



The New Jersey

SALute

Official Publication of the Detachment of New Jersey, Sons of the American Legion

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Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of New Jersey
171 Jersey St., Bld 5, 2nd Floor,
Trenton NJ 08611

www.NJSAL.org

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Vice Commander	William Murphy
Vice Commander	Charles Taylor II
Vice Commander	Gregory Shaffer
Vice Commander	(vacant)
Vice Commander	(vacant)
Adjutant	Russell Myers
Ass't Adjutant	
Finance Officer	PDC C. David Page
Chaplain	PDC Matthew Thalasinis
Judge Advocate	PDC Amel Balega
Historian	PDC Nicholas Wingler
Nat Exec Comm	PDC Robert Phillips Jr
Alt Nat Exec Comm	PDC Henry Hasselhan
Sgt-at-Arms	Darryl Cunningham
Sgt-at-Arms Emeritus	Anthony Liberatore
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SAL Committee Liaison	Sophia Dmoch
SAL Committee	Michael Smith



BE THE ONE



NEVER FORGET OUR POW/MIAs AND THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN

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You're Never Alone – Call 9-8-8 - Option 1

For God and Country,

Gary S. Crawford PC, Commander Neptune Sq 346,
Adjutant Monmouth County Exec Committee, Editor
SALute

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From the Editor:

There's a new way to find information about what the Sons are up to, statewide. If you are on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/SonsDetNJ There are many more pictures posted, some even the same day as the event, than can be shown in the limited magazine format of the **NJ SALute**. Thanks to Department PDC Steve Fisher for setting this up.

In case you missed it, visit our American Legion Department of New Jersey Official YouTube channel. <https://youtube.com/@LEGIONDEPTNJ>

I recently learned of the passing of Jeff Vrabel Sr., PNVC and editor of **The Millennium**, the national newsletter of the SAL. As a fellow newsletter editor of the **NJ SALute** and newsletters of other organizations, I appreciate the dedication he had for his work in the Ohio and the National SAL. Although I never met him personally, I understand he was a loving husband and father to young children and will be missed. He passed on to Squadron Everlasting on June 11, at Grove City, Ohio. Rusty Myers posted a nice tribute online.

I attended our State Convention in Wildwood, and enjoyed the entire weekend. I met many new people, Sons I knew of but never met face-to-face before. And to Bob Bascou, THANK YOU. You know why.

I also received a very nice award at Convention for my work with the **SALute** from outgoing Commander Keith Barnes. I really never expected that. Thank you Keith! It was a pleasure working with you.

Speaking of awards, Bernie Kofoet (Dual Member 68 and 84) was voted **Son of the Year** for 2024. Congratulations Bernie!



(Left) **SALute** Editor Gary Crawford in his Magnificent Monmouth County shirt, with Past Ocean County Commander Jeff Kleinow in his Great County of Ocean shirt. *Ka-KAW!* vs *Whoopp!* (Right) Jeff shows off his **Be The One** shirt.



Commander's Message:

I know it's early in the year, and things seem to be coming together. I'd like to thank all the members of the Detachment for their support. Detachment meetings will be held - one in each district. So far we have three dates and Post homes secured for our meetings. Dates and times will be posted through Adjutant Rusty. Looking forward to seeing as many of you at the meetings as can make them. Our membership for the year 2024 seems to have been just 70 members shy of 10,000. If you have any for 2024 please send them in. We are looking for 2 Vice Commanders and several people to be County representatives or D.E.C.

For God and Country
 Richard Hodum
 S.A.L. Detachment Commander
 702-715-6113
RHodum166@comcast.net

Some awards:



Rusty Myers' award for Editorial and Visual Media from the Legion's annual contest. Henry Hasselhan 5th's merit award for raising funds for CWF. Gary Crawford's SALute award.

Let's finish strong as we head to convention

By SAL National Commander Don "JR" Hall, JUL 08, 2024

Legion Family, are you ready to celebrate?

As we roll into July and wrap up our Legion Family year, there are numbers out there that are worthy to celebrate. So I hope that everyone is preparing to do just that at National Convention in New Orleans.

Here is a number for you: 390,168 members of the Sons of The American Legion as of July 2! That all-time high is still growing and all of our squadrons across the country are the ones making it happen. I know that the number will be even higher when we get to New Orleans. But can we get to 400,000? I will say this; it would not surprise me. Many times this year I have said a bigger Legion Family is a stronger Legion Family. Comrades, we are getting stronger each day.

We will be celebrating this year all of the work of so many, so I encourage you to plan on being in New Orleans, and let's have some Mardi Gras style fun. Bring some decorations into the Sons convention hall and decorate your



detachments signs. We are trying to plan some fun that everyone can enjoy and we ask you to be a part of it all. We will of course celebrate hitting the \$10 million mark for Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) and want every member there to be a part of it.

As I represent the Sons of The American Legion and my grandfather's service, I can tell you that I was excited to take the office last year and I am still excited to be able to serve this great organization this year. My travels have taken me to see many wonderful works and there is more left to see, so I

encourage everyone — don't slow down. Let's continue the roll into New Orleans and celebrate all the work that is happening to spread the word of "Be The One," along with working all the great programs of the American Legion Family.

As Commander Seehafer says, together we "Save Lives and Change Lives." Remember that and you will continue on. It is as easy as remembering your why — just think of who is your why for belonging. That keeps us grounded and working.

Keep on getting it done, keep being proud of being a Son!

"Representing More Than Me"

Don "JR" Hall

SAL National Commander

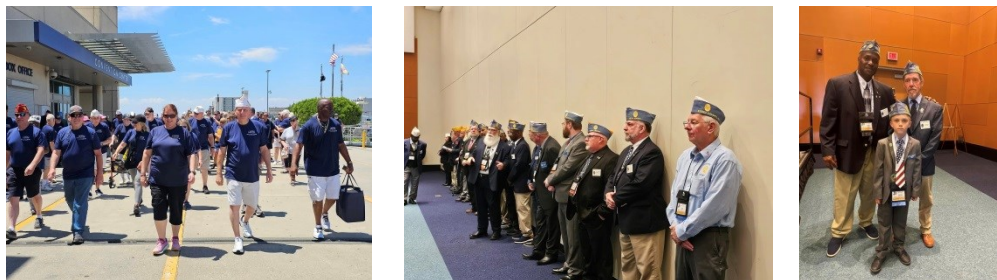


(L) National Commander Dan Seehafer, SAL National Commander JR Hall, and National Aux President Lisa Williamson at Normandy Ceremony. (C) Normandy Veterans in attendance. (R) At the Theodore Roosevelt Jr. Monument.

Convention Snapshots, Wildwood NJ, 13-14 June:



(L) 2024-2025 Officers sworn in. (C) Incoming Commander Rich Hodum addresses the attendees. (R) Jonathan Monterosa of Nutley Sq 70, recipient of the Young Citizens Award.



(L) Buddy Walk. 2023-2024 Officers Sharon Knight, Larry Bishop, and Keith Barnes. (C) SAL Officers at the Department meeting. (R) CWF Award winner Henry Hasselhan 5th, with Commander Keith Barnes and CWF Chairman Bill Murphy.



(L) Rich Hodum, Henry Hasselhan 4th, and Tony Gladden visiting the Juniors' projects. (C) National Commander Daniel Seehafer addresses the Sons' Convention. (R) 2024-2025 Officers cut the cake: Dept Comdr Andy Jackson (493), Aux President Charline Gladden (455), and SAL Comdr Rich Hodum (166).



(L) Sons of the Year Candidates (LtoR) Marty Widmer (262), Greg Shaffer (174), James Elsmore (105), and Henry Hasselhan 5th (311) flanked by outgoing Comdr Keith Barnes and PDC Son of the Year Committeeman Nick Wingler. (C) **Son of the Year** Bernie Kofoet accepts his award (68/84). (R) The NJ Officers in the annual parade.

Meet the 2024-25 Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New Jersey Leadership Team

Commander: Richard Hodum (166-Ocean)
Vice Commander: Bill “Murph” Murphy (348-Ocean)
Vice Commander: Charles Taylor II (58-Bergen)
Vice Commander: Gregory Shaffer (174-Passaic)
Finance Officer: C. David Page (455-Ocean)
NEC: Robert Phillips, Jr. PDC (262-Camden)
ANEC: Henry Hasselhan III PDC (311-Camden)
Adjutant: Russell “Rusty” Myers III (105-Essex)
Judge Advocate: Amel Balega PDC (227-Passaic)
Chaplain: Matthew Thalasinios PDC (232-Ocean)
Sgt-at-Arms: Darryl Cunningham (58-Bergen)
Historian: Nicholas Wingler PDC (166-Ocean)

As follows are notes from the Detachment Reorganization Meeting chaired by Detachment Commander Rich Hodum (166-Ocean) held on Friday 14 June 2024, at the Wildwood Convention Center following the second day of convention session.

Following the flag salute, Commander Hodum called the reorganization meeting to order.

The Commander then read off his appointments for 2024-25:

Adjutant - Rusty Myers (105-Essex)
Judge Advocate - Amel Balega (227-Passaic)
Commander’s Project - Nick Wingler (166-Ocean)
Internal Affairs - Tom Marsden (348-Ocean)
Membership - Jeff Hicks (526-Burlington)
Constitution and Bylaws - Mike Arner (338-Monmouth)
Public Relations - Gary Crawford (346-Monmouth)
SALute - Gary Crawford (346-Monmouth)
SAL College - Mark Natale (321-Monmouth) and Carl Alber, Jr. (346-Monmouth)
Ernie Wilson Scholarship - Not confirmed – Lenny Free (147-Bergen)
Finance Committee - Carl Alber, Jr. (346-Monmouth)
Internet - Carl Alber, Jr. (346-Monmouth)
Convention - Jeff Hicks (526-Burlington)
Americanism Commission - *VACANT*
National Emergency Fund - Dean Staknys (348-Ocean)
Legislative - *VACANT*
POW / MIA - Bill Murphy (348-Ocean)
Son of Year - C. David Page (455-Ocean)
Boys State - Tom Marsden (348-Ocean)
Children and Youth Commission - Rusty Myers (105-Essex)
COTA - Greg Shaffer (174-Passaic)
CWF - Bill Murphy (348-Ocean)
Special Olympics - Nick Wingler (166-Ocean)
Young Citizens Award - Matt Thalasinios (232-Ocean)
VA&R - *VACANT*
VE&E - Henry Hasselhan III (311-Camden)
PDC Arner noted that the new constitution no longer limits the number of committees a member can chair or sit on.

Interested in serving on a committee? Contact any of the Committee Chairs for info.

2024 Detachment Convention Awards

Wildwood, NJ

Squadrons (22) that filed a Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) by the Awards Deadline of May 13, 2024:

65, 84, 91, 105, 108, 129, 131, 139, 154, 166, 174, 279, 311, 321, 328, 346, 348, 351, 390, 423, 455, 493.

Counties (1) that filed a CSR by the Awards Deadline of May 13, 2024: Ocean

CSRs Received: 22 Squadrons + 1 County

Americanism Commission (Chairman Matt Thalasinis)

Donations:

1st Place Squadron 131 – Belvidere, Warren County \$72.73 per capita

2nd Place Squadron 166 – Lakewood, Ocean County \$56.81 per capita

3rd Place Squadron 105 – Belleville, Essex County \$55.95 per capita

Hours:

1st Place Squadron 455 – New Egypt, Ocean County 97.41 per capita

2nd Place Squadron 166 – Lakewood, Ocean County 44.81 per capita

3rd Place Squadron 139 – Lyndhurst, Bergen County 25.23 per capita

County (District)

1st Place Ocean Donations \$2.18 per capita Hours 0.93 per capita

Children & Youth Commission (Chairman Russell “Rusty” Myers)

Donations:

1st Place Squadron 105 – Belleville, Essex County \$112.07 per capita

2nd Place Squadron 348 – Brick, Ocean County \$73.86 per capita

3rd Place Squadron 311 – Atco, Camden County \$55.83 per capita

Hours:

1st Place Squadron 348 – Brick, Ocean County 36.52 per capita

2nd Place Squadron 166 – Lakewood, Ocean County 11.81 per capita

3rd Place Squadron 174 – Wayne, Passaic County 4.65 per capita

County (District)

1st Place Ocean Donations \$6.19 per capita Hours 1.56 per capita

Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) Committee (Chairman William “Murph” Murphy)

Donations:

1st Place Squadron 311 – Atco, Camden County \$54.17 per capita

2nd Place Squadron 129 – Toms River, Ocean County \$16.31 per capita

3rd Place Squadron 348 – Brick, Ocean County \$7.44 per capita

Hours:

1st Place Squadron 348 – Brick, Ocean County 1.20 per capita

2nd Place Squadron 455 – New Egypt, Ocean County 1.00 per capita

3rd Place Squadron 129 – Toms River, Ocean County 0.77 per capita

County (District)

1st Place Ocean Donations \$0.53 per capita Hours 0.01 per capita

Children’s Organ Transplant Association (COTA) Committee (Chairman Gregory Shaffer)

Donations:

1st Place Squadron 105 – Belleville, Essex County \$39.18 per capita

2nd Place Squadron 174 – Wayne, Passaic County \$34.88 per capita

3rd Place Squadron 493 – Little Egg Harbor Twp., Ocean County \$5.26 per capita

Hours:

1st Place Squadron 348 – Brick, Ocean County 4.25 per capita
2nd Place Squadron 174 – Wayne, Passaic County 3.49 per capita
3rd Place Squadron 105 – Belleville, Essex County 1.49 per capita

County (District)

1st Place Ocean Donations \$0.19 per capita Hours 0.03 per capita

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission (Chairman Patrick Gallagher)

Donations:

1st Place Squadron 166 – Lakewood, Ocean County \$161.19 per capita
2nd Place Squadron 348 – Brick, Ocean County \$88.77 per capita
3rd Place Squadron 105 – Belleville, Essex County \$39.23 per capita

Hours:

1st Place Squadron 348 – Brick, Ocean County 93.75 per capita
2nd Place Squadron 166 – Lakewood, Ocean County 18.39 per capita
3rd Place Squadron 455 – New Egypt, Ocean County 8.19 per capita

County (District)

1st Place Ocean Donations \$1.01 per capita Hours 0.76 per capita

Veterans Education & Employment (VE&E) Commission (Chairman Henry Hasselhan)

Donations:

1st Place Squadron 351 – Seaside Heights, Ocean County \$3.85 per capita
2nd Place Squadron 348 – Brick, Ocean County \$2.11 per capita
3rd Place Squadron 166 – Lakewood, Ocean County \$1.39 per capita

Hours:

1st Place Squadron 351 – Seaside Heights, Ocean County 2.12 per capita
2nd Place Squadron 311 – Atco, Camden County 0.63 per capita
3rd Place Squadron 129 – Toms River, Ocean County 0.19 per capita

County (District)

1st Place Ocean Donations \$0.15 per capita Hours 0.03 per capita

Internal Affairs (IA) Commission (Chairman Thomas Marsden)

Donations:

1st Place Squadron 279 – Lincoln Park, Morris County \$239.13 per capita
2nd Place Squadron 108 – Little Falls, Passaic County \$61.88 per capita
3rd Place Squadron 105 – Belleville, Essex County \$55.23 per capita

Hours:

1st Place Squadron 348 – Brick, Ocean County 12.15 per capita
2nd Place Squadron 108 – Little Falls, Passaic County 9.85 per capita
3rd Place Squadron 139 – Lyndhurst, Bergen County 8.39 per capita

County (District)

1st Place Ocean Donations \$0.67 per capita Hours 0.26 per capita

Membership (Chairman Jeffrey E. Hicks)

Group A: 0 to 49 Members

1st Place Squadron No. 516 – Willingboro, Burlington County
47.4% Increase (19 to 28 members as of April 14, 2024)
2nd Place Squadron No. 135 – Gloucester City, Camden County
23.5% Increase (17 to 21 members as of April 14, 2024)
3rd Place Squadron No. 45 – Perth Amboy, Middlesex County
23.1% Increase (26 to 32 members as of April 14, 2024)

Group B: 50 to 99 Members

1st Place Squadron No. 278 – Stanhope, Sussex County
37.1% Increase (62 to 85 members as of April 14, 2024)
2nd Place Squadron No. 69 – Carlstadt, Bergen County

25.6% Increase (43 to 54 members as of April 14, 2024)
3rd Place Squadron No. 282 – Harrison, Hudson County
18.4% Increase (49 to 58 members as of April 14, 2024)

Group C: 100 or more Members

1st Place Squadron 352 – Somers Point, Atlantic County
9.9% Increase (151 to 166 members as of April 14, 2024)
2nd Place Squadron 279 – Lincoln Park, Morris County
8.3% Increase (96 to 104 members as of April 14, 2024)
3rd Place Squadron 372 – Cherry Hill, Camden County
6.9% Increase (116 to 124 members as of April 14, 2024)

Largest Squadrons:

Category A (0 to 49) Squadron No. 108 – Little Falls, Passaic County
48 Members as of April 14, 2024
Category B (50 to 99) Squadron No. 84 – Oaklyn, Camden County
97 Members as of April 14, 2024
Category B (50 to 99) Squadron No. 155 – Whippany, Morris County
97 Members as of April 14, 2024
Category C (100+) Squadron No. 348 – Brick, Ocean County
481 Members as of April 14, 2024

Largest Counties:

1st Place Ocean County
1,498 members as of April 14, 2024
2nd Place Bergen County
963 members as of April 14, 2024
3rd Place Middlesex County
768 members as of April 14, 2024

Greatest % Change for Counties

1st Place Atlantic County - 2.5% as of April 14, 2024 - 275 (2023) to 282 (2024)

County with 100% Membership

Sussex County - 100% as of April 14, 2024 - 323 (2023) to 323 (2024)

National Emergency Fund (NEF) Committee (Chairman Dean Staknys)

Donations:

1st Place Squadron 174 – Wayne, Passaic County \$5.81 per capita
2nd Place Squadron 129 – Toms River, Ocean County \$3.84 per capita
3rd Place Squadron 166 – Lakewood, Ocean County \$2.78 per capita

Hours:

1st Place Squadron 174 – Wayne, Passaic County 1.40 per capita
2nd Place Squadron 166 – Lakewood, Ocean County 0.49 per capita
3rd Place Squadron 351 – Seaside Heights, Ocean County 0.19 per capita

County (District)

1st Place Ocean Donations \$0.60 per capita Hours 0.06 per capita

Special Olympics Committee (Chairman Nick Wingler)

Donations:

1st Place Squadron 166 – Lakewood, Ocean County \$17.36 per capita
2nd Place Squadron 493 – Little Egg Harbor Twp., Ocean County \$7.89 per capita
3rd Place Squadron 129 – Toms River, Ocean County \$4.80 per capita

Hours:

1st Place Squadron 166 – Lakewood, Ocean County 5.35 per capita
2nd Place Squadron 455 – New Egypt, Ocean County 0.79 per capita
3rd Place Squadron 348 – Brick, Ocean County 0.77 per capita

County (District)

1st Place Ocean Donations \$0.38 per capita Hours 0.29 per capita

Locustwood Cemetery, 2-June:



(L) Camden County. (C) Monmouth County. (R) Commander Keith says a few words.



(L) Detachment Officers. (C) Chaplain leads the prayer. (R) Henry Hasselhan(s) 4 and 5 placing their flags.



(L) Jeff Hicks and Lisa Natale. (C) Larry Bishop and Sharon Knight. (R) Carl Alber, Doreen Gallagher, and Victor Murray.

History and dates of Flagging, Locustwood, Memorial Day and Legion Statewide Services

In 1932, the Locustwood Cemetery Association deeded 400 free grave sites to the American Legion for use by Legionnaires and their spouses, and erected a monument memorializing their service.

As part of the transfer of grave sites, the American Legion committed to holding an annual memorial on the first Sunday after Memorial Day, a tradition that has continued since 1935 !! (Annual NJ American Legion Statewide).

Keeping with this tradition, American Legion Post 372 members gather on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day weekend, in preparation of Memorial Day and Statewide Services, to honor and remember our veterans (and fellow Legionnaires) by placing American Flags on all the veterans graves. (Annual Flagging of Locustwood)

The following week, on Memorial Day, American Legion holds Services at our Legion, Locustwood, Cooper River, and attends the Cherry Hill Township Services. NJ American Legion Statewide Services, which are held on the Sunday after Memorial Day in front of the American Legion monument at Locustwood Cemetery, brings NJ American Legion Officers, Honor Guards and members from Legions throughout the state of New Jersey for a parade and service. Local dignitaries and other veteran organization representatives are among the speakers and guests as well. Following the Service at Locustwood, American Legion Post 372 has a Social/Food Buffet at the Legion.

These events/traditions have deep roots which include a commitment to fulfill a promise made between NJ American Legion and Locustwood some 89 years ago.

High Point, 30 June:



(L) Parade up the hill. (C) Tony Gladden, Bob Phillips, Rich Hodum, and Amel Balega. (R) Vice Commander Greg Shaffer addresses the attendees.



Rendition of the Star Spangled Banner



Commander Rich Hodum says a few words before he, Commander Andy Jackson, and Auxiliary President Charline Gladden place their wreaths inside of the monument during the annual ceremony.



A Little History of High Point:

The monument was built through the generosity of Colonel Anthony R. and Susie Dryden Kuser from Bernardsville, NJ, who also donated the land for High Point State Park, in honor of all New Jersey war veterans. Construction was started in 1928 and completed in 1930.

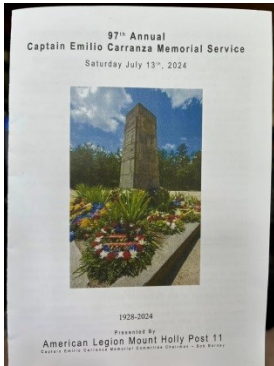
High Point State Park was dedicated in 1923 as the first State Park in New Jersey. With 14,218 acres of woodland on Kittatinny Mountain, it includes the state's first Natural Area, the Dryden Kuser Natural Area, the highest elevation cedar swamp of its kind in the world. Lake Marcia, a 20-acre glacial lake has a beach with lifeguards, bathhouse and food. In winter it's converted to a cross-country ski center. [High Point Monument](#) was built in 1930 and is dedicated to New Jersey's wartime heroes. The park was designed so that all land to the south of Route 23 North has overnight facilities, such as camping, and day activities are conducted on the north side, such as swimming and day hikes. There are over 50 miles of trails, including Monument Trail. There are cabins at Steenykill Lake and campsites at Sawmill Lake. There's fishing, boating, skating, picnicking, hiking, skiing, hunting, and the Appalachian Trail.

A drive for the weekend or day in the fall is a must, when the glories of High Point are at their height. As you near the top of Kittatinny Ridge on Route 23 North, the park office is on the left. Stop in for maps of trails and roads and good info from the staff before continuing into the park.

For information call the park office at: 973-875-4800



Emilio Carranza Memorial, 13-July:



(L) Event flyer. (C) Wreath from the NJ Legion Family. (R) Ceremonial discovery and carrying of Carranza's body.



(L) Comdr Rich Hodum and Vice Comdr Bill Murphy present wreath. (C) PDC Jeff Hicks and NEC Bob Phillips present wreath. (R) Thomas Viscuso, Comdr of SAL Sq 526 and Vice Comdr SAL Burlington County, and PDC Jeff Hicks.



(L) NEC Bob Phillips and Camden County Commander Charles Ross. (C) Commander Rich Hodum.

Read more at Mount Holly Post 11's website: <http://www.legion-njbcec.org/post-11-.html>

More info on the Emilio Carranza Memorial at:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/historic/carranzamemorial.html>

Excellent Wikipedia article on Emilio Carranza at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emilio_Carranza

Military Appreciation and Legion Night at Blue Claws, 11 July:



Commander Rich Hodum, President Charline Gladden, and Commander Andy Jackson. Legion crew and military representatives each got a chance to throw out a pitch.



LtoR: Doreen Gallagher, Carl Alber, MC Boyle, Chuck Robbins, Wil Fetherman, and Mark Natale.
LtoR: Greg Shaffer, Carl Alber, Dave Snody, and Mark Natale.

=====



(L) Neptune 346's Color Guard during Flag retirement on 19-June. LtoR: Brian Collins, Jim Struble, Mike Kennedy, SAL Sgt-at-Arms John Skislak, Dan Sanford, SAL Vice Commander Paul Williams, and Greg Thompkins. Once again, the 346 Color Guard unit won first place for Senior Rifle Squad in the parade at Legion Convention in Wildwood.
(C) Woodbridge 87's Flag retirement. (R) Atco 311's Flag Retirement.

Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage . . .



**Sons of The American
Legion -- Detachment of
New Jersey**

WANTED

**Candidates for
consideration for the**

**Detachment of New
Jersey**

YOUNG CITIZENS AWARD

*AGE: Young volunteers up
to and including 17 years old.

*Volunteerism: Candidates
must have demonstrated
outstanding achievement
in their community!

**Every squadron in New
Jersey can submit two
applications**

Requests for application
forms can be sent to the

Young Citizens Award
Committee Chairman,

PDC Matt Thalasinis at
mrthal@yahoo.com

**Sons of The American Legion
– Detachment of New Jersey**

Chaplain Information

Fellow Chaplains, please contact
me if you have any questions or
concerns
you have or If you would like to
share information.

ALSO

Contact me if you are interested
in learning more about the
Detachment Chaplain position.

I can be reached at
mrthal@yahoo.com
PDC Matt Thalasinis, Chaplain
2024—2025

Celebrating our nation's 248th Birthday



At 11am on July 4, as inhabitants of Belleville did 227 years ago, we gathered at the Dutch Reform Church to honor those who fought and lost their lives in the Revolutionary War. This cemetery has 68 soldiers buried there, making it among the largest concentration of Revolutionary War soldiers buried anywhere. Post Families from Nutley 70 and Belleville 105 provided the Honor Guard.



(Left) Barnegat 232 Family July 4th Cookout. (Right) Mark and Lisa Natale and Carl Alber with Union Beach 321 crew at July 3 fireworks.



The Audubon Murray-Troutt Post 262 Family



July 6, at Evergreen Cemetery in Camden, Civil War Veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Richard Hamilton was honored with a new VA marker and a wreath-laying ceremony by the Camden County Legion Family and others. The Camden County Legion Family gathered at Evergreen Cemetery in Camden on the 143rd Anniversary of Richard Hamilton's death, to finally dedicate this veteran's Medal of Honor gravestone and marker. Mr. Hamilton's service during the Civil War led to the sinking of the CSS Albemarle, the iron clad ram of the Confederate Navy. Amazing job by Harry Deaner III and the Camden County Veterans Committee!!!

Snapshots:



(Left) Great reorganization meeting to start our year off, I'm looking forward to great things for Morris County! Your Morris County American Legion leadership for 2024-2025: Will Kramer- DEC, David Marciano-County Commander, Rea Ann Brueche-Wallace Auxiliary President, Rich Michael-SAL DEC ...

(Center) Brick 348 SAL Commander Ryan Sammond and his cooking crew put out 65 hot dogs and 107 hamburgers for their July 4th party.

(Right) Manning the booth for The American Legion Family of Burlington County, at the annual Burlington County Farm Fair Through July 20th! LtoR: DEC Barry Conaway (336), Dual Member Rosita Jackson (336), Burlington County Commander Acey Wilburn (294), and National Chaplain / PDC Jeff Hicks (526).



Linden Post 102 held a defibrillator class on 28July and now have one on hand, just in case.

Around the State:



(L) Chester Post 342 Boys State Volunteer Staff. (C) Collingswood Sq 17 Installation. (R) Commander Rich Hodum installs Lakewood Sq 166.



(L) Wayne Sq 174 Installation. (C) Gibbsboro Sq 371 Installation. (R) Nutley Sq 70 Installation.



(L) Essex County Installation. (C) PDC Dave Page Installs New Egypt Sq 455. (R) Middlesex 306 Installation.



(L) Middlesex Sq 45 Installation. (C) Toms River Sq 129 Installation. (R) Roselle Park 60 Officers.



(L) Belleville 105 Crew at COTA picnic. (C) Tony Gladden installs Rocky Lucia as Ocean County Commander. (R) Belleville Sq 105 Installation.

Fun With Flags - 48, 49, and 50 Stars



The authorized use of the forty-eight star American Flag was established on July 4, 1912, after the admission of New Mexico and Arizona to become our 47th and 48th states respectively. This authorized flag design was in place for 47 years until January 1959, the second-longest time this official flag design was in use.

The forty-nine star flag was used from January 1959 until July 4, 1960, after Alaska became a State.

When Hawaii became a state on July 4, 1960, the fifty star flag came into use. This design has been the longest design in use, for 64 years.

There is no law or provision of the Flag Code that prohibits the use or display of any previous authorized flag of the United States.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION Squadron 166

is selling Super 50/50 tickets.

All proceeds will benefit the Ocean County Sons of the American Legion Leadership Fund (AKA - Detachment Commander Rich Hodum)

Please see a Squadron Member to purchase a ticket.

We will be selling as many tickets as possible and the winner will be pulled at the Squadron Labor Day Picnic on September 2, 2024.

\$20.00 a ticket

NAME: _____ SQUADRON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

DATE: _____

NI LGCCC ID# 210-614-638/000 RL-24-5007

-VETERANS- OLDE FREEHOLD DAY WANTS YOU!




Come to Olde Freehold Day on Saturday, August 3rd at 11:30 for a genuine THANK YOU for your SACRIFICE and SERVICE to the USA! All Veterans are encouraged to attend a short, but solemn, ceremony.

Free shuttle buses from the Monmouth County Courthouse starting at 11:15.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY

34th Annual POW/MIA WATCHFIRE



SEPTEMBER 21st, 2024
12 HOUR VIGIL 7 PM - 7 AM
WHERE: 1200 NJ RTE. 35
SEASIDE HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY 08751
THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: EMAIL: WATCHFIRE@SAL.ORG

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

National Children & Youth Academy

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 8:30AM-12:30PM
NEW ORLEANS ERNEST N. MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER ROOM 206, SECOND FLOOR

Calling all school-aged American Legion Family members. Join us for the 2024 National Children & Youth Academy. The earlier we involve our youth, the brighter our future will be!

TRAINING WILL INCLUDE:
FLAG EDUCATION
ALA JR. PATCH PROGRAM
COURTESY STAFF POLICE
VEHICLE DISPLAY & EDUCATION PROGRAM

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

LOUISIANA

58th SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

SCAN ME

TO REGISTER!

SPECIAL-NEEDS KIDS BARBECUE

Sept. 7, 2024 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

SPONSORED BY:
The American Legion Family

"All Donations Greatly Appreciated"

For \$250.00 Donation you will get your name or Organization on a shirt.

If you want to help contact: Nick Wingler
Cell 732-330-9707 Email: nicholasjwingler@gmail.com

Send Check to: Nicholas Wingler, 19 Edison Street, Bayville, NJ 08721

Make Check Payable to: O.C. SAL

TO BE HELD AT
VFW 8867
373 ADAMSTON ROAD BRICK NJ 08723

JOE "JOE VEG" LUCCHETTI

MEMORIAL DINNER FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Hosted by Joe & Betty Lucchetti
In Partnership with American Legion Post 86, Sons of American Legion Post 86, and Turner & Turner Foundation

All you can eat SOUTHERN BBQ
Catered by Brick n Brew

TURNER & TURNER FOUNDATION

SATURDAY SEPT 28th 5-9pm

TICKETS: \$50 PER PERSON (includes one at the dinner)
THE BARN AT HILLSIDE PARK, NEWTON, NJ
CONTACT: Nancy Lucchetti, 973.271.8649 or Frank Garcia, 973.903.3631 - text or call either!
Please make checks payable to Newton American Legion Post 86
\$50/\$50 & TRUCKY TRAY
LIVE BAND: No Politics

Menu:
Fresh Fried Chicken - Pulled Pork - BBQ Baked Beans - Mac & Cheese
Coles Slaw - Potato Salad - Fresh Baked Corn Bread
Full Bar (cash) - Soft Drinks - Coffee

A portion of the proceeds of this event will benefit Homeless New Jersey. Homeless veterans. To purchase tickets online, or donate, scan this QR code.

O'Hare Airport, named for a Medal of Honor recipient, and the son of an organized crime figure!

Edward "Butch" O'Hare: The son of an organized crime figure is a World War Two hero and has Chicago airport named for him.

Edward Henry "Butch" O'Hare

It has been said that Easy Eddie (Butch's father) didn't want his son to follow in his criminal activities, believing that his involvement in bringing Capone to justice would ensure his son being accepted to the US Naval Academy.

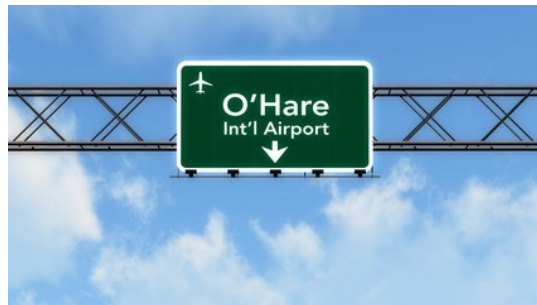
Butch O'Hare graduated from the Western Military Academy in 1932. The following year, he went on to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. After he graduated and was commissioned as an ensign on June 3, 1937, he served two years on the battleship USS *New Mexico*. In 1939, he started flight training at NAS Pensacola in Florida, flying the Naval Aircraft Factory N3N-1 "Yellow Peril" and Stearman NS-1 biplane trainers, and later the advanced SNJ trainer. On the nimble Boeing F4B-4A, he trained in aerobatics as well as aerial gunnery. He also flew the SBU Corsair and the TBD Devastator.

In November 1939, his father was shot and killed, most likely by Al Capone's gunmen. During Capone's tax evasion trial in 1931 and 1932, O'Hare's father had provided incriminating evidence which helped finally put Capone away. There is speculation that this was done to ensure that Butch got into the Naval Academy, or to set a good example; it certainly at least partly involved an attempt to distance himself from Capone's activities. Whatever the motivation, the elder O'Hare was shot and killed while driving his car a week before Capone was released from incarceration.

Son Butch O'Hare later went on to a distinguished flying career. He was cited for downing five Japanese torpedo bombers while low on fuel and ammunition. He returned to his carrier, refueled, and took to the skies once again. He was shot down and his plane and his remains were never recovered.



USS O'Hare



On January 27, 1945, the United States Navy named a Gearing-class destroyer DD/DDR 889 USS O'Hare in his honor. The ship was launched June 22, 1945, with his mother, Selma O'Hare, as the sponsor. *O'Hare* was decommissioned on October 31, 1973, then transferred on loan and later sold to the Spanish Navy. In 1992, the Spanish Navy decommissioned and scrapped the ship.

O'Hare International Airport

Colonel Robert R. McCormick, publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, suggested that the name of Chicago's Orchard Depot Airport be changed as a tribute to O'Hare. On September 19, 1949, the airport was renamed O'Hare International Airport to honor O'Hare's bravery. The airport displays a Grumman F4F-3 like the one flown during the Medal of Honor action.



Medal of Honor Citation

Medal of Honor presentation on April 21, 1942: President Roosevelt, Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy (behind FDR), Admiral Ernest King, Edward O'Hare and his wife Rita

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in aerial combat, at grave risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, as section leader and pilot of Fighting Squadron 3 on February 20, 1942. Having lost the assistance of his teammates, Lieutenant O'Hare interposed his fighter between his ship and an advancing enemy formation of 9 attacking twin-engine heavy bombers. Without hesitation, alone and unaided, he repeatedly attacked this enemy formation, at close range in the face of intense combined machine gun and cannon fire. Despite this concentrated opposition, Lieutenant O'Hare, by his gallant and courageous action, his extremely skilful marksmanship in making the most of every shot of his limited amount of ammunition, shot down 5 enemy bombers and severely damaged a sixth before they reached the bomb release point. As a result of his gallant action—one of the most daring, if not the most daring, single action in the history of combat aviation—he undoubtedly saved his carrier from serious damage.

Navy Cross Citation

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Navy Cross (Posthumously) to Lieutenant Commander Edward Henry "Butch" O'Hare (NSN: 0-78672), United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in operations against the enemy while serving as Pilot of a carrier-based Navy Fighter Plane in Fighting Squadron TWO (VF-2), attached to the U.S.S. ENTERPRISE (CV-6), and deployed over Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands, in action against enemy Japanese forces on 26 November 1943. When warnings were received of the approach of a large force of Japanese torpedo bombers, Lieutenant Commander O'Hare volunteered to lead a fighter section of aircraft from his carrier, the first time such a mission had been attempted at night, in order to intercept the attackers. He fearlessly led his three-plane group into combat against a large formation of hostile aircraft and assisted in shooting down two Japanese airplanes and dispersed the remainder. Lieutenant Commander O'Hare's outstanding courage, daring airmanship and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

"Easy Eddie", the father

Edward Joseph O'Hare (September 5, 1893 – November 8, 1939), a.k.a. "Easy Eddie", was a lawyer in St. Louis and later in Chicago, where he began working with Al Capone, and later helped federal prosecutors convict Capone of tax evasion. In 1939, a week before Capone was released from Alcatraz, O'Hare was shot to death while driving. He was the father of Medal of Honor recipient Butch O'Hare, for whom O'Hare International Airport is named.

E.J. passed the Missouri bar exam in 1923 and joined a law firm. From 1925, O'Hare operated dog tracks in Chicago, Boston, and Miami. O'Hare, as a lawyer, represented the inventor Owen P. Smith, high commissioner of the International Greyhound Racing Association, who patented a mechanical running rabbit for use in dog racing. In 1930, his profitable work for Smith enabled O'Hare's family to move into a brand-new home in Holly Hills.

In Chicago, O'Hare met Al Capone, whose dominant Chicago Outfit ran Chicago rackets and bootlegging during Prohibition. O'Hare and Capone began collaborating in business and law. O'Hare made a second fortune through his ties to Capone.

But in 1930, O'Hare turned against Capone. He asked John Rogers, a reporter for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, to arrange a meeting with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which was trying to convict Capone of tax evasion. Rogers organized a meeting with IRS agent Frank J. Wilson. O'Hare subsequently played a key role in Capone's prosecution and conviction. Agent Wilson was also Chief of the U.S. Secret Service between 1937 and 1946.

It is believed O'Hare directed investigator Wilson to the Capone bookkeeper who became a key witness at the 1931 trial, and also helped break the code used in the ledgers by Capone's bookkeepers. At the start of Capone's trial in the court of Judge James Wilkerson, O'Hare tipped the government that Capone had fixed the jury. Thus alerted, Judge Wilkerson switched juries with another federal trial before the Capone trial began.

Capone was found guilty and sent to prison in 1931.

The elder O'Hare was shot and killed on November 8, 1939, while driving his 1939 Lincoln-Zephyr coupe in Chicago. When he left his office at Sportsman's Park racetrack in Cicero, Illinois, in the afternoon, he was reportedly carrying a cleaned and oiled Spanish-made .32-caliber semi-automatic pistol, something unusual for him.

Two shotgun-wielding gunmen in a dark sedan drove alongside O'Hare as he approached the intersection of Ogden Avenue and Rockwell Street. Both fired a volley of big-game slugs, killing O'Hare instantly at the age of 46. His Lincoln crashed into a roadside post while the killers continued eastbound on Ogden Ave and were lost in traffic. No arrests were ever made.

Read more: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_O%27Hare https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_J._O%27Hare



Upcoming events:

Aug 02: Two-Pound Party, Neptune ALA 346
Aug 03: BBQ for Fallen Heroes and Gold Star Families, Brick Elks 2151
Aug 10: Annual Picnic, Perth Amboy Post 45
Aug 10: Annual Clambake, Keansburg Post 273
Aug 14: Blood Drive, Pine Hill Post 286
Aug 17: 21st Annual Benefit Veterans Picnic, Brick Post 348
Aug 19: Blood Drive, Belleville Post 105
Aug 24: SAL National Children & Youth Academy, New Orleans
Aug 25: Car Show, Metuchen SAL 65 (rain date Sep 01)
Sep 02: Labor Day Picnic and Super 50/50 Drawing, Lakewood SAL 166
Sep 07: Veteran Resource Fair, at Soldier-On, Tinton Falls
Sep 07: Special Needs Kids BBQ, Sponsored by the Legion Family, VFW 8867, Brick
Sep 14: Pig Roast, Wayne Post 174
Sep 14: Clam Bake, Neptune Post 346
Sep 14: Annual Pig Roast, Lawrenceville Post 414
Sep 21: 34th Annual Watchfire, Seaside Heights
Sep 21: Annual Picnic, Belleville Post 105
Sep 21: 1st Annual B-B-Cue "Comepetition", Middlesex SAL 306
Sep 22: Car & Bike Show, Belleville Post 105
Sep 27: South Jersey Stand Down, Cherry Hill Armory
Sep 28: Memorial Dinner for Homeless Veterans, The Barn @ Hillside, Newton Post and SAL 86
Sep 29: "Mootz" Mozzarella Making Class, Westfield Post 3
Oct 26: Comedy Night, Oak Ridge Post 423
More events: <https://www.facebook.com/LegionDeptNJ>



Contributors:

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