



# The New Jersey **SALute**

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

**Volume 61, Issue 4**

**February 2025**

**Be The One**

Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of New Jersey  
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<b>Vice Commander</b>	<b>(vacant)</b>
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<b>SAL Committee</b>	<b>Michael Smith</b>



*NEVER FORGET OUR POW/MIAs  
Remember Everyone Deployed (RED)*

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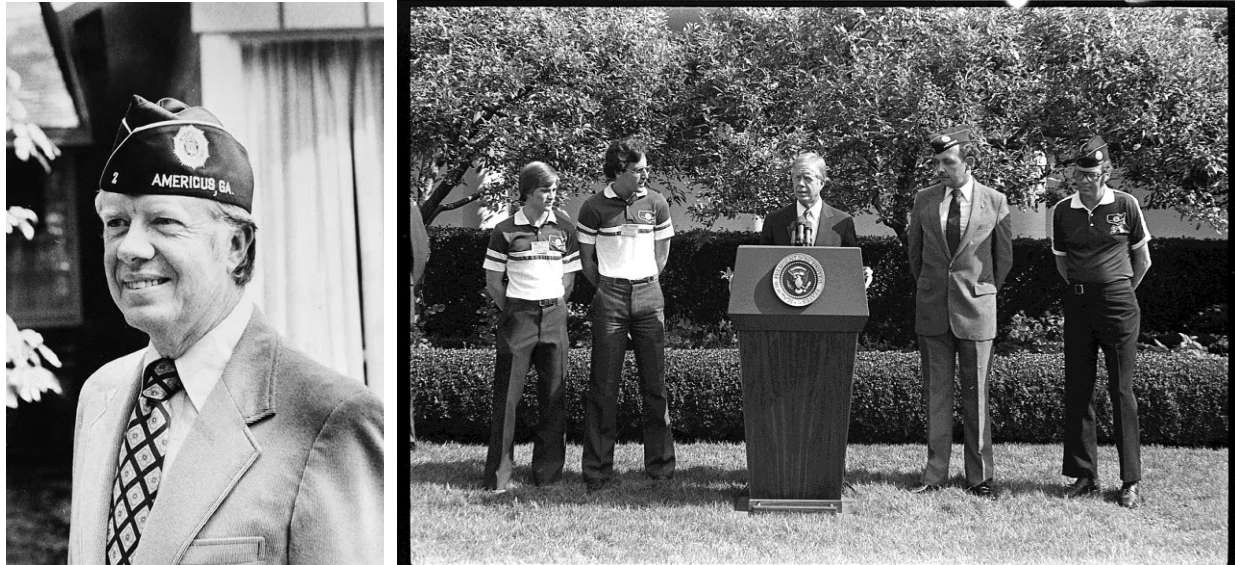
**You're Never Alone – Call 9-8-8 - Option 1**

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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## *Rest in Peace, Mr. Carter*



*From Americus GA Post 2's Facebook page:*

American Legion National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., issued the following statement today (30Dec2024) concerning the passing of former President Jimmy Carter:

"President Carter was a Legionnaire, a distinguished Navy veteran and a devout Christian. His commitment to human rights and community service was respected worldwide. He lived longer than any president in American history and made the most of his post-presidential years by strongly advocating for world peace and improving the lives of the disadvantaged. His energy, integrity and humility were admired by people across the political spectrum. President Carter's wife, Rosalynn, was a leader in mental health awareness. They will both be missed. Our condolences to the entire Carter family and the many lives that they have touched, especially in their home state of Georgia."

During an address to The American Legion's 1980 national convention, President Carter described his vision for America on the world stage. "We do not maintain our power in order to seize power from others. Our goal is to strengthen our own freedom and the freedom of others, to advance the dignity of the individual and the right of all people to justice, to a good life, and to a future secure from tyranny. In choosing our course in the world, America's strength serves American values," he said.

Jimmy Carter's American Legion Post 2, Americus GA:  
<https://centennial.legion.org/georgia/post2?p=about>

## ***Squadron Everlasting***



James Noble PNVC - PDC - PNC with PNC Donald "JR" Hall Jr.

Saying goodbye is never easy. **Jim Noble** you were a man that defined caring volunteer, and brother. We lost a great Son today, you will never be replaced, but you will be remembered forever.  
Don Hall Jr., PNC

## **James Noble Obituary**

James A. Noble of Camden Wyoming, DE, suddenly passed at 66 years of age on Saturday, February 8, 2025.

Jim served as a Corrections Officer for Hudson County when he lived in New Jersey. When he retired as an Armed Security Officer, he and Debbie moved to Delaware where he found his true calling through his service and brotherhood with the Camden Wyoming Fire Company. He loved every minute of the time he lived in Delaware and touched so many lives during his time here.

Jim was a proud member of the Camden Wyoming Fire Company where he served as a Delaware State Fire Police Officer, Company Vice President, Company Chaplain, and member of the Board of Directors. He was also a proud member of the Delaware State Fire Police Association and Kent County Fire Police Association.

He was active in Masonry. Jim was a Distinguished White Apron Masonic Brother of Peninsula Lodge 99 (Bayonne NJ) and a member of Union Lodge # 7 (Camden Wyoming).

Jim was a 32nd degree Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret.

He also was a member of Nur Shrine (Delaware) and former member of Salaam Shrine.

Jim was a member of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Northern New Jersey and Past Chieftain of the Knights of St Andrews.

He was a Charter Life member of Sons of the American Legion, Bayonne (NJ) Squadron 19, Jim held many offices and was Past Squadron Commander, Past County Commander, Past Detachment Commander, Past National Vice Commander and Past National Chaplain. He was also the Past Director of the American Legion Riders of Bayonne Post 19.

Jim was an Ex-Chief and along with his wife Debbie, was one of the Founding Members of the Bayonne Fire Canteen, a volunteer rehab group serving the Bayonne Fire Department and surrounding departments.

He was Past President of the Knights of Fire Motorcycle Club. Jim also belonged to the Red Knights in Delaware.

Jim was a huge fan of the Dallas Cowboys and was known for always having a bottle of Diet Coke in hand! He also loved antique cars and enjoyed attending local car shows.

Jim lived his life in service to his community, his family, his friends and anyone in need.

He is predeceased by his mother Gertrude (Noble) Arbucci and father Emil Segond.

Jim is survived by his wife of 34 years Debbie Noble, who Jim lovingly called Chipmunk, brother-in-law of Janet (Paul) Edinger; Tom (Judy) Young, Anthony Newman and Melissa Newman, cousin to John (Sharon) Botteri, uncle to nephews Robert Young, Michael Masucci, George Edinger and David Edinger and nieces Olivia Edinger and Ashleigh Newman. Also he leaves behind his beloved dogs, Dallas and Bella and cats Puss and Jade.

Funeral service was at 12:00 noon, Saturday, February 15, 2025 at Calvary Church, 1141 E. Lebanon Road, Dover, Delaware, where a visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The family is requesting in lieu of flowers, Jim's memory be honored by a making a donation to the Camden-Wyoming Fire Company, 200 East Camden-Wyoming Ave., Camden DE 19934 or via Paypal to [Paypal@cwfc41.com](mailto:Paypal@cwfc41.com) (Obituary courtesy of the Pippin Funeral Home, Wyoming DE)

*Commander Hodum would like to express his thanks to everyone from the Detachment and the NJ Legion Family who attended the funeral services for PNVC Jim Noble on Saturday, 15-Feb in Delaware.*



**Editor's Note:** The community holiday spirit was alive and well this Christmas season in our Detachment. Santa was very busy so he recruited his brothers to lend a hand with all the visits that needed to be handled. Claus siblings Henry, Kent, Richard, and a few others who wish to remain anonymous did a great job. For those who have never donned "The Suit", as I have, you can never truly know the rush you get from being "Him". Something about those kids that can't be explained. Thank you to our Brothers-in-Red for your help. You know who you are. (As a bonus, remember to add your hours to your CSR!)

An ongoing annual project of the New Jersey American Legion Family is to decorate the graves of Veterans in time for Memorial Day. This year, in the spirit of the **Flying Flags for Veterans** program, we ask that Posts, SAL, Units, and Riders keep a count of flags placed on graves. The flags usually come wrapped in bundles of twelve, in boxes of either one or two gross, so keeping count will be simple. Please keep track of the names of the cemeteries where flags were placed, and any additional help from groups such as ROTC, MAST, Boy and Girl Scouts, church groups, fraternal groups, and other Veterans Service Organizations that might be involved. When the job is done, please forward this information to [njSALute@gmail.com](mailto:njSALute@gmail.com) to be included in a detailed report that will be submitted to media outlets.

A little history of **Flying Flags for Heroes**: In April of 2020, Sons of The American Legion Past National Commander Michael Fox, realized that our nation's heroes of the past don't get enough respect for their sacrifices, especially those laid to rest in local cemeteries. Michael joined forces with Preston Sharp and **Flying Flags for Heroes** was born. The challenge was to place a million flags throughout the US. The result was 1.6 million! **Flying Flags for Heroes** didn't end in 2020.

The Sons of the American Legion National Americanism Commission adopted ongoing support of **Flying Flags for Heroes** as an official program via S.A.L. Resolution X in the Spring of 2022. It is the goal of the Sons of The American Legion for the **Flying Flags for Heroes** program to help inspire true patriotism within our communities and help promote national pride in our country, its ensign, its military, and Veterans throughout the entire Legion Family.

One of the important things the American Legion supports is the repatriation of POWs, MIAs, and KIAs. The annual **Watchfire** in Seaside Heights is based on this. But have you ever wondered about the process? How it's done? Where do you even start to look for our missing? There's a book I read recently that explains the process, all the way back to the Civil War. It's called "Soldier Dead – How We Recover, Identify, Bury, & Honor Our Military Fallen" by Michael Sledge. Maybe a little drawn out in spots, but it explains in detail how this is accomplished. It isn't a pleasant subject, but it is fascinating nonetheless. I recommend it. It's available on Amazon, among other book sources – in hardcover, paperback, and Kindle: <https://www.amazon.com/Soldier-Dead-Recover-Identify-Military/dp/0231135157>

*Vigil strange I kept on the field one night –*

*My comrade I wrapt in his blanket, Envelop'd well his form,  
Folded the blanket well, tucking it, carefully over head & carefully over feet,  
I rose from the chill ground and folded, my soldier well in his blanket,  
And buried him where he fell.*

Poet Walt Whitman, after a battle of the Civil War:



**106<sup>th</sup>  
AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
&**

**BE THE ONE**

**TRAINING SEMINAR  
SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025**

**LOCATION #1**

**TIME: 8:00am – 9:00am (Continental Breakfast)**

**9:00am – 11:00am (Birthday Celebration/"BE-THE-ONE" Training)**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST #346 NEPTUNE**

**21 GULLY ROAD**

**NEPTUNE, NJ 07753**

**LOCATION #2**

**TIME: 1:00pm – 4:00pm (Birthday Celebration/"BE-THE-ONE" Training)**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST #5 RAHWAY**

**581 MAPLE AVENUE**

**RAHWAY, NJ 07065**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Department Commander Andy Jackson**

**NEC Berley Hanna Jr.**

**National Vice Commander Chuck Robbins**

**Columbia University Directors**

**Wendy Lasko- Military & Veterans Initiatives**

**Dr. Adam Walsh – Research and Outcome.**

BE-THE-ONE Training to be conducted by the Columbia University Lighthouse Project  
(No cost to attend-open to entire American Legion Family 1<sup>st</sup> Responders and Veterans Service Organizations)  
(Dress-Business Casual/Legion Cap)

**\*All attending must Register by March 7, 2025!!!**

Go to <https://bit.ly/NJAL-Events-Registration> or scan QR Code and select session



**SONS Come and Learn how to BE THE ONE!**

**BE-THE-ONE Training to be conducted by the Columbia University Lighthouse Project  
(No cost to attend-open to entire American Legion Family 1st Responders and Veterans Service  
Organizations)**

We have joined forces with Columbia University who has helped the American Legion develop a training session for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with Veterans who may be in crisis. Expert Educators from Columbia University will be on hand this day at both locations to offer this valuable training. (Wendy Lakso- Director/Partnerships Military and Veterans Initiatives and Dr. Adam Walsh- Director/ Research and Outcomes Columbia Lighthouse Project.

*Commander Richard Hodum's Ocean County Homecoming:*



Ocean County welcomed Detachment Commander Rich Hodum home to The Great County of Ocean on 19-Feb at Toms River Post 129. We showed up once again, donating a total of \$3,100 to his **Forgotten Heroes Project**. Great job Ocean County!

*Thank you to everyone who has donated to my Commander's Project. As you know, I intend to raise \$25,000 toward my project of **The Forgotten Veterans Project**.*

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

*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.*

*We 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.*

*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 (2024-2025 Project Chairman/PDC 2001-02) by email at [Nicholasjwingler@gmail.com](mailto:Nicholasjwingler@gmail.com) and by sending checks to Nick at 19 Edison St., Bayville NJ 08721, Attn: Commander's Project.*

*Detachment Commander Rich Hodum*

*At the Westfield Martin-Wahlberg American Legion Post #3 Affordable/at Risk Housing Groundbreaking today (14Jan2025)*



(Left) Dept Commander Andy Jackson addresses the assembly. (Right) Clark Post 328 Service Officer Chris Sands speaks at Veterans Affordable / At Risk Housing groundbreaking at Westfield Post 3.

### **From The American Legion Department of New Jersey**

#### **Support for Homeless Veterans**

The American Legion provides free guidance for veterans in need.

The American Legion places special priority on the issue of veteran homelessness. With veterans making up approximately 11 percent of our nation's total adult homeless population, there's plenty of reason to give the cause special concern.

To help our struggling brothers-in-arms, the Legion works on a global level, lobbying for legislation affecting veteran homelessness, and acts on a local level, directly assisting veterans who have fallen on tough times and are without a place to live or facing the prospect of it.

This direct assistance is coordinated by the Legion's Homeless Veterans Task Force, which works to ensure local services and resources are available to homeless veterans and their families. The Task Force, which has chairpersons in each department, collaborates with government agencies, homeless service providers and veterans service organizations to develop and implement initiatives that will help homeless veterans.

Additionally, Homeless Veterans Task Force chairpersons can provide direct aid to veterans and their families who reach out to them. A veteran who is homeless or facing possible homelessness can contact a chairperson, who will provide guidance and assistance to the veteran and his or her family.

Contact Chairman Dennis Duddie [d.duddie@njamericanlegion.org](mailto:d.duddie@njamericanlegion.org) for more information.

The NJVAA (New Jersey Veterans Assistance Association) is proud to support The American Legion, The Foundation for Sustainable Veteran Housing, and REDCOM Design & Construction, in partnership for a groundbreaking ceremony on a facility for at risk and low income veterans in Westfield.

Speakers included Shelley Brindle, Mayor of Westfield; Charles "Andy" Jackson, NJ Department Commander of The American Legion, as well as leadership from The American Legion Department of New Jersey Committee Chairman on Affordable Housing for Homeless and At-Risk Veterans, the Executive Director of the Foundation For Sustainable Veteran Housing, and leadership from REDCOM Design & Construction.

This building will house twenty-two at risk and homeless veterans. These facilities will be a new home for veterans complete with amenities, career services, mental health programs, and more to help at risk veterans sustain a more stable living situation.





Left: SAL national Commander Joseph Navarrete, National Auxiliary President Trish Ward, and Legion National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr. at the Inauguration and Salute to Heroes Ball.

A fantastic evening celebrating the Inauguration of a new President and our military heroes. The American Legion Auxiliary was honored to have Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Bob Patterson and his lovely wife at our table. 22 Medal of Honor recipients were recognized at The American Legion's Salute to Heroes Ball. Commanders LaCoursiere and Navarrete looked so handsome in their evening finery. A night I will never forget. – Trish Ward

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Highlights of the DEC/Detachment Meeting held 18-Jan at Spotswood Post 253

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost253Spotswood/>

Reminder: *ALL SAL Members in good standing* are invited to attend these meetings. Come see what your organization is up to on a state level.

Cemetery cleanup in Wall Twp. will begin when the weather clears for WW1 KIA Stephen White.

Wreath placings in Washington DC are coming up with NJ Department Commander Andy Jackson. The national wreath laying is on 23-Feb. The NJ wreath laying is on 24-Feb.

Seventeen California SAL Members in California have lost everything in the recent fires.

NEC Bob Phillips (262) said forms are available at [mylegion.org/sons](http://mylegion.org/sons) for *SAL Volunteer of the Year*.

NJ Membership stands at 60% as of 15-Jan, the next target is 75% by 12-Feb.

There was a discussion of raising \$1 per Member for National candidate funding.

A Detachment dues increase will be coming along soon, raised by \$3 per member to cover rising expenses, to take effect after convention in 2026.

A gift auction fundraiser for the Detachment Commander Hodum's Project will take place at New Egypt Post 455 on 22-Feb.

NEF (National Emergency Fund) funds are desperately needed. Help is being extended to the Tennessee and North Carolina Legion Families after hurricanes Helene and Milton, and now assistance is needed in California. The Auxiliary also maintains an emergency fund as well. NEF Chair Dean Staknys (348) has collected over \$1800 from Ocean County, Sq 372, and general donations since May 2024 for NEF, including \$153 collected at the last meeting.

Help is needed at the Watchfire in Seaside Heights on the third Saturday and Sunday 20-21-Sep, both financial and volunteer workers.

A CWF fundraiser will be held at Brick Post 348 on 11-Apr. The name of the organization has been changed from *Children's Welfare Fund* to the *Children's Well-Being Fund*.

COTA (Children's Organ Transplant Association) Chair Greg Shaffer (174) reported \$1386 in donations. PDC Carl Albern (346) made \$1 egg nog Jello shots for Neptune Post 346's annual Egg Nog Sunday and raised an additional \$45 for COTA.

PDC Nick Wingler (166) reported on the upcoming Special Olympics / Polar Bear Plunge on 22-Feb. He wants to raise \$2500 from the Legion Family toward the event in which he will join in the plunge into the ocean. The Special Olympics goal is to raise \$10,000 for the event.

PDC Matt Thalasinis (232) said that he has forms available for the Young Citizens Award. The candidates can be minors from the community, not just the Legion Family.

The next Atlantic City Stand-Down will be held on 20-21-May. Help is always needed for these events. The Stand-Downs are held on weekdays, which can be a problem for those who work.

Gary Crawford spoke about a book he acquired: "Soldier Dead" by Michael Sledge. It discusses how our military fallen are recovered, identified, buried, and honored.



Detachment Commander Rich Hodum and Detachment Vice Commander and next year's leading candidate Bill Murphy (a.k.a. "Murph") made a trip up to Belleville for Squadron 105's February 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. We appreciate them making the rush hour slog up the Parkway to visit us.

At that meeting, Squadron 105 by way of a vote made some donations:

\$105 to the Detachment POW/MIA Watchfire in September

\$105 to VCF (The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation)

\$2,000 to the Fisher House Foundation (the result of our recent raffle plus a donation)

and, \$1,000 to Commander Hodum's Detachment Commander's Project, "*The Forgotten Ones*" - a project targeting Veterans in homes throughout the state outside of the VA-supported homes.

*Flag Education and Etiquette at Post 105:*



Squadron 105 held their first Flag Etiquette Class on 3-Feb. (Left) Essex County Commander James Elsmore and Detachment Adjutant Rusty Myers demonstrate how to properly fold the American Flag. Having developed the presentation themselves, it included flag history, the Flag Code, flag retirement, the salute and meeting etiquette, and how to fold the flag. It ended with an “FAQ” back-and-forth with questions about the American Flag. The Wolf Den of Cub Scout Pack 141 also attended. The squadron also provided copies of the Flag Code, booklets called “Be Right on Flag Etiquette”, and flag pins to everyone who participated. We hope this is the first of many.

*A Busy Weekend:*



Very proud to be part of the New Jersey American Legion Family, representing at the 2025 National Information Conference and Mission Training, held in Boston, MA, 1-Feb. Here are New Jersey’s Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, Junior Auxiliary and Young Sons. Speaking with many in the Jersey Family Contingency, we learned and enjoyed the time to be with each other as well as folks from different Departments.



**SALute** Editor Gary Crawford and his grandson Murphy Izquierdo (Neptune Sq 346) received Certificates of Appreciation / Citizenship Awards for their participation in the Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Monmouth County Fire Academy in Howell Twp on 19-Dec.

*Four Chaplains Ceremony:*



Reverend George L Fox – Rabbi Alexander D Goode – Reverend Clark V Poling – Father John P Washington

The **Four Chaplains**, also referred to as the **Immortal Chaplains** or the **Dorchester Chaplains**, were four chaplains who died rescuing civilian and military personnel as the American troop ship SS *Dorchester* sank on February 3, 1943, in what has been referred to as the one of the worst sea disasters of World War II.

Read the detailed story of their heroism: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four\\_Chaplains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Chaplains)



At the Cathedral of the Air in Lakehurst on 2-Feb, Dept Commander Charles “Andy” Jackson addresses the attendees at the Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony - Aux President Charline Gladden and PDC Mark Natale enter the cathedral - NEC Bob Phillips Jr, ANEC Henry Hasselhan, and PDC Carl Alberm Jr. Cathedral of the Air info: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathedral\\_of\\_the\\_Air](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathedral_of_the_Air)



At St. Stephen’s Catholic Church in Kearney, Essex County, Nutley 70, and Belleville 105 held their Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony. The 105 Family with the Four Chaplains statue – Essex County Commander James Elsmore and Detachment Vice Commander Greg Shaffer – Exit Procession. Info on St. Stephen’s: <https://ststephenkearny.com/>



At the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Four Chaplains Banquet held at the IATSE Ballroom in Philadelphia on 4-Feb.  
 (Left) PDC Jeff Hicks and Shannon Widmer – (Right) ANEC Chuck Robbins, National Auxiliary President Trish Ward, and SAL National Commander Joseph Navarrete. Info: <https://fourchaplains.org/>

*At Vet Haven South on 27-Jan:*



BINGO! Pizza and bingo with amazing veterans! - Marty Widmer at work. - Jeff Hicks and Mike Babli serving up the pizza. - Table with needed supplies – Enjoying the pizza.



## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORT

The Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) is perhaps the most critical document a squadron can complete. CSR information is combined with other squadrons in creating a final report used by The American Legion, forwarded to the U.S. Congress, and used to apply and verify awards at National Convention.

Not all squadrons participate in every program; leave those fields blank. The key is to report on the activities your squadron participated in from **June 1st to May 31st**.

All detachment/district/squadron donations and activities should be reported individually to your detachment adjutant. The CSR will require inputs, such as the number of veteran homes visited or volunteer hours contributed to a particular program. Other programs, such as The American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF), enter the number of dollars donated or spent in whole numbers.

It is preferred CSRs are filled out and submitted online via [my.legion.org](http://my.legion.org). Squadron Adjutants and Commanders have access to complete and submit the entire form. CSRs are also available for download at [legion.org/publications](http://legion.org/publications) and [legion.org/sons/publications](http://legion.org/sons/publications).

Please print out the form and complete each page by hand. Make sure it is legible and mail to the Detachment and retain a copy for the squadron's records. Check with your detachment for their deadline date; it may be different than the national deadline.

Detachments and districts should forward a copy by scanning and emailing their CSRs to [CPRandCSRforms@legion.org](mailto:CPRandCSRforms@legion.org) or by USPS to the address below.

**Detachment Reminder:** July 1 is the final date for transmittal to National Headquarters for squadron reports to be included the national tabulation for awards at National Convention.



### Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New Jersey Every Squadron is required to complete this annually!



At the 15-Jan meeting, Mount Holly Post 11 was introduced to Boy Scout Johnathan Scott who is going to clean up our Carranza Memorial Monument in the Pines that is made of Mexican Sand Stone, paid for with pennies, donated by Mexican children. It is suffering from time and the elements after 96 years! This will be his Eagle Scout Project and we believe he will do a monumental job to give a new look to our beloved Memorial! Thank you Johnathan for taking this project on!

The 1st Annual Squadron 306 chili cook off is in the books (16-Feb). Thank you to everyone who attended and the ones who made their delicious chili. The attendees spoke and the winner by the slimmest margin was Richard Sturtevant the runner up was Laura Thomasey.

*Christmas at the 105:*



"I'm grateful .... because without this, we wouldn't have been able to have a Christmas", said an emotional Cassandra from Belleville who was there with her son Bryson. "It's just such a blessing."

The 105 Family held their annual Toy and Coat Drive Giveaway, helping over 100 local families in need over the holiday season. The smiles on the faces of the kids made it all worth it, when they picked out a toy and met Santa.

Much of what we gave away was donated - and we cannot thank our friends enough for being so generous to drop off a brand new coat or a new toy. **HK Truck Center** was kind enough to drop off over \$1,000 of new toys, making the holiday season happen for kids who would have otherwise gone without. They are non-stop supporters of the American Legion and its ideals, and go above and beyond in always being there to help us out. We have a video made by our SAL Bill Chivil which will be put up about them shortly.

It was a good day doing a good thing for our neighbors .... tip-of-the-hat to ALA Unit 105 President Debbie Hall, who really hustled to put this together and manage it. Thanks as well to all of our 105 Family members who participated - you guys all made a difference and showed the true spirit of what the American Legion Family stands for.

Merry Christmas!!

[#LegionFamily](#) [#SALSTRONG](#)

*And at the 105:*



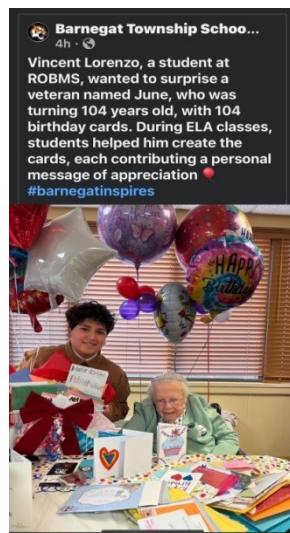
Carl M. Slaughter, age 65, of Nutley, passed away Saturday, January 11, 2025 at Columbus Hospital. He was born January 29 1959 in Paterson, NJ, Carl was the son of the late Eugene and Rosemary (Dubinsky) Slaughter. He worked as a forklift operator and truck driver for Madison Foods, Paterson Box Lunch and A&P in Paterson.

Carl was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post 105 as their Chaplain. Carl was also a friend to many members at Nutley Post 70. Even with health issues Carl would walk miles in the Doyle Cemetery for Wreaths Across America and placed wreaths on the grave and say a prayer. Carl was very involved at the Legion you could see Carl pouring beers at the picnic, always supporting Vets at ceremonies, parades and going on trips to Fisher House or the Wildwood Convention. When Carl was younger he would go to the hospital where children would be for Christmas and dress up as Santa and deliver presents to them. In Carl's lifetime he was a true friend, always had kindness for everyone and a great laugh and smile.

Carl was survived by his beloved wife, MaryAnn and son Michael (Annemarie) Slaughter of Belleville, a sister Jo Ann (Joseph) Chovanec of Illinois, 2 nephews and a niece Raymond David and Kristina, and 8 great nephews and nieces, and an aunt Helen (Neil) Riker of Georgia

A Memorial will be held at the S.W. Brown & Son Funeral Home, ([www.swbrownandson.com](http://www.swbrownandson.com)), 267 Centre St., Nutley, Thursday, January 30, 2025, from 5:00PM – 7:00PM. Service will be conducted at 6:30PM.

Barnegat Sq 232 Member Vincent Lorenzo honoring Vets. Great job Vincent!



Just ask. Check on a [#veteran](#) to see how he or she is doing. Listen when a veteran needs to talk. Reach out when a veteran is struggling.





The 105 Family celebrated **Wreaths Across America** Day on 14 December by placing two wreaths at Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington, a wreath at the Passaic County Vietnam Veterans Memorial (the 2nd biggest Vietnam Wall replica in the US), 15 wreaths at **Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery**, and three wreaths at Lakeview Cemetery in Cinnaminson. The Sons also sent a wreath to our Belleville Medal of Honor recipient, Henry Svehla, at **Arlington National Cemetery**, and made a contribution to the ceremonies in Belleville. At Doyle, we placed graves on family members from those at the Post. Fathers, brothers, uncles .... The day was emotional to say the least. An unbelievable experience we are truly grateful to be a part of each year. "Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom" - Wreaths Across America.

*Christmas Lunch at Vet Haven South:*



Thanks all the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL Members who donated gifts, food and especially the ones who gave up time to come and service the luncheon today. The joy and the smiles on their faces is what Christmas is all about.



Henry 5<sup>th</sup> handing out Christmas Cards at Vet Haven South that his class made for the Vets there, and three generations of Henry Hasselhans (Atco 311) manning the food line.



On 22-Dec, the **American Legion Post 157, Branchville NJ** lost one of our members and biggest advocate for The American Legion in general. Dan McCole is now with Post Everlasting.

Dan McCole was a Korean Veteran in the United States Navy and served with a Fighter Squadron VF-71, Cag 7, at Quonset Point Rhode Island. Dan also served on the U.S.S. Hornet CVA-12 and spent 9 months in Korea and Japan. Dan retired from the Navy in 1963.


Dan McCole had been a proud member of the American Legion Post #157, The American Legion Riders and Sons of the American Legion for over 50 years. He had been on numerous committees and held several positions with the American Legion. He served as Post Commander, County Commander, County Vice Commander, County Finance Officer, County Sgt-At-Arms, Department Executive Committeeman, Department Vice Commander, Department Commander, National Executive Committeeman, Alternate National Executive Committeeman, The Media Communication Commission, The National Security Council, and the Memorial Day Parade Chairman for 30 years. Dan was also our Grand Marshal this past year for our annual Memorial Day Parade.

Dan was married to Ruth for 66 years and have 2 children, 7 Grandchildren, 10 Great Grandchildren and 1 Great Great grandchild.

Rest in peace Dan, Thank you for your service to the American Legion and especially Post #157.



**US Army Major General  
Winfield Scott Hancock**



**FORT HANCOCK, NJ  
Named In His Honor  
October 30th, 1895**

**United States War Department  
General Order No. 57 - October 30th, 1895**

GENERAL ORDERS, } HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
No. 57. } ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, October 30, 1895.

The following orders have been received from the War Department:

WAR DEPARTMENT, Washington, October 30, 1895.  
By direction of the President, the fortifications at Sandy Hook, New York Harbor, will hereafter be known and designated as Fort Hancock, in honor of the late Major-General Winfield Scott Hancock, United States Army.

DANIEL S. LAMONT,  
Secretary of War.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL MILES:  
GEO. D. RUGGLES,  
Adjutant General.

***"...the fortifications at Sandy Hook, New York Harbor, will hereafter be known and designated as Fort Hancock..."***

We'd like to recognize one of the most important dates in the history of the Sandy Hook peninsula.

Since 1776, Sandy Hook had been the location of each continuing generation of American harbor defenses. The Proving Ground arrived in 1874, and the first modern concrete batteries were built in 1890-95.

As the Army continued to expand their presence and operations, it was recognized that the installation really didn't have an official name, and was known as "The Fortifications At Sandy Hook."

That all changed with War Department General Order No. 57 on October 30th, 1895, when Sandy Hook was officially, and permanently, named as "Fort Hancock," in honor of US Army Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, and hero of the American Civil War.

The trademark yellow-brick buildings would follow within the next two years.

Fort Hancock was to be one of the crown jewels of the burgeoning Coast Artillery service, and would grow to become the largest harbor defense fort on the East Coast. Sandy Hook History, Facebook, 30-Oct-2024

*Military History:*

The defunct U.S. Army post Fort Hancock at the north end of the peninsula is open to visitation by the National Park Service. The Sandy Hook Proving Ground was used for many years—beginning after the Civil War until 1919, when the facility was moved to Aberdeen, Maryland—and was later the site of a Nike missile defense installation. The Sandy Hook Nike station is one of a very few stations that are still intact. Almost all of the fort's gun batteries are closed to the public due to their hazardous condition. The exceptions to this are Battery Potter and Battery Gunnison. Battery Potter is open frequently for tours on the weekends, as well as Battery Gunnison which is being restored by volunteers and has two six-inch (152 mm) M1900 guns installed; the weapons were placed there in 1976. Guided tours show visitors a Nike missile, the missile firing platforms, and a radar station with 1960s-era computers. A Civil War-era 20-inch Rodman gun is also in the park; this was an experimental gun that was the largest type produced by either side of that war.

North of Fort Hancock on the western part of the "hook" is an active station of the United States Coast Guard. This is one of the original Life Saving Stations built in 1848 at a site "on bay side, one-half mile south of point of Hook." The site was changed several times through the years due to a change in land or at the request of the War Department, which owned the land.<sup>[10]</sup> This area is administered by the Department of Homeland Security and is closed to the general public.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandy\\_Hook](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandy_Hook)

*Martha Raye, aka "Colonel Maggie".*

### *True Love Conquers All*

"Captain, see this Eagle? I am a 'Full Bird' in the US Army Reserve, and on this is a 'Caduceus' which means I am a Nurse, with a surgical specialty, now, take me to your wounded!" He said, "Yes ma'am. Follow me."

"It was just before Thanksgiving '67 and we were ferrying dead and wounded from a large GRF west of Pleiku. We had run out of body bags by noon, so the Hook (CH-47 CHINOOK) was pretty rough in the back.

All of a sudden, we heard a 'take-charge' woman's voice in the rear.



There was the singer and actress, Martha Raye, with a SF (Special Forces) beret and jungle fatigues, with subdued markings, helping the wounded into the Chinook, and carrying the dead aboard. 'Maggie' had been visiting her SF 'heroes' out 'west'.

We took off, short of fuel, and headed to the USAF hospital pad at Pleiku.

As we all started unloading our sad pax's, a 'Smart Mouth' USAF Captain said to Martha,

"Ms Raye, with all these dead and wounded to process, there would not be time for your show!" "Captain, see this Eagle? I am a 'Full Bird' in the US Army Reserve, and on this is a 'Caduceus' which means I am a Nurse, with a surgical specialty, now, take me to your wounded!" He said, "Yes ma'am. Follow me."

Martha Raye's exemplary service to the Army - including trips to Vietnam to entertain the Green Berets - earned her a funeral here with full military honors.

The Special Forces soldiers called her "Col. Maggie." She said the Green Berets were like her sons, and some called her "Mom." She got her wish to be buried alongside them. She died on October 19, 1994.

Quora.com, 17Dec2024

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha\\_Raye](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha_Raye)

Appreciation of her work with the USO during World War II and subsequent wars led to her being named both an Honorary Colonel in the U.S. Marines and an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, and earned special consideration to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Upon her death it was instead requested that she be buried with Full Military Honors in the Fort Liberty (then Fort Bragg) Main Post cemetery at Spring Lake, North Carolina, home of her loving and beloved United States Army Special Forces; the Fifth Special Forces Group (Airborne) made her an honorary Green Beret for her USO work in Vietnam, including an unauthorized visit to the Leghorn, a top secret SOG listening post on a spire in Laos.



In December the film "Six Triple Eight" was released about the 688<sup>th</sup> Battalion of African-American WAC (Women's Army Corps) soldiers put in charge of sorting out the mail backlog. In February 1946, the unit returned to the United States where it was disbanded at Fort Dix, New Jersey. There was no public recognition for their service at the time.

However, their legacy lived on and was recognized years later for their service. More detailed info: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6888th_Central_Postal_Directory_Battalion)



### *Bing Crosby and his USO Tours of WW2*



When Bing Crosby's nephew asked him casually, late in Bing's life, about the most difficult moment of his career, he expected some juicy gossip about a difficult Hollywood director or the story of a struggle with a studio. But Bing instead told him it was on a USO tour in December of 1944 in an open-air field in France. He'd just made 15,000 French and American troops laugh and holler with Dinah Shore and The Andrews Sisters and now had to close the show with a quieter number: "White Christmas." He described having to maintain his composure and vocal control in front of 15,000 crying GIs as the toughest moment of his career.

He never wore his toupee on USO tours - a small thing, but he thought these occasions were above Hollywood artifice - and more importantly insisted that no officers or other top brass got front row seats. Front row seats belonged to enlisted men who were headed for the frontlines.

A few days after this performance of White Christmas his audience was sent to The Battle of the Bulge, one of the deadliest battles in the history of humanity.

Grabbed from the FB pages of @Will Stenberg



The **United Service Organizations Inc. (USO)** is an American nonprofit-charitable corporation that provides live entertainment, such as comedians, actors and musicians, social facilities, and other programs to members of the United States Armed Forces and their families. Since 1941, it has worked in partnership with the Department of War, and later with the Department of Defense (DoD), relying heavily on private contributions and on funds, goods, and services from various corporate and individual donors. Although it is congressionally chartered, it is not a government agency. Read more of the USO's interesting history: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Service\\_Organizations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Service_Organizations)

*Upcoming Events:*

- > Every Third Sunday: Breakfast, Union Beach SAL 321
- > Last Sunday of Every Month: Breakfast, Audubon Post 262
- > Every Wed 2-4, Every Fri 10-2, Veteran Center Food Pantry, Carteret Shop-Rite Shopping Center
- > Bowling for COTA, Bowler City, Hackensack, Feb 22, Mar 8 & 22, Apr 5 & 26
- Feb 21: Two Pound Party, Middlesex ALA 306
- Feb 22: Dancin' Thru the Decades, Toms River Post 129
- Feb 22: Venison Dinner, Branchville SAL 157
- Feb 22: 50 Shades of Gay Takes on the 80s, Spotswood ALA 253
- Feb 22: Gift Auction, New Egypt SAL 455
- Feb 22: Polar Bear Plunge, Seaside Heights
- Feb 23: Mozzarella Making Day, Somerville ALA 12
- Feb 23: Breakfast, Little Egg Harbor Post 493
- Feb 28: COTA Fundraiser, Elmwood Park Post 147
- Feb 28: Paint & Sip, Pemberton ALA 294
- Mar 01: Annual Wine Tasting, Milltown Post 25
- Mar 01: Homemade Soup & Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Williamstown ALA 252
- Mar 02: Pancake Breakfast, Oaklyn SAL 84
- Mar 07: Fish Fry Fundraiser, Westfield SAL 3
- Mar 07: Fish Fry, Metuchen SAL 65
- Mar 08: Morris County SAL Get Acquainted Breakfast, Denville SAL 391
- Mar 15: (#1) BeTheOne Training Seminar, Neptune Post 346
- Mar 15: (#2) BeTheOne Training Seminar, Rahway Post 5
- Mar 15: Tricky Tray for Monmouth County Leadership Fund, Neptune ALA 346
- Mar 15: Murder Mystery Fundraiser, Rutherford Post 109 (SAL 70 sponsor)
- Mar 16: Paint Fusion Arts Event, Lawrenceville ALA 414
- Mar 21: Corned Beef & Cabbage, Franklin ALA 132
- Mar 22: DEC Meeting Chester Post 510
- Mar 23: Camden County Annual Leadership Testimonial, Blackwood Post 281
- Mar 29: Oldies Dance Night, Wharton Post 91
- Mar 29: Country/Western BBQ Dinner Dance, Barnegat Post 232
- Mar 29: Tricky Tray, New Egypt ALA 455
- Mar 30: Leadership Training Workshop, Burlington Post 336
- Apr 05: Detachment Commander Hodum's Testimonial, New Egypt Elks 2457
- Apr 06: Pancake Breakfast, Oaklyn SAL 84
- Apr 06: Casino Bus, Wharton Post 91
- Apr 11: CWF Family Feud Night, Brick Post 348
- May 04: Pancake Breakfast, Oaklyn SAL 84
- May 18: Fundraiser for Dan Channel, Little Ferry Post 310
- Jun 02: Annual Charity Golf Outing, Cobblestone Creek CC, Benefit Westfield Post 3
- July 20: Pig Roast, Little Ferry SAL 310



*Contributors:*

Detachment Commander Richard Hodum  
Detachment Adj Rusty Myers Belleville SAL 105  
PDC Mark Natale, Union Beach SAL 321  
ANEC/PDC Henry Hasselhan, Atco SAL 311  
PDC Steve Fisher, Pine Hill Post 286  
PDC Nicholas Wingler, Lakewood SAL 166  
PDC Patrick Gallagher, Neptune SAL 346  
VC Paul Williams, Neptune SAL 346  
Dean Staknys, Brick SAL 348  
SAL Chm Anthony L Gladden, New Egypt Post 455  
Lisa Jeleniewski, Middletown Post 515  
Jackie Gunderson Elsmore, Belleville ALA 105  
ShannonLee Widmer, Pine Hill ALA 286  
PDP Jane Babli Atco ALA 311  
Sayde Izquierdo, Neptune ALA 346  
Nancy Robbins

Essex County SAL Exec Committee  
Nutley Post 70  
Oaklyn Post 84  
Belleville Post 105  
Branchville Post 157  
Middlesex Post 306  
Little Ferry Post 310  
Neptune Post 346  
Denville Post 391  
Little Egg harbor Post 493  
American Legion Dept of NJ  
Legion.org  
Sandy Hook History Facebook Page  
Quora.com  
Pippin Funeral Home, Wyoming DE  
Americus (Georgia) Post 2

