

Gary's promotion of the Legion Family, his assistance given the Legion and Auxiliary has been of great value to the American Legion on all levels. He has proven to be a dedicated member of The Sons of the American Legion and is most worthy to serve in the position as Alternate National Executive Committeeman for the Detachment of New Jersey.



### **Dates to Remember**

Boys State, Ryder	June 20- 25, 2010
High Point	June 27, 2010
National Convention, Milwaukee, WI	Aug 27-29, 2010

## PDC ENTERS SQUADRON EVERLASTING



Kenneth Esposito, Sr., Past Detachment Commander of New Jersey, passed away on January 18, 2010, at the age of 47 while in the hospital recovering from a recent illness.

Ken was a member and officer in Rockden Squadron 175 for many years, earning an honorary life membership in his squadron last year. He was one of the founding members of the S.A.L. Morris County Executive Committee and was highly involved with the Detachment of New Jersey, serving as Detachment Commander in 1995-96, and National Executive Committeeman in 1998– 2010.

Ken was known for not being shy about voicing his opinion on a matter that he felt strongly about and worked on many of the committees and programs of the Detachment of New Jersey. He helped lay the groundwork for NJ's SAL College in the late 1990's, served on the bylaws rewrite committee, and most recently was a member of the Detachment Budget Committee in 2009.

Ken traveled to many National Executive Committee meetings and national conventions, was a member of the Legion Riders in Morris County and bartender in his post home.

### FORMER SAL ADVISER DICK JAPKO DIES

Richard E. Japko, 80, of Fairfield, passed away at Care One in Livingston on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Beloved husband of the late Marilyn, he is interred beside her at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. He is survived by many children, grandchildren, and their families.

Dick served in the Korean War as a U. S. Army sergeant. He was a lifetime member of A. L. Post 155 Whippany. He was also active in the American Legion baseball program and served as SAL Detachment Adviser for many years.

Richard Japko will be sorely missed. Contributions in Dick's memory may be made to the American Legion Post 155 Scholarship Fund, 13 Legion Place, Whippany, New Jersey 07981.

**NEXT SALUTE DEADLINE IS JUNE 30, 2010.**

## MEMORIALIZED

We also remember New Jersey's departed comrades honored at the 38th National Convention in Kentucky last summer. They include:

John Alexander  
Keith J. Anderson  
Robert J. Banicki  
Michael P. Barker  
Frederick J. Bastian  
Lawrence F. Bickel  
Stephen Bizzaro  
Carl. P Bonaccolta  
Bruce J. Bosler  
Paul Card  
Kevin W. Cascaden  
James Colie  
Kevin Coughlin  
William G. Cowgill  
Guy Dawson  
Donald J. De Gregorio  
Donald J. Edwards  
Glenn J. Faltisco, Jr.  
Edward M. Farynyk  
Larry Foy  
Timothy J. Galbraith  
Anthony J. Giaccio  
Patrick Jolly  
Anthony K. Kalwica  
Michael J. Kelly  
James M. Kukor

Edward Loux  
Robert Macrae  
George W. Martel  
Charles H. Martin  
Robert S. Maturich  
Glenn A. Miller  
Brian Mulcahy  
Richard T. Noble  
James J. Olden  
Louis Pellisser  
Donald J. Russo  
Walter Schaarschmidt  
Edwin Schaming, Jr.  
Michael Schenk  
Dwane Seprish  
Steve Snuffin  
Donald B. Steinfeld  
Eric J. Sturgis  
James C. Thurkauf  
George C. Tiesmeyer  
Ramon J. Tramontin  
Thomas Waiver  
Frank Walsh  
Bell Welsh  
Emil D. Welsh, Jr.  
Robert White  
William W. Zeiser

### POPPIES

N. J. A. L. Aux. Unit 351  
Poppies, pretty poppies  
Over valiant warrior graves;  
Perpetual markers of  
Patriots against tyrant's  
Injustice, inhumanity;  
Eternity's monument to  
Soldiers' sacrifices.



### THE EDITOR'S DESK

It has been a frustrating year. Honored at last year's national convention with Second Place for the SALute, I have been able to publish only three issues. If it were not for some legionnaires, squadrons, and counties sending in material, things would have been worse.

I need more than the support of the SAL. ALL detachment officers, commissions, and committees must submit at least one article each year. It is a policy that your detachment passed on the floor in 2002. If your name is not in alphabetical order here (Abrams, Balega, Gallagher, Gillman, Haring, Houseworth, Korba, Lasky, Marsden(s), Noble, Staknys), this responsibility falls to you.

Please help me keep this paper up and running.