



# The New Jersey **SALute**

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

**Volume 61, Issue 2**

**Fall 2024**

Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of New Jersey  
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Trenton NJ 08611

[www.NJSAL.org](http://www.NJSAL.org)

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<b>SAL Committee</b>	<b>Michael Smith</b>



## *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, DEC and Adjutant  
Monmouth County Exec Committee, Editor *SALute*

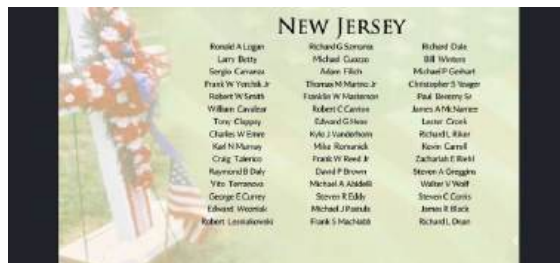
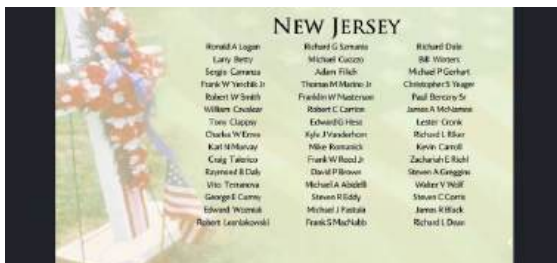
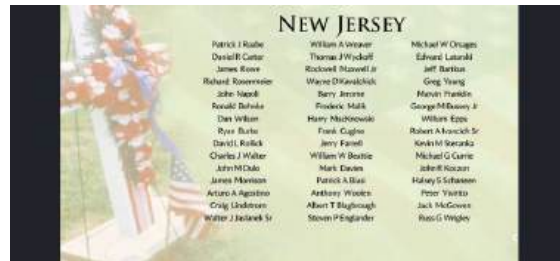
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**The New Jersey Salute for those Passing to Squadron Everlasting**

LtoR: PDC Carl Albern Jr., NEC/PDC Bob Phillips Jr., ANEC/PDC Henry Hasselhan 3<sup>rd</sup>, Henry Hasselhan 4<sup>th</sup>, Camden County Chaplain Marty Widmer, PDC Dave Page, and PNVC/PDC Tom Marsden. Jeff Thorne photo.

**In Memoriam...the 153 Sons New Jersey Lost**





Congratulations to 2024-25 SAL National Commander Joseph Navarrete and National Vice Commanders Robert Manzo of Maryland, John Lawrence of Louisiana, Harl “Butch” Ray of Illinois, Mike Monserud of Iowa and Dan Ashley of Arizona!



Introducing the American Legion 2024-2025 National Leadership Team - **Being The One**. LtoR: Auxiliary President Trish Ward is from Louisburg Kansas Unit 250, Legion Commander James “Jim” LaCoursiere Jr is from Post 91 in Moosup Connecticut, and SAL Commander Joseph Navarrete is from Squadron 72, Albuquerque New Mexico.





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### *Commander's Message:*

*To those who are not aware, **The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New Jersey** hit a milestone. We went over the 10,000 paid Members mark! Great job everyone, let's do it again!*

*We are moving right along with our programs. We are still looking for a few men interested in taking a step forward. We have 2 openings for Detachment Vice Commander.*

*Adjutant Rusty is doing a great job passing on information to the Detachment. Thank you, Rusty.*

*We had an excellent showing for our last meeting.*

*Let's keep it going - that's how we get things done. Keep checking the web site for upcoming events. Thank you all.*

*For God and Country*

*Rich Hodum*

*S.A.L. Detachment Commander*

*702-715-6113*

*[RHodum166@comcast.net](mailto:RHodum166@comcast.net)*

Ever wonder why Veterans day is on the 11th and does not change ? World War I ended on the 11th month on the 11th day on the 11th hour.

Today I saw a man selling poppies stop a lady and asked if he could re-position her poppy. While doing so he told that lady she should wear the poppy on their right side; the red represents the blood of all those who gave their lives, the black represents the mourning of those who didn't have their loved ones return home, and the green leaf represents the grass and crops growing and future prosperity after the war destroyed so much. The leaf should be positioned at 11 o'clock to represent the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the time that World War I formally ended. He was worried that younger generations wouldn't understand this and his generation wouldn't be around for much longer to teach them. We must remember those from our current wars too!

For those that do not know, the eleventh day of the eleventh month is Veterans Day! I copied this from someone else. Please do the same to pass this knowledge on to those who don't know the meaning and who care enough to know. 🇺🇸

**Sons of the American Legion - Detachment of New Jersey- Commander's Project**

*Hello Legion Family:*

*This year's Detachment Commander Rich Hodum has chosen his project to be called The Forgotten Veterans Project.*

*As we know, no Veteran should ever be forgotten and we are taking that on this year.*

*The Detachment of New Jersey is bringing our Project to those who sometimes get overlooked or lost in the shuffle of our busy lives.*

*We, as a Legion Family, do great things day in and day out at all of the large Veterans homes. We will continue to do so, and urge you to continue doing the same.*

*What we are asking you to do is take this challenge on with us and help those Veterans in need outside of those larger Veteran homes.*

*Commander Hodum would like to adopt five local homes. Each of these will represent a District of the Detachment of New Jersey that houses Veterans and is NOT one of the larger funded homes.*

*The Commander's goal is to raise \$25,000 and budget \$5,000 for each of the five chosen homes.*

*We will be doing research to gather information as to what items or activities would best support the Veterans in each of these chosen homes. It can be anything from TVs and exercise equipment to personal items that will bring a better quality of life to our Veterans.*

*You can be part of the selection. If you know of a local facility that houses Veterans and we can help those Veterans out, please send that information to Chairman Nicholas Wingler by email at [Nicholasjwingler@gmail.com](mailto:Nicholasjwingler@gmail.com)*

*We will assess all the information gathered and contact each facility to see how we can best help the Veterans in these homes.*

*Checks can be mailed to me. My contact information is as follows:*

*Nicholas Wingler – 2024-2025 Project Chairman / PDC 2001-02  
19 Edison St., Bayville NJ 08721  
Attention: Commander's Project*

*Please make all checks payable to: Detachment of New Jersey. In the memo line please put "Detachment Commander's Project".*

*National SAL Commander's Visit to New Jersey, 20-21-Sept-2024*



(Top) The NJ Crew poses with SAL National Commander Joseph Navarrete (at center) at Blackwood Post 281 on 20-Sep. (Bottom Left) Here Joe, take this with you. (Center) Son-of-the-Year Bernie Kofoet, Detachment Commander Rich Hodum, and Vice Commander "Murph" enjoy lunch. (Right) PDC Jim Noble and Commander Navarrete flash the **Be The One** sign.



(Left) Commander Navarrete gets instructions on the Nike Missile air defense system at Sandy Hook. (Center) The Commander speaks at visit to Oaklyn Post 84. (Right) National Chaplain/PDC Jeff Hicks, SAL Chairman Tony Gladden, VC Bill Murphy and Commander Rich listen to the National Commander.



*34<sup>th</sup> Annual SAL POW/MIA Watchfire, Sept 21/22-2024, Seaside Heights NJ*



(Center) Some of the attendees. (Right) VC Bill Murphy, PDC and MC Carl Alber, VC Greg Shaffer, and Comdr Rich Hodum discuss the ceremony.



(Left) Lakewood HS ROTC Color Guard opens the ceremony. (Center L) PDC Dave Page lights the fire. (Center R) VC Bill Murphy about to explain the Empty Chair display. (Right) Flags of those still missing, placed in the sand.



(Left) NJ's Legion Family 2024-25 Leadership Team. LtoR: Legion Comdr Andy Jackson, Auxiliary President Charline Gladden, Riders Director Fonnire Regan, and SAL Comdr Rich Hodum. (Center) National SAL Comdr Joseph Navarrete. (Right) National Aux President Trish Ward.



(Left) Riders Director Fonnire Regan and SAL Comdr Rich Hodum display the POW/MIA flag. (Right) VC Bill Murphy, VC Greg Shaffer, PDC Carl Alber, National Comdr Joseph Navarrete, Detachment Comdr Rich Hodum, and Chaplain PDC Matt Thalasinios salute the remembrance service wreaths.



*The official number as of 02 August is 10,024 - that is the greatest amount of Sons New Jersey has ever had!*

**Keep your cards coming in!** Remember it is \$10 per member due the Detachment in the mail, or by a [mylegion.org](https://mylegion.org) submission by your squadron commander or adjutant. The address to mail them to Trenton is:

**The Detachment of New Jersey**

171 Jersey St.  
Bldg #5, 2nd Floor  
Trenton, NJ 08611

As long as your squadron filled out a Squadron Data Report (SDR), your members can also renew online with the QR code below. As a reminder SRD's are due each year by 15 April, and needs to be sent to Detachment and National - [you can link to a fillable SDR here for next year.](#)

*Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage...*







## National Commander Hall proud of the SAL's efforts this year

By SAL National Commander Donald "JR" Hall

AUG 07, 2024

Hello, one more time for this year.

As I write this last message as your SAL National Commander, I can't tell you how proud I am to do this job. I have to thank you for electing me and giving me the opportunity to represent my grandfather's service and the Sons of The American Legion. I have tried to do the best job to represent the Sons in every visit, speech and project I have been a part of.

Over the last couple of years, the organization has been through many changes. One of those changes has been candidates and commanders sharing more information to make sure each of us are better prepared to serve this great organization. Thanks to Past National Commander Michael Fox for sharing everything he could with the candidates coming behind him, then Past National Commander Christopher Carlton for doing the same. I enjoyed working with them both to prepare and also to work with the candidates coming behind me. I know that Joseph Navarrete and Bill Clancy will continue to carry on what we have all been working for. The growth of the organization comes down to the blue cap members believing that the Sons of The American Legion is a great organization that needs to continue to grow and be a major part of the American Legion Family.

Working with all members of the Legion Family is crucial for the growth of the Family. When we all work together to get the word out on any and all of our programs, it will always be more successful. Helping each other grow will make us a bigger Legion Family, and a bigger Legion Family is a stronger Legion Family.

As I prepare to finish up the last month and enjoy the time with all of the Family, I hope you will find that this\* year Family leadership worked well together and cared. Be The One is a mission that should carry on forever; we should always keep up the fight to save every life.

Over the last couple months, seeing the many different youth programs, I have to share that there are many great youth that are willing to keep this a better place in the future. Spending time at Boys Nation and Girls Nation leaves me thinking there is a better tomorrow if we continue to work for it all. We need to continue to teach Americanism 100%.

I could go on forever about what a great year we have had. I hope to celebrate with everyone in New Orleans and kick off another year that will hopefully take us all to higher highs.

We are the Sons, we represent our family!

*Thank you all for a great year,  
"Representing More Than Me"  
Donald "JR" Hall  
SAL National Commander*

*Proclamation Establishing Sept 20 as POW / MIA Day in New Jersey*



U.S. Army Col. Margaret E. Brescio, Chief of Staff, New Jersey Army National Guard; and Esther Chucaralao, Director of Veterans Services, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; read the State of New Jersey Proclamation acknowledging September 20, 2024 as POW/MIA Recognition Day during the New Jersey State Medals Ceremony at the John W. Lupo American Legion Post #306 in Middlesex, New Jersey, Sept. 20, 2024.

*SAL National Commander's Visit to New Jersey, 20-Sep-2024*



(Left) National Commander Joseph Navarrete and Detachment Commander Rich Hodum. (Center) NEC Bob Phillips, Nat Comdr Joseph Navarrete, Detachment Comdr Rich Hodum, and PDC Bob Bascou listen to tour docents. (Right) Battleship New Jersey's POW/MIA Empty Chair, on 20-Sept, Proclaimed POW/MIA Day in New Jersey by Governor Phil Murphy. More pictures on Facebook.

**R.E.D. = RED Fridays - Remember Everyone Deployed**

*National Convention Report by ANEC Henry Hasselhan*

Well, another year has gone by and we elected a New Commander, Joseph Navarrete from New Mexico, and 5 Vice Commanders at National Convention held in New Orleans Louisiana August 23, 2024 to August 25 2024.

The Convention was attended from New Jersey by National Chaplain Jeff Hicks, NEC Bob Phillips, ANEC Henry Hasselhan 3rd, Secretary Tom Marsden, Chairman Keith Barnes. Delegates included Dave Page, Amel Balega, Carl Albern, Matt Thalssinos Bob Bascou, Gary Nelson, Henry Hasselhan 4th, Henry Hasselhan 5<sup>th</sup>, Marty Widmer, Alex and Jacob Marsden. All Delegates attended preconvention meetings for information gathering.

There were many memorable moments on the convention floor.

Henry Hasselhan 5th was recognized twice on stage for CWF, receiving a 5 Diamond Pin for collecting over \$2500.00 for the program. He alone has collected over \$4000.00 for CWF.

Marty Widmer received 2 awards and 2 New Caps and plaques for both the Charles B Rigsby VA&R Volunteer of the Year Award and the Marvin P Nay VE&E Outstanding Contributor Award.

Along with these awards, New Jersey received the following Awards for snapshots of service:

1st Place for National Security: Belleville Squadron 105

2nd Place for Americanism: Hopewell Valley Squadron 339

3rd Place for Children and Youth: Belleville Squadron 105

Videos of Service Award:

1st Place for Community Engagement: Belleville Squadron 105

Congratulations to all who won awards this year. We are representing the Detachment of NJ Well.

Another award was presented at the annual NJ Detachment Convention Dinner to Commander Keith Barnes for Membership reaching 10,000, a goal we have been striving for many years.

3 Children from NJ Delegation attended the Children and Youth Academy and were awarded certificates: Jacob Marsden, Henry Hasselhan 5th and Emma Hasselhan.

Some milestones were reached this year. The all-time Membership high for the SAL over 382,111 as of Aug 1 2024.

This year we cumulatively went over the 10-million-dollar mark for CWF. The CWF committee held a luncheon at the conclusion of Saturdays business session for all to celebrate this accomplishment. On Sunday after Memorial Service and Elections Officers were sworn in a post-Convention NEC meeting. All NEC and ANEC representatives were sworn in and a short NEC reorganization meeting was held with appointments and approval of committees and Chairman of said Committees. A few of the delegation also attended the American Legion portion of the Convention on Thursday to witness the swearing in of PDC Chuck Robbins of NJ Post 351 Seaside Heights as National Vice Commander Northeast.

Henry F Hasselhan III

ANEC, PDC



*Making New Jersey Proud at the National Convention in New Orleans, 24-29 August.*



SAL Marty Widmer (262, Camden County) received the prestigious National Charles B. Rigsby Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VANR) **Volunteer of the Year** Award at National Convention in New Orleans on 24Aug. To say New Jersey is PROUD of one of its Sons is an understatement! Marty has earned this honor recognizing his selfless dedication to our Veterans - congratulations!!



But wait, there's more!

On 24-Aug at the National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion in New Orleans, SAL Marty Widmer (262, Camden County) received the Marvin P. Nay Outstanding Veterans Employment and Education (VEandE) Contributor of the Year. (Including a new cap!)

Great work and congratulations Marty - you've made New Jersey proud this week! Exceptional work!



(Left) Proud mom Shannon Widmer (ALA 284) with her son Marty, Audubon Sq 262.

(Center) At the 52nd National Convention in New Orleans, New Jersey's own Squadron 348 (Brick Twp, Ocean County) was recognized with two awards - the 2024 Children and Youth - Best Squadron Report Award and 2024 Children and Youth - Best Regional Report Award. PDC Keith Barnes and PNVC/PDC Tom Marsden from Brick Sq 348 display the certificates. Congratulations!!

(Right) Mark J Marotta writes: I received an email from the 2024 National SAL Convention. "One of your photos won 2nd place for Americanism in the Snap Shots of Service SAL National Photo contest. Someone from the NJ Detachment has picked up the award plaque. Congratulations!!" Way to go Carson Marotta! Hopewell SAL 33.9



Peter J. DeAngelis said, "I was honored to have met 7 year old Henry Hasselhan from Squadron 311 in Atco, New Jersey who raised over \$4000 for the Child Welfare Foundation". He passed the hat during the convention and raised another \$150+ for CWF! On stage, he was awarded the CWF pin with five diamonds.



*Belleville 105 in the (New Orleans) House!*



Children and Youth – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Belleville Squadron No. 105 - Belleville, New Jersey



National Security - 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Belleville Squadron No. 105 - Belleville, New Jersey



At the **Sons of The American Legion National Convention** this weekend in New Orleans, the Publicity, Media, and Communications Commission (PMCC) announced the 2024 Snapshots of Service and Videos of Service Awards winners, and Squadron 105 Belleville walked away with **three national awards**.....

\***1st Place** in National Security (a photo of **SAL Commander James Elsmore** donating blood)

\***3rd Place** in Children and Youth (young **SAL Jake Myers** saluting at a flag retirement ceremony)

\***1st Place** in Community Engagement for Videos of Service (a News 12 NJ story about ‘Cookies for Vets’)

We’re very proud that we have received national recognition for our efforts on behalf of our Veterans, our kids, and our community. Thanks to **ANEC Henry Hasselhan** for the photos of the awards.

Link to the video from News 12: <https://newjersey.news12.com/jersey-proud-girl-scouts...>



(Left) Massachusetts DEC Bill Murphy, NJ ANEC Henry Hasselhan, and NJ PDC Bob Bascou.

(Right) All those RED shirts shopping at Emblem Sales.





(Left) PDC Bob Bascou, COTA President Rick Lofgren, and DEC Wil Fetherman.  
 (Right) NJ Boys with COTA Award. PDC Dan Dunn, Doug Herrin, Dave Snody, and PDC Bob Bascou.



*The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at over 1.6 million in more than 12,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Latin America and the Philippines.*

*Over the years, the Legion has built its identity by achieving hundreds of benefits and services for veterans, supporting the U.S. Armed Forces and instilling the values of responsible citizenship among young people. From the nation-changing of The American Legion-drafted GI Bill to relief for veterans exposed to toxic contamination in the service, veterans of The American Legion have worked for over a century to improve and strengthen the nation they swore with their lives to defend.*

## ***Camden County Civil War Medal of Honor Veteran Honored, 6-July***

By Marty Widmer, SAL Camden County Chaplain, Audubon SAL 262

Congress introduced the Medal of Honor in 1861 as a way of showing our Nation's gratitude and appreciation for a service member's gallantry during combat. The President of the United States has awarded more than 3,520 Medals of Honor, most posthumously.

To honor the twelve Medal of Honor recipients in Camden County NJ, the American Legion Family, in conjunction with the Camden County Veteran's Affairs Office, began researching the final resting places of these valiant warriors. It was determined that six of the Veterans were laid to rest within Camden County, of which five received a Medal of Honor observance at their grave sites on the National Medal of Honor Day.

The sixth Veteran, Richard Hamilton's grave had been "lost to history." This Civil War hero in the US Navy, serving as a Coal Heaver, served on board the US Picket Boat #1 in action on October 27, 1864, with the mission of sinking the Confederate ironclad Albemarle. While the mission was completed, Hamilton was captured and sent to Salisbury prison for the remainder of the war. Sadly, Hamilton's health was so deteriorated from the Confederate prison, that he died two months after his release in 1865.

Unfortunately, many of our Civil War Veteran's graves are fading, destroyed, or decaying in our cemeteries. The grave markers become unreadable, and paperwork of site locations becomes lost in the void of files.

With the assistance of the Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States, the great-great-great nephew of Richard Hamilton, Eric Umile, spent years validating cemetery plots and military records to find the final resting place of his kin.

Finally, on July 6, 2024, the 143rd anniversary of the death of Richard Hamilton, his family, and the Camden County American Legion Family were able to dedicate a new gravestone and Medal of Honor marker to his memory. Master of Ceremonies, Harry Deaner (Post 262 Audubon, NJ), led this beautiful event with the Color Guard from Post 68, Merchantville, NJ. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Henry Hasselhan IV (Squadron 311, Atco, NJ). Each of the Camden County American Legion Families presented a memorial wreath at the gravesite; Camden County American Legion by County Commander James Logan, Camden County Auxiliary by County President Annette McColley, Camden County Sons of The American Legion by County Commander Charles Ross and County Chaplain Marty Widmer. The Sons of The American Legion, National Headquarters, also presented a memorial wreath by National Chaplain Jeffrey Hicks and New Jersey NEC Robert Phillips.

This somber event brought closure to the family and shed light on the need for care of our Veterans' grave sites. We must honor our Veterans while they are alive, and keep their memory going after they have passed.



(Left) National Chaplain/PDC Jeff Hicks and NEC/PDC Bob Phillips salute MOH Civil War Veteran Richard Hamilton, as Camden County Commander Charles Ross places the wreath. (Center) Henry Hasselhan 5<sup>th</sup> leads the Pledge of Allegiance. (Right) New VA marker for Richard Hamilton.



(Left) Camden County SAL Commander Charles Ross, Camden County SAL Chaplain Marty Widmer, National Chaplain/PDC Jeff Hicks, NEC/PDC Bob Phillips Jr., Camden County ALA President Annette McColley, and Henry Hasselhan 4<sup>th</sup>, Atco SAL 311. (Right) Wreath presented by the SAL.

*Coal heavers were a part of the United States Navy during the Civil War, and some of them received the Medal of Honor for their service. Coal heavers were responsible for climbing into bunkers and shoveling large amounts of coal into boilers to keep steam vessels moving. Their jobs were dangerous, hot, and filthy, with temperatures sometimes reaching over 120 degrees.*



*Detachment Meeting, 3-Aug, at Post 136, Lodi NJ*



(Left) Commander Richard Hodum and his brother Kieth were 17-Oct-1966 Charter Members of Sq 139. (Center) Lodi Mayor Scott Luna and Post 139 Commander Francis “Fran” Carrasco present Rich with copies of the SAL Charter. (Right) Immediate PDC Keith Barnes.



(Left and Center) A nice turnout for the meeting. Post and Aux 136 did a superb job of welcoming us. (Right) Plaque commemorating Rich’s father, a member of Post 136.



(Left) SAL Chairman Tony Gladden and Vice Commanders Bill “Murph” Murphy and Greg Shaffer. (Center) Adjutant Rusty Myers, Judge Advocate/PDC Amel Balega, NEC/PDC Bob Phillips Jr., ANEC/PDC Henry Hasselhan, and Chaplain/PDC Matt Thalasin. (Right) Burlington County Commander Barry Conaway fills in as Sgt-at-Arms and is about to place the cover on the POW/MIA Chair.

Stop by Post 136’s Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/JMLaneUnit136LodiNJ/>



*Carranza Memorial Ceremony, 19-July*

Captain Emilio Carranza Memorial Service

Wharton State Forest, Tabernacle, NJ

Saturday, July 13, 2024

(Pictures that didn't make the deadline of the last issue of the **SALute**)

*Benediction*

O loving Creator, You have shown us that death is but the gateway to a more glorious life, and that we must not fear its coming; and we know that neither life nor death can separate us from Your love. Assure us yet again that Captain Emilio Carranza's departure is not lost to us but sharing new life with You in the kingdom of our Father, where we shall in Your good time be reunited. We know Emilio to be with You forever. In the spirit of Captain Carranza, let us go forth into the world in peace and goodwill, dedicated to Your service, O Lord. Let us hold fast that which is good, render to no man evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the needy and the afflicted, and honor all men and women. Let us love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of His spirit. And may God's blessings be upon each of us here and remain with us, now and forever more. Amen.

~ *SAL National Chaplain, Jeff Hicks PDC (NJ)*



(Left) Ceremony program. (Center) National Chaplain/PDC Jeff Hicks gives the Benediction. (Right) The event is always well-attended, even in the 90+ degree heat.



(Left) The SAL Wreath. (Center) Chaplain Jeff Hicks and NEC/PDC Bob Phillips Jr advance the wreath. (Right) Mount Holly Legion Post 11 members symbolically carry Capt Carranza's body.



*Annual BBQ at Veterans's Haven South. (Pics from 28-July, didn't make deadline for the last issue)*



(Left) Commander Rich Hodum and Dawn Burger bring in the food. (Center) Rich Hodum, Bob Phillips, and Matt Thalasinis. (Right) Chaplain PDC Matt gives the invocation.



(Left) The Main Attraction. (Right) Where are you, Keith?



(Left) Chairman PDC Kent Hehl welcomes the attendees. (Right) The chow line.





From Bernie Kofoet: - This morning (30July), I was honored to speak at the dedication of a Veterans Garden at the Camden County Sustainability Center on the County's Lakeland campus. I spoke about the benefit of gardening for veterans who suffer from PTSD. Another example of the support for the over 20,000 veterans who call Camden County home. Thank you to the Camden County Certified Gardeners for efforts in planning and construction of the Memorial Garden.



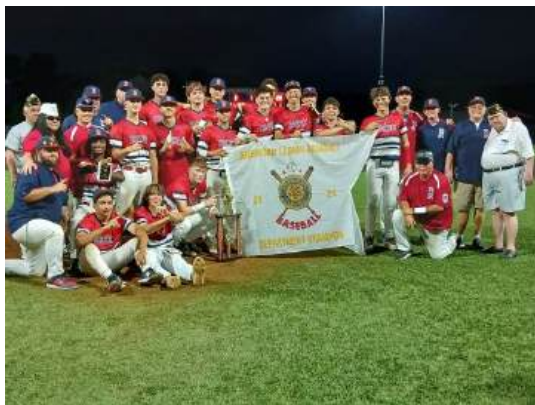
(Left) Squadron 105 was recognized for its efforts at the Detachment Convention in Wildwood for efforts in Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs, and Internal Affairs. The awards were presented to the Squadron at July's meeting.

First place in Internal Affairs donations (money that was raised going back to the home post)

The awards (amongst all of the squadrons in NJ)

- Third place in Americanism Donations
- Third place in Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation donations
- First place in Children and Youth donations
- First place in Children's Organ Transplant Association donations
- Third place in hours spent working for Children's Organ Transplant Association

(Right) Lodi 136's new Facebook cover photo with the Graves Decoration crew for Memorial Day.



(Left) Brooklawn Post 72's American Legion Baseball Team. They are the 2024 Department Champs! They made it to game 8 in the National Competition but lost to NE PA, 20-10. Still, it is great to see a renewed nationwide interest in Legion Baseball! Post 72 has been Dept. AL Baseball Champs for 32 years!

(Right) Florence SAL Sq 194 Installation by National Chaplain / PDC Jeff Hicks.



Squadron 166 provided a color guard for Leisure Park in Lakewood, for their monthly joint birthday party, 1-August.



On 1-August, we celebrated Anthony J. Dixon with our Camden County Gold Star Mothers. Thank you to Commander Charles Ross and President Annette McColley for celebrating this life with us. Thank you Camden County Gold Star/ Blue Star Chair Jane Babli for presenting our Gold Star Mothers with roses and gifts from the Auxiliary.

We were honored to be present when the proclamation was read today.  
We were honored to be part of this annual event celebrating a life cut too short.  
Thank you to everyone that came out to support our Gold Star Mothers.  
Lindenwold Resolution 2024-126 that August 1st be known as Anthony J. Dixon Day!!!







(Left) Township of Southhampton's Summer Concert Series, supporting Central Lodge No. 44, F&AM's sponsorship of feature entertainment, the Tri-County Band! Community involvement in Freemasonry by some of our SAL Members: 3<sup>rd</sup> from left, SAL National Chaplain PDC Jeff Hicks, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right PDC Bob Bascou, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right Burlington County Vice Commander Tom Viscuso.

(Right) (From Mike Pook at Post 375 in Mukwonago WI) Did you know that your blood donations can be recorded onto the monthly reports by the Adjutant? Our American Legion Post 375, hosts a day donation location thru the Red Cross. All members should try to donate blood. You can also make an appointment at the blood center. That way you can come in when it's more convenient for you.



Lt. John Farnkopf American Legion Post 401 attended South Brunswick's National Night out 9-Aug. It is SB's largest community event with over 8,000 in attendance. Thank you Reggie Carlson for Tent/Booth set up.

LtoR: SAL Commander Reggie Carlson, Post Commander Jimmy Chin, Abbey and Grey Aymes.





Belleville SAL 105 once again steps up to help. Carts full of donated supplies. 105 Dual Member Ed Hall and his loaded car.

Very proud that Belleville SAL 105 had the opportunity to help out by donating \$300 to support our NJ National Guard troops abroad.

This was organized by Nutley VFW 493's Maria Hamlin, and along with probably six other VSO's and their auxiliaries we were able to show our support.



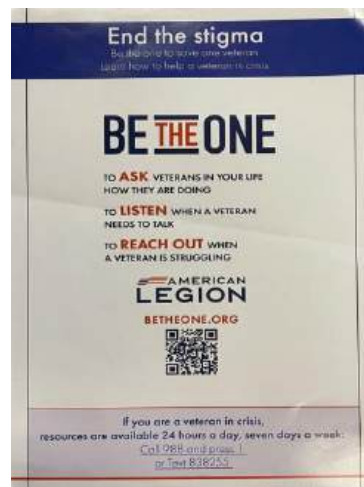
**“NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS  
SERVING OVERSEAS NEED OUR SUPPORT”**

On 8/14/24 - Eight US troops were injured during an attack on a base overseas.  
THE INJURED SOLDIERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE NJ NATIONAL GUARD.

They are our comrades, our neighbors and our friends.

During the attack our troop's care packages and some personal items were destroyed. We are attempting to replace as many items as we can. If you would like to donate, I will be collecting items until 8/18 to be sent to our troops.

Any donation is greatly appreciated. 🇺🇸 - Maria Hamlin, Nutley VFW 493



*SAL Detachment of NJ Children and Youth Commission at Neptune Post 346, 17 August.*

The American Legion Junior Auxiliary Department of New Jersey Committee graciously invited the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New Jersey Children and Youth Commission Chairman to talk to the young Sons at their meeting today.

Rusty Myers had a blast talking with these young men about what the Sons are, what we do, and how they can help out our vets, other kids, and our communities.

Thanks to PDC Ruby Cramer, Juniors Chair, for allowing us to be a part of their meeting, and congratulations to the newly elected ALA Junior honorary officers.



(Left-standing) Detachment Adjutant Rusty Myers with Thomas and Sq 346 Commander Gary Crawford. (Sitting) Jake Myers, Jaxon, Micah, and Hunter, our SAL future!. (Right) Rusty with Ruby Cramer, Jr Aux Chair and Past Dept President 2020.



(Left) Jake Myers shows Hunter and Jaxon some laptop items. (Right) Dept President Charline Gladden (far left) and Jr Aux Chair Ruby Cramer (far right) flank the Jr Aux young ladies. Those sitting are the incoming officers for 2024-25: LtoR President Harminy, Sgt-at-Arms Cassidy, Historian Elizabeth, Chaplain Meliah, and VP Aubrey. Not pictured, Secretary Rosie.



*The Vampires of Belleville 105 . . .*



So here are the Blood Drives since last August by the numbers:

5 blood drives . . .

40,20,30,21,28 units each . . .

139 total pints/units . . .

27.8 units/drive average....

Good job all, especially Vice Commander and Blood Drive Chairman Steve Donald.

NY Blood Center wrote me (Adjutant Rusty) yesterday to let me know the blood I donated went to Overlook Hospital, so you know where your donation goes.

Thanks to all who donate, and we will have more in the future . . .



Neptune 266's tent at Clearwater Festival in Asbury Park on (30-Aug) Saturday and Sunday (31-Aug).





*Leadership Fundraiser at Lakewood Post 166, 1-Sep.*



(Left) Legion Commander Andy Jackson, SAL Commander Rich Hodum, and Auxiliary President Charline Gladden. (Right) Ocean County Commander Frank Landis, Dept. Commander Andy Jackson, Aux President Charline Gladden, SAL Commander Rich Hodum, SAL Ocean County Commander Rocky Lucia, and SAL Chairman Tony Gladden. Also attending were Legion VC Hector Quinones and Legion Historian Dave Snody.



(Left) Thank you again Pequannock American Legion Post #450 and Sons of American Legion Squadron #450 for your generous donation for our Veterans' Wall. We've transformed the right side of the school and what a beauty it is! All with our dedicated team, businesses and our sponsors! Thank you!

(Right) Middlesex SAL Squadron 253's installation on 4-Sep, including the Post's Legion, Aux, and Riders.





Another productive meeting last night (4-Sep) of the Sons of the American Legion Essex County Executive Committee. A reminder that these meetings are held monthly, and are now held each first Tuesday at 7pm at Post 70 Nutley (24 Franklin Ave., Nutley). All of Essex's Sons are welcome - it's a great chance to learn and network. (LtoR) Rick Vlasakakis, Commander Steve Sangemino, and James Elsmore.



Blackwood ALA 281. Thanks to everyone's donations, the backpack project was a success. We donated two filled backpacks for each grade K-5 to Union Valley Elementary, with **Junior Members** Ella, Josh, and Bella providing valuable assistance. Ella selected the backpacks, Josh and Bella shopped for supplies and filled the backpacks, and all three made the delivery to Principal Elwell and staff, who were very grateful.





## The Annual POAC End of Summer BBQ Bash

What can I say. 9 years and you all still show up for the great event. BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came out to volunteer today and all the organizations that made donations to make this event the success it is. We truly are a Legion Family and we can accomplish great things when we all work together. If you need proof that what we do makes a difference look at the pics attached see the smiles on all the kids faces. Nearly 500 attendees this year and 40 volunteers. (Chairman PDC Nick Wingler 7-Sep-2024)



The Legion Family Crew. Chmn Nick Wingler and son Kieran. Legion Comdr Andy Jackson, Aux Pres Charline Gladden, SAL Comdr Rich Hodum, and Legion National VC Chuck Robbins.



Awww. Ocean County Comdr Rocky Lucia and Elmo share a moment. Mickey, Minnie, Sonic, and Elmo entertain the kids. Bounce houses, rides, games, food for all to enjoy.





*Brick SAL 348's Annual Pig Roast*



Guests of honor cooking on a beautiful day for a pig roast.



(L) Rusty Myers, Vinnie Ferriole, and James Elmore from Belleville 105 dropped by. (R) As always, a big turnout for Brick SAL 348's annual event.

*A Visit to Spotswood 253:*



(Left) LtoR: ANEC Gene O'Grady, PDC Danny Dunn, Legion Commander Andy Jackson, Auxiliary President Charline Gladden, SAL Commander Rich Hodum, ALR Director Fonnle Regan, and Ocean County Commander Frank Landis.

(Right) Al Galasso MCs the ceremony as Commander Jackson holds a check from the SAL Sq 253 for \$2500 toward his Commander's Fund, President Gladden holds checks for \$500 from the Riders Chapter 253 to the Auxiliary and a \$1000 check from the Riders 253 toward the Commander's Project, and Commander Hodum holds a check for \$2500 from SAL 253 toward his Commander's Fund. Thank you Spotswood 253 Family for your generosity!





Rochelle Park Legion Family 170 September 11 ceremony.



(Left) PDC Danny Dunn looks on as Al Galasso installs Metuchen Riders Chapter 65 Officers for 2024-2025 on 11-Sept. (Right) ANEC/PDC Henry Hasselhan visits Savannah GA Post 135, birthplace of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force.

*Wayne 174 Pig Roast*



14-Sept Pig Roast at Wayne Post 174. (Left) Some of the crew and a few guys from 105 who wandered in. (Center) Soup's on! (Right) And a gift auction. (More photos on SAL 105's Facebook Page.)



*Neptune 346's Sept 11 and POW/MIA Remembrance Clam Bake, 14-Sept.*



On 14Sep, Neptune Post 346 held its Clam Bake. Beautiful weather, good turnout, and great food. It was also a day that commemorated Sept 11 and POW/MIAs with a dual ceremony. (Above Left) Bugler SAL PDC Carl Alberm Jr., Post 346 Commander and Monmouth County DEC Wil Fetherman, Post 346 2<sup>nd</sup> VC Heath Bertini, PDVP MC Boyle, and SAL Squadron 346 Commander Gary Crawford with the POW/MIA Empty Chair. (Above Right) Gary Crawford gives the September 11th remembrance ceremony. (Lower Left) Navy Vets and Dual Members Wil Fetherman and Bud Magathan enjoy the day. Many volunteers made for light work, including members of the Leathernecks Motorcycle Club (Marine Corps Veterans) (Lower Right). Thanks to everyone who attended.

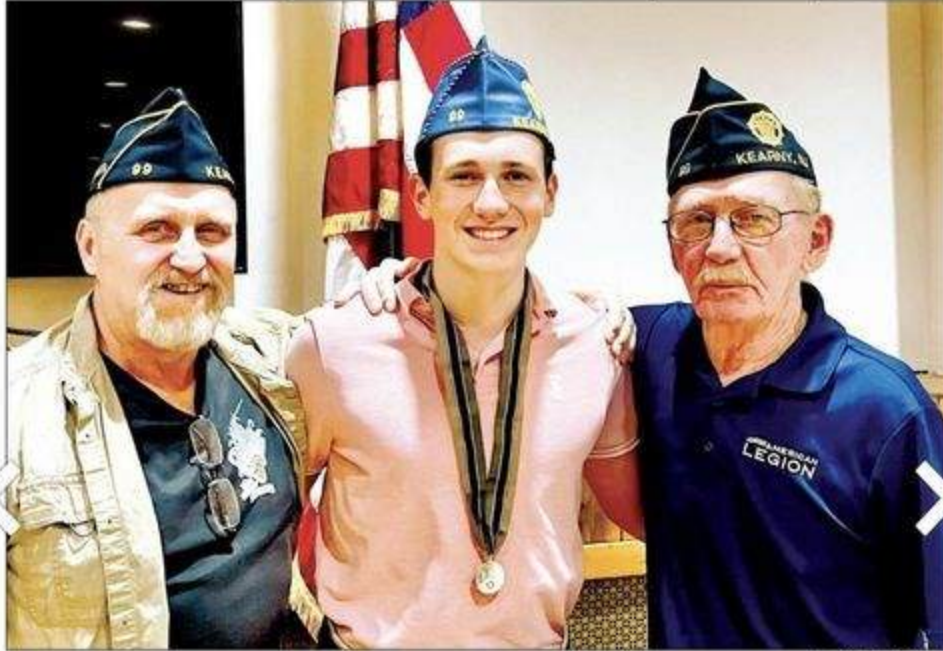
*Belleville 105's Annual Picnic 21-Sept:*



Probably the largest turnout for an event so far, Belleville Post Family 105 served up their annual picnic. Pictured are some of the crowd, the POW/MIA Empty Chair, and a tribute to those thirteen lost in Afghanistan. The next day SAL 105 held their car show, promising more events to come.



### Before climbing Kilimanjaro, he completed Boys State



Contributed photo

We recently brought you the story of Dylan Sullivan, 17, of Kearny, who as an incoming St. Peter's Prep senior climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro this summer. Before that, he attended and completed Boys State where he was elected to several positions while there. Here, he's seen with Kearny American Legion's Keith McMillan and Leonard Twist. The Legion honored Sullivan last week at a meeting.

28-Aug newspaper clip of Kearny SAL 99 Dylan Sullivan. Congrats Dylan!

Sullivan is a 17-year-old rising senior at St. Peter's Prep in downtown Jersey City. And before we get to his epic journey, perhaps you've already either read about him in The Observer or heard us speak of him in a multitude of episodes of The Observer Live!

That's because before he was off to Africa, Sullivan completed his Eagle Scout Project last year and was honored by the Mayor and Council in North Arlington. He's a full **Son of the American Legion** of Kearny Post 99. He completed Boys State. He attends Kearny Council meetings. He's been to the Veterans Day celebration in town. He was on hand when a veteran who died without family was finally laid to rest. He is well involved in co-curricula at Prep. And these are just a handful of things he's already accomplished.

Read the whole story at: <https://www.theobserver.com/2024/08/21/to-the-mountain-top-2/>



## USS New Jersey Arrives in Middletown

(By Brianna Kudisch | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com)

The U.S. Navy's newest attack submarine, which is named after New Jersey, officially arrived in Middletown Friday (6-Sep), the township's mayor said.

The **USS New Jersey** passed Sandy Hook and docked at the bay side of Naval Weapons Station Earle in Middletown on Friday, said Middletown Mayor Tony Perry in a Facebook post.

"Middletown is honored to host the commissioning ceremony of the USS New Jersey," Perry said in a statement to NJ Advance Media




Perry was among onlookers watching the submarine's arrival from the beach.

"As one of America's oldest towns, we have witnessed so much history and to be able to host the officers, crew and families as well as the thousands of veterans and people from across the State and nation, we are marking another incredible moment in Middletown's and Naval history," he said.

The submarine was to be commissioned Sept. 14, according to the USS New Jersey Commissioning Committee's [website](#). The commissioning officially brings the submarine into the naval fleet, said Perry.


↑

Your donations to the Child Welfare Foundation give youth-serving organizations across the nation the means to support the needs of children



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Made with Your Donations

**CWF Donation Facts**

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Amount/Service	What It Cost	Benefit from Donation	% Daily Value
Generating Awareness	100%		
Enhancing Children's Lives	100%		
Assisting Military Children	100%		
Supporting The American Legion	100%		
Making a Difference for Kids	100%		

**NO EXPIRATION DATE**

**INGREDIENTS:** Established in 1954, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country.

- Millions of dollars in grants awarded
- Improving the quality of life for children
- Contributing to the needs of children and youth
- Making a difference one donation at a time

For more information, visit us online at [www.legion.org/childwelfare](http://www.legion.org/childwelfare)

STAKEHOLDERS GROUP



## Suicide Awareness Seminar




Wednesday, October 16th 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Presentations by Community Leaders and the VA Suicide Community Engagement Team

Calling all of our Veterans and Community Veteran Service Providers!  
Join Us to learn about community resources available to our veterans in crisis.

NJRC Training Center, 195 Campus Dr., Kearny, NJ 07032

## ***Did any of the 7th Cavalry horses of Custer's troops survive the Battle of The Little Bighorn?***

By R J Holland, reprinted from *Quorum*, 1Aug2024

One horse was found alive on the battlefield, Comanche, Captain Myles Keough's mount. During the battle, Comanche suffered at least seven wounds, three of which were severe. It's been said another cavalry horse was also found alive. Many were killed and roughly 129 were captured and taken away, some up to Canada to be sold. It has been said that Custer's horse, a sorrel named Vic, was brought up North to Canada and sold. Comanche was probably left because he was wounded so badly.

After the battle, 39 cavalry horses that had been shot for breastworks during Custer's Last Stand, were found among the dead on Last Stand Hill. In 1879, a temporary cordwood monument was erected by the Army on the crest of the hill. The area, strewn with cavalry horse skeletons, was policed and the remains of the horses placed inside the cordwood monument. In July 1881, Lt. Charles F. Roe and a detail from the Second Cavalry replaced the temporary monument with the present granite monument and interred the Seventh Cavalry casualties around the base. The 2nd Cavalrymen in fond reverence for the horses, re-interred them here, after the monument was erected, and lined the horse cemetery with cordwood from the original monument.

A shoulder bone and rib bones were found. After thorough documentation, mapping, and photography, the horse cemetery (which was left in place for future reference) was covered with protective plastic sheeting and the site restored with backfill. On April 9, 1941, maintenance workers discovered a horse cemetery here while digging a trench for a water reservoir drainage pipe. Among the artifacts recovered were partial human remains, cavalry boots, bullet-pierced hardtack cracker tins, and approximately 10 horse skeletons. Further excavations were delayed until July 1946 when Lt. Col. Elwood L. Nye, U.S. Army Veterinarian continued the excavation work. Unfortunately, his report has not been located, nor what became of the horses uncovered.

In February 2002, the site was examined using ground penetrating radar, revealing soil anomalies in the area. National Park Service archeologists excavated the cemetery April 29 to May 1, 2002. Horse skeletal remains were found in two six-foot square areas just northeast of the Seventh Cavalry Monument. The remains included a vertebra, leg bones,

Below, Comanche with the soldier who looked after him, Gustave Korn. Korn would later be killed at Wounded Knee and when he did not return to look after Comanche, it is said the horse lost his will to live. Comanche died in 1891 at the age of 29, 15 years after the battle of the Little Big Horn. Comanche was then taken to a taxidermist and stuffed. He still stands today at the Kansas University Museum.



Comanche with Gustave Korn.



Cemetery marker.



Upcoming Statewide Dept of Military and Veteran Affairs Veteran-related events: <https://dmava.org/events/>  
NJ American Legion's Facebook Page with upcoming events: <https://www.facebook.com/LegionDeptNJ>

### *Upcoming Events:*

Every Wednesday: Bingo, Wildwood Post 184  
Every Sunday: NFL Games at Noon, Bridgewater Post 327  
Ongoing: Coin Sales Fundraiser, Chester Post 342  
Sep 26: AL, SAL, and ALA Installation, Wharton Post 91  
Sep 27: Pig Roast, Keansburg Post 273  
Sep 27: Two-Pound Party, Pine Hill ALA 286  
Sep 28: Shuffleboard Tournament, Wharton Post 91  
Sep 28: "Weed Hopper" Benefit BBQ Party, Colonia Post 248  
Sep 28: The Great Audubon Flea Market, Audubon Post 262  
Sep 29: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cornhole Tournament, Brick Post 348  
Oct 05: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hog Fest and Motorcycle Rodeo, Blackwood Riders 281  
Oct 05: Veterans Dinner and Game Night, Cherry Hill Post 372  
Oct 05: Veterans Honored at Pequannock Twp HS vs Hanover Park football game  
Oct 06: Every Other Sunday Breakfast, Little Egg Harbor Post 493  
Oct 12: Oktoberfest Dinner Dance, Branchville Post 157  
Oct 12: Italian Dinner, Barnegat SAL 232  
Oct 12: Veterans Night Fundraiser, Chester Post 342  
Oct 12: Wreath Laying Ceremony, Chester War Memorial 6:30 pm  
Oct 12: Navy Birthday w/ Corned Beef Sandwiches, Neptune SAL 346  
Oct 12: Northern NJ Stand Down, JFK Recreation Center, Newark  
Oct 13: Trunk or Treat, Burlington ALA 336  
Oct 13: Smoke & HogFest, Little Egg Harbor Riders 493  
Oct 16: Suicide Awareness Seminar, NJRC Training Center, Kearny  
Oct 19: Beef & Beer Costume Parrty, Magnolia Community Center, AL Camden County  
Oct 19: Comedy Live Show, Metuchen Riders 65  
Oct 19: Brewery Ruck March Fundraiser, Audubon Post 262  
Oct 19: Halloween Party, Little Ferry Post 310  
Oct 19: Live Music and Costume Party, Bridgewater Post 327  
Oct 19: Leathernecks MC BBQ, Neptune Post 346  
Oct 20: Breakfast Buffet, Somerville Post 12  
Oct 20: Every Other Sunday Breakfast, Little Egg Harbor Post 493  
Oct 22: Breakfast, Chester Post 342  
Oct 25: Junior Aux & SAL Halloween Jam, Somerville Post 12  
Oct 27: Main St Donuts, Cider & Donuts Run for Veterans, Belmar Boardwalk  
Oct 27: Catskills Casino Bus Trip, Wharton SAL 91  
Oct 29: Dept President Charline Gladden's Visit to Ocean County, Toms River Post 129  
Nov 02: Sayreville Post 62 Testimonial Dinner, KofC Hall Sayreville  
Nov 10: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Veterans Memorial Park Celebration, Neptune  
Nov 10: Veterans Day 5K, Audubon Post 262  
Nov 10: Friendsgiving Dinner, Saddle Brook Post 415  
Dec 14: National Wreaths Across American Day



## *Support Your Local Legion Post, S.A.L., Auxiliary, and Riders*

### *Contributors:*

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Detachment Adjutant Russell Myers, Belleville SAL 105 (Essex)  
Detachment Chaplain/PDC Matthew Thalasinis, Barnegat SAL 232 (Ocean)  
Detachment Vice Commander Gregory Shaffer, Wayne SAL 174 (Passaic)

ANEC/PDC Henry Hasselhan, Atco SAL 311  
DEC James Elsmore, Essex Co SAL  
National Chaplain/PDC Jeff Hicks, Southampton SAL 526  
PDC Nicholas Wingler, Lakewood SAL 166  
PDC Carl W. Albern Jr., Neptune SAL 346  
PDC Patrick Gallagher, Neptune SAL 346  
Bernie Kofoet, Oaklyn SAL 84  
Martin Widmer, Audubon SAL 262  
Tara Adair, Somerville ALA 12  
Dawn Vaccaro Burger Lakewood ALA 166  
ShannonLee Widmer, Pine Hill ALA 286  
PUP Marcia Magathan, Neptune ALA 346  
Sayde Izquierdo, Neptune ALA 346  
Lakewood SAL Sq 166  
NJ Dept of Military & Veterans Affairs

Florence SAL 194  
Pequanock Post & SAL 450  
Brooklawn Post 72 Baseball  
Blackwood ALA 281  
Comdr Mark J Marotta, Hopewell Post 339  
American Legion Dept of NJ  
Ocean County American Legion  
[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)  
[www.njamericanlegion.org](http://www.njamericanlegion.org)  
Mike Pook, Mukwonago WI Post 375  
Rick Lofgren, President COTA  
Jeff Thorne Photography  
USS New Jersey Submarine Commission  
NJ Advance Media / NJ.com

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Send articles and (jpg and png) photos to [njSALute@gmail.com](mailto:njSALute@gmail.com)



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