



The New Jersey

# SALute

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

Volume 60, Issue 5

March 2024

Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of New Jersey  
171 Jersey St., Bld 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
Trenton NJ 08611 [www.NJSAL.org](http://www.NJSAL.org)

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Keith Barnes</b>
<b>Vice Commander</b>	<b>Richard Hodum</b>
<b>Vice Commander</b>	<b>William Murphy</b>
<b>Vice Commander</b>	<b>Joshua Seib</b>
<b>Vice Commander</b>	<b>Charles Taylor II</b>
<b>Vice Commander</b>	<b>(vacant)</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>PNVC/PDC Thomas Marsden</b>
<b>Ass't Adjutant</b>	<b>DEC Russell Myers</b>
<b>Finance Officer</b>	<b>PDC C. David Page</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>PDC Matthew Thalasinis</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	<b>PNVC/PDC Gary Nelson</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>PDC Nicholas Wingler</b>
<b>Nat Exec Comm</b>	<b>PDC Robert Phillips Jr</b>
<b>Alt Nat Exec Comm</b>	<b>PDC Henry Hasselhan</b>
<b>Sgt-at-Arms</b>	<b>Darryl Cunningham</b>
<b>Sgt-at-Arms Emeritus</b>	<b>Anthony Liberatore</b>
<b>SAL Chairman</b>	<b>Anthony Gladden</b>
<b>SAL Committee Liaison</b>	<b>Sophia Dmoch</b>
<b>SAL Committee</b>	<b>Michael Smith</b>



**BE THE ONE**

*NEVER FORGET OUR POW/MIAs*

*Welcome Spring!*

*In This Issue...*

<b>Legion Birthday</b>	<b>Pg 2</b>
<b>"It's Right to the Heart"</b>	<b>Pg 3</b>
<b>Commanders' Messages</b>	<b>Pg 4</b>
<b>Gen Lisa Hou Promotion</b>	<b>Pg 4</b>
<b>Detachment News</b>	<b>Pg 5</b>
<b>CWF Best Beard Contest</b>	<b>Pg 6</b>
<b>Reasons to Join SAL</b>	<b>Pg 8</b>
<b>Monmouth County Testimonial</b>	<b>Pg 9</b>
<b>Four Chaplains</b>	<b>Pg 10</b>
<b>SAL Special Olympics</b>	<b>Pg 11</b>
<b>Snapshots</b>	<b>Pg 12</b>
<b>USS New Jersey License Plate</b>	<b>Pg 25</b>
<b>Cesar Romero, NJ Shore WW2 Vet</b>	<b>Pg 27</b>
<b>Coming Events</b>	<b>Pg 29</b>

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

For God and Country,

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

[njSALute@gmail.com](mailto:njSALute@gmail.com)

© Copyright March 2024. The **NJ SALute** is published electronically several times a year, and is the official publication by and for the Detachment of New Jersey, Sons of the American Legion. All rights reserved. Excerpts may be used with permission of the publisher. Contributed photos and articles may be sent to the editor at (email) [njSALute@gmail.com](mailto:njSALute@gmail.com), or by USPS mail to **NJ SALute** Editor, c/o American Legion Post 346, 21 Gully Road, Neptune NJ 07753. [www.njsal.org/salute](http://www.njsal.org/salute)



The American Legion turned 105 on Friday, March 15 – the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris.

Each year, Legion posts across the country hold events – public, private or both – to commemorate this anniversary. Posts are encouraged to upload recaps and photos of their birthday celebrations (and other community activities) to [legiontown.org](http://legiontown.org).

A 105th birthday speech has been drafted by the Legion’s Media and Communications staff as a way for Legionnaires to emphasize what the Legion represents, both to themselves and to the community at large. They are not meant to be recited verbatim; members are encouraged to amend them to taste and audience. The speech can be downloaded [here](#).

As The American Legion prepares to celebrate its birthday, a perfect way to celebrate is to make Buddy Checks. The American Legion’s Buddy Check program initially started for posts to conduct them twice a year — the week of American Legion Birthday and Veterans Day. Since the program has demonstrated success, posts conduct them year-round.

Buddy Checks are an opportunity to ask your members and other veterans about their wellbeing and how the post can support them. To get started, check out [the resources available](#) to assist in performing Buddy Checks, or download our toolkit [here](#). And share your Buddy Check stories on [legiontown.org](http://legiontown.org).



## **'It's right to the heart': Sons, Legion Family lay wreaths to honor veterans**

By Andy Proffet for legion.org

FEB 26, 2024

Standing before the granite column representing California at the World War II Memorial, Sons of The American Legion National Vice Commander James Fischer reflected on the veterans in his family.

"I'm here representing my grandfather, my father, my uncle who served in World War I, World War II and the Korean War (respectively), and I have two brothers who served in Desert Storm and my son served in Afghanistan," Fischer said. "... I was born on Memorial Day, and my grandfather was 70. He said I was God's gift to him; he lost his leg in World War I. Then when I got my contractor's license 31 years ago, I got it on Pearl Harbor Day even though I tested in August.

"Everything in my life has been reminders of the importance we have taking care of our veterans."

Sons of The American Legion, Legionnaires and Auxiliary members from across the nation participated in wreath-laying ceremonies around Washington, D.C., on Feb. 25 during the Legion's annual Washington Conference. They were joined by Samsung American Legion scholarship recipients.

It's been a regular event for the SAL, but SAL National Commander Don "JR" Hall reminded participants to not think of the event as routine.

"I hope you didn't come out for any other reason than who you represent," Hall said. "... Think about it as this year, this time, this moment, and make sure that when those wreaths are being laid, you're saluting the service of your family. You're saluting the service of our veterans. You're saluting our flag, and you're saluting the United States of America. That's why we're here."

The opportunity to honor veterans helped bring Detachment of New Hampshire Commander Scott Douglas to the event for the first time.

"This means a lot to me ... my father was in World War II and the Korean War, so for me to come here from New Hampshire to Washington and to get to lay a wreath out in his name ... it's right to the heart," Douglas said.

The SAL and other Legion Family members laid wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery and the Vietnam, Korean War and World War II memorials at the National Mall.

"You realize how much others have given for what we have," said Marty Widmer, a member of Squadron 262 in Audubon, N.J., and the Camden County SAL chaplain after the wreath-laying at Arlington.

A contingent from Florida also stopped at the Vietnam Women's Memorial to lay a wreath.

"It gives your whole body chills to know all this has happened before you, and having a moment where you can just take a moment, pay your respects ... it's kind of overwhelming the way your body feels," said Department of Florida legislative chair Stuart Scott.

For Charles Curtis, a member of Squadron 283 in Pacific Palisades, Calif., and the SAL national legislative commission, the memorials are "breathtaking."

"This one means a lot to me," Curtis said at the World War II Memorial. "Both of my grandfathers served during World War II. One was in the press corps, and he actually met my grandmother in Italy. My other grandfather served in Army intelligence, so we didn't really get to know a lot from him.

"I'm here today representing more than me. I'm representing both of them and thanking them for their service. These monuments are breathtaking and it's unfortunate that not everyone can come here for whatever reason. Being able to be here means so much, I really can't put it into words."



*From Detachment Commander Keith Barnes:*

Gentlemen,  
We are coming down to the last Detachment Meeting and the home stretch before Wildwood. Let's finish up the year in grand fashion, the way we started. Thank you to everyone for your help and support.

For God and Country, Detachment Commander Keith Barnes

*From SAL National Commander Don Hall Jr:*

"Americanism isn't taught in the schools like it once was; we as members of the American Legion Family need to make sure that our youth know just what that flag stands for."



## **New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey, was promoted to the rank of Major General at The New Jersey National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville, N.J., Feb. 3, 2024.

Major General Hou serves as the Commissioner of [#NJDMAVA](#) and commands more than 8,400 Soldiers and Airmen of the [#NJNG](#). In addition, MG Hou leads, directs, and manages all state veterans' programs, commissions, and facilities in New Jersey along with the execution of federal and state missions.

Visit our Flickr album at: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBd14e>



## *Detachment News:*

SAL National Commander Donald "JR" Hall placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during the Washington Conference on 24-25-February. Thirteen New Jersey SAL Officers and Members were in attendance to witness the Changing of the Guard.

CONVENTION: Registrations must be in by 31-May. No exceptions.

SON OF THE YEAR: Surely your Squadron has that member who goes above and beyond. Nominate him for *SAL Son of the Year!* The winner will be honored at the annual Convention on June 13-14 at Wildwood. Deadline for nominations is April 5. Need an application? Email [njsalute@gmail.com](mailto:njsalute@gmail.com) and one will be emailed to you.

COMMANDER'S PROJECT: As of the Detachment meeting on 2-Mar, including a \$300 donation from Commander Barnes' home Squadron 58, \$16,223 had been raised toward his project goal of \$20,000. Certificates have been sent out.

WATCHFIRE: The annual **Watchfire** will be held on 21-22-Sept. Chairman Rich Hodum asked for more involvement in donations and manpower. Needed are volunteers to help in setting up, cooking, cleaning, and packing up the event. Contact Rich at: [rhodum166@comcast.net](mailto:rhodum166@comcast.net)

MEMBERSHIP: Chairman Jeff Hicks reports that we have met the March target date. We are at 84.73% renewals and we are #31 nationally. Get those renewals and get them into Trenton!

COTA: Chairman Greg Shaffer asks for one dollar donation from each Member of each Squadron. Contact Greg at: [shiftyshaff@gmail.com](mailto:shiftyshaff@gmail.com)

FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES: The extremely successful nationwide project of placing flags on Veterans' graves continues. If your Post Family is involved, please take a few pictures and keep count of the flags you place as you "decorate" the graves – Decoration Day - the original name of Memorial Day. Please send pics, cemetery name, and total flag counts to NEC Bob Phillips Jr, [bjrsal@gmail.com](mailto:bjrsal@gmail.com) Info: [www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](http://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com)

STAND DOWN: The next Stand Down in Atlantic City will be on 21-22-May. Volunteers are needed. Info: [ACRSDvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:ACRSDvolunteer@gmail.com)

END HOMELESSNESS FOR NJ VETERANS: The Committee on Affordable Housing for at-risk and Homeless Veterans in partnership with The Foundation for Sustainable Veterans Housing NEEDS PROPERTIES IN SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY! Land, vacant buildings, AL Posts, government-owned, and farmland. Contact Jim Scanlon, Chairman, 732-306-9268 [sajobsjds@aol.com](mailto:sajobsjds@aol.com)

FROM THE EDITOR: I plan to publish a May *SALute* featuring the candidates for 2024-2025 NJ Detachment offices . If you are a candidate, please send me a current picture (jpg is best) and bio for the issue. [njsalute@gmail.com](mailto:njsalute@gmail.com).

*Pork Roll vs Taylor Ham  
It's a Jersey thing*

## Detachment of New Jersey

CWF Chairman Bill (Murph) Murphy

Oct. 25, 2023

Hi Everyone,

As I have traveled around this great State of ours for the Detachment, I have noticed some very impressive chin whiskers. It seemed to me people were trying to outdo each other for the best beard. So I decided to have a little fun with this and at the same time to raise money for the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF). I've created a best beard contest.

Here's how the contest works. You can vote for one of the gentlemen on our beard list or send me a photo of a furry face (human please) from your own Legion family and vote for them. It is \$5 per vote. For example a \$100 donation gives you 20 votes. One \$5 vote will put them on our beard list. The person that receives the most votes wins. All votes must be in by May 1, 2024. Here I can legally say vote early and vote often. I really want to see a whole bunch of beards on our beard list. All beards will be seen in our Salute newsletter and on our website.

The Child Welfare Foundation is a program of the American Legion that assists children in many ways.

It supplies grants to children in need for transplants, transportation to far away hospitals etc. It also supplies grants for books and publications that teach Americanism and Patriotism as well as many other uses.

Please make out all checks to the Detachment of NJ and put CWF in the memo line. Mail to: Bill Murphy, 92 Brand Road, Toms River NJ 08753.

Any questions or suggestions are welcome. Please reach out to me. This is meant to be fun and at the same some raise funds for a very worthwhile cause.

Thank you! And may the best beard win!

For God and Country,

Bill 'Murph' Murphy

CWF Chairman

Cell: 732-278-4237

E-mail: [bmurphy1229@aol.com](mailto:bmurphy1229@aol.com)



Bill Noone Sq 348



Tom Marsden Sq 348



Henry Hasselhan Sq 311



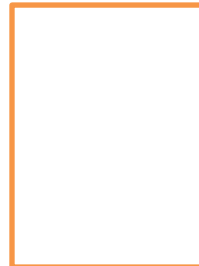
Rusty Myers Sq 105



Chris Scherzinger Sq 321



Bernie Kofet Sq/Post 68



???

## *Detachment of New Jersey*

### **CWF Best Beard Contest**

\$5 Per Vote

- Vote for one on our beard list or send in a photo and vote for Legion Family Member of your choice.
- E-mail photos to [bmurphy1229@aol.com](mailto:bmurphy1229@aol.com)
- All votes due by May 1, 2024
  
- For Henry, Tom, Bill, Rusty, Chris, or Bernie, write in number of votes next to name
- For Your Choice, write in name and number of votes
- All proceeds go to CWF (Child Welfare Foundation)
  
- Make checks payable to **Detachment of NJ** and put CWF in memo line

- Mail checks and contest forms to address below

Henry Hasselhan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Marsden \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Noone \_\_\_\_\_  
Rusty Myers \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Scherzinger \_\_\_\_\_  
Bernie Kofoet \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks and contest forms to:

Bill Murphy  
92 Brand Rd.  
Toms River, NJ 08753

Thanks for your participation!

Bill "Murph" Murphy – CWF Chairman – Detachment of NJ  
[bmurphy1229@aol.com](mailto:bmurphy1229@aol.com), 732-278-4237



# Here's why you should join the SAL

The American Legion

FEB 21, 2024

In Matt Chastain's experience through 25 years in the communications industry, the best way to communicate with someone is to tell a story.

So when he was asked to figure out a way to help grow membership in the Sons of The American Legion, it was the story of how he became an SAL member that he drew upon.

The result: videos depicting how Chastain came to join Squadron 123 at James T. Rayle Post 123 in Lexington, Ga. Those videos can be used by squadrons, posts and others to highlight the SAL and what it means to be a member.

Chastain credits George Gray, the former squadron adjutant and Detachment of Georgia commander, for selling him on the SAL.

"George is exactly who he is depicted to be in the video and *more*. If every community, every post, every squadron just had a few Georges, the world would be a better place!" Chastain said. "When George believes in something as much as he does the mission of the SAL, he gives it everything he has. So he's always recruiting."

The video depicts Gray first talking with Chastain at a cookout. While Chastain accepted the membership application Gray gave him, he admits he forgot about it.

A few months later, Chastain's friend Jesse invites him to karaoke at Post 123. This time, Chastain signs up.

For reenacting that part of the story for the video, Jesse wasn't available. "So another buddy of mine played the role of Jesse. He was only there for maybe two hours but before he left, George had recruited him to join the SAL!

"All this to say that George never stops recruiting and when I was asked to come up with an idea for a recruitment video, I thought that there's no more effective communication tool than storytelling, so why not just tell a true story?"

In talking about why membership in the SAL is important, Chastain brought up another story.

"Back before Christmas, I had the honor of participating in a Flags Across America event put on by our local American Legion and SAL in conjunction with my son's Trail Life USA troop. Of course it was amazing to hear from a handful of local veterans and family members of fallen heroes. It was also rewarding for Legion/SAL members and Trail Life boys to work together laying wreaths.

"But at the end of the event, I got into a conversation with a young veteran who had lost eight of his fellow veterans to suicide. Hearing his story of how difficult life can be — especially disabled vets like him — gave me such a better perspective on why organizations like The Legion and SAL do what they do. America's heritage must be preserved if our country is to be preserved. There's no better way to preserve our heritage than to serve the men and women who fought to protect it."

Three versions of Chastain's story — a fullscreen version, a square version for social media and a short "elevator pitch" — are available to download at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/5594123>.



## Monmouth County Testimonial



(Left) Monmouth County Testimonial recipients MC Boyle Fetherman (346), Carl Albern Jr.(346), Mary Ann Biggs (54), Mary Jo Burkhard (266), and Wil Fetherman (346), held on 3-Feb at Union Beach Post 321. (Right) Wil Fetherman and Department Commander Larry Bishop, Bill Shultz at rear.



(Left) Bill Shultz PC Post 321, PDC / Monmouth County Exec Committee Commander Carl Albern Jr., DEC and Commander Post 346 Wil Fetherman, and Post 321 Commander Bill Gilkison. (Right) Bill Shultz PC, Monmouth County Commander / PDC Carl Albern Jr., PDC Mike Arner, Monmouth County VC / PDC Mark Natale, **SALute** Editor / Monmouth County Adjutant / Squadron 346 Commander Gary Crawford, and 321 Commander Bill Gilkison.



## *The Four Chaplains*



The Four Chaplains: LtoR: Lt Rabbi Alexander Goode, Lt Rev George L. Fox, Lt Rev Charles V. Poling, Lt Father John T Washington. Read more at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four\\_Chaplains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Chaplains)



4-Feb, at the Four Chaplains Service at the Cathedral of the Air in Lakehurst. PDCs Henry Hasselhan, Mark Natale, Jeff Hicks, SAL Chairman Tony Gladden, PDC Carl Albern Jr., Commander Keith Barnes, PDCs Bob Phillips Jr., Matt Thalasinis, Tom Marsden, and Detachment Vice Commander Rich Hodum.



PDC and Detachment Chaplain Matthew Thalasinis displays his certificate for giving the invocation at the Four Chaplains Service. Department Commander Larry Bishop, Department President Sharon Knight, and Detachment Commander Keith Barnes at the Cathedral of the Air in Lakehurst on 4-Feb.



Belleville Four Chaplains Service at St. Stephens Church in Kearney. (Center) The Belleville Legion 105 and Purple Heart Family. (Right) SAL DEC Rusty Myers, Vice-Commander James Elsmore, and Vice Commander Ricky Vlasakakis.



Four Chaplains Service at Wayne Post 174. (Left) Passaic County Adjutant and Post 174 Commander Michael Smith, with SAL Passaic County DEC and SAL 174 Commander Gregory Shaffer. (Center L) Some of the attendees at the service. (Center R) Passaic County Chaplain Robert Maggio leads the prayer. (Right) Greg Shaffer.



Sons in action! Special Olympics Area 6 Bowling Competition at Ocean Lanes in Lakewood, 4-Feb. (Left) Kieran Wingler of Lakewood SAL 166 won Silver and will be moving to the quarterfinals on 24-Feb. (Right) Christopher Gray, Brick SAL 348, took 5<sup>th</sup> Place.

*Gentlemen: Before you know it, the 2023-2024 year will be over and we will be electing new Officers to the various posts. If you are considering to be a candidate for office, please send a bio and current .jpg picture to me to be featured in the next SALute. [njsalute@gmail.com](mailto:njsalute@gmail.com)*

*Snapshots:*



(Left) On 10-Feb, at the American Legion Auxiliary Department Of NJ Meeting at Neptune Post 346, PDC Mark Natale represented Sons Of The American Legion Leonardo Squadron 338 as they donated a check for \$500 to American Legion Auxiliary NJ Department President Sharon Knight for her State President's Project, as Laurinda Miller looks on. This will go a long way to helping Veterans. (Center) On 10-Feb, Detachment Comdr Keith Barnes met a Coast Guard Veteran at the Tenafly Post Office. (Right) On 21-Feb, Keith spent time with Joe, a Vietnam Veteran at the Bergenfield Laundromat.



(Left) It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Belleville Squadron 105's Past Historian, Mark Williams, into Squadron Everlasting. Mark was a fixture at the Post, and has been lauded by many members as one of the smartest guys they knew. Rest well, Mark.

(Right) And the Squadron 105 annual Fisher House 50/50 winner is ..... drumroll please .....Christina Quintana, with a ticket sold by ALA Jackie Elsmore. Christina was even generous enough to donate a portion of her winnings back to the Fisher House Foundation!

Congratulations, thank you for supporting such a fantastic charity, and thank you for your generosity!  
With VC James Elsmore, Comdr Steve Sangemino, and DEC Rusty Myers.

On 17-Feb, POAC (Parents Of Autistic Children) held their annual Members Ball at Toms River Post 129. Another fantastic event for the Autistic community of POAC. The Great County of Ocean Legion Family stepped up once again for these kids. The smiles the dancing games and fun they had was truly magical. Thank you to each and every one of the Volunteers who came out tonight. You truly made a difference. The Legion Family comes through once again!



(Left) Kieran and PDC Nick Wingler with The Mouse. Nick does so much with the Special Needs programs in and around Ocean County. (Center) Some of the attendees. (Right) Can't have a party without a cake!



(Left) Ocean County SAL Commander Jeff Kleinow with Ocean County SAL Chaplain Steven Lance. (Right) Those Ocean County ALA Ladies were there to lend a hand.

### *SAL 262 Breakfast at Audubon Towers*



Nice turnout.



Bob Phillips in the window.



Harry Da Hat in charge of eggs.

On Saturday, February 17th, Audubon, NJ Murray-Troutt American Legion Squadron 262 trugged the snow to make breakfast for the residents of Audubon Towers.

Commander Charles Ross, Robert Phillips, Harry Da Hat, Matthew Carr and Douglas Noe arrived at 0630 hours to start cooking and serving residents.

*Commander Keith Barnes Visits Brooklawn Squadron 72.*



On 20-Feb, Detachment Commander Keith Barnes visited Camden County's Brooklawn Squadron 72 where he received checks toward his Commander's Project. (Left) With Camden County SAL Commander Charles Ross. (Center) Samuel Balakas from Sq 371 with a \$500 check. (Right) With Atco Squadron 311 Commander Brian DiAntonio.



Ocean County came to visit as well. (Left) Detachment Vice Commander Bill Murphy with Camden County SAL Commander Charles Ross. (Right) Murph and PDC Jay Gillman.



*American Legion Post 493 SAL STATE DINNER - OCEAN COUNTY Mystic Island Post 493*



(Left) At the head table, LtoR: SAL Chairman Tony Gladden, Ocean County ALA President Deb Lasky, Ocean County Commander Frank Landis, ANEC Gene O'Grady, Ocean County SAL Commander Jeff Kleinow, PDC Nick Wingler, and SAL Detachment Commander Keith Barnes. (Right) Some of the attendees.



(Left) SAL Detachment Commander Keith Barnes. (Center) ANEC Gene O'Grady with Department Commander Leading Candidate Charles Andy Jackson. (Right) ALA Department President Deb Lasky, Charline Gladden and Dawn Vaccaro Burger (both ALA 455), and Detachment VC Rich Hodum.



(Left) Ocean County Commander Jeff Kleinow, Detachment Commander Keith Barnes, and Past Commander Rocky Lucia, Toms River Squadron 129. (Right) Can't have a party without cake.





Ocean County SAL Crew: Dean Staknys (348), Bill Murphy (348), Matt Thalasinis (232), Tom & Pat Marsden (348).



(Left) Ocean County Chaplain Steve Lance, PDC Tom Marsden, Commander Keith Barnes, Dean Staknys, and DVC Bill Murphy with donation check to Keith's Commander's Project. (Center) Leading Department Candidate Charles Andy Jackson contributes to Keith's Project. (Right) Donation by Robert Noriko, Lakewood Sq 166 Commander. Thank you to everyone who came out to greet our Detachment of New Jersey Commander Keith Barnes. The Great County of Ocean collectively donated over \$2300 tonight in support of his project. Fantastic work Ocean County.

### *Blood Drive at 105*



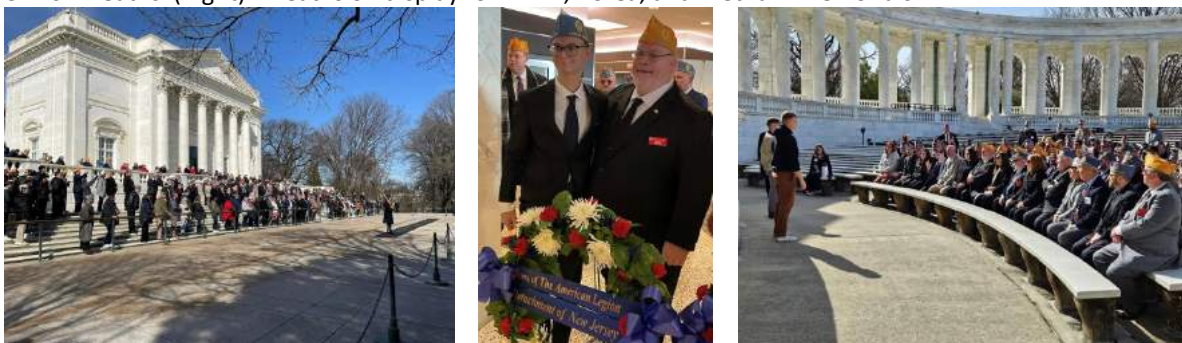
Cookies? Did someone say free cookies? Thank you to everyone who came out on 22-Feb and donated blood; the New York Blood Center collected 32 units of blood. Congratulations to all - and great job Steve Donald, SAL Blood Drive Chairman.



*Washington Conference 24-25-Feb*



(Left) NJSAL Commander Keith Barnes with the wreath at the WW2 Memorial. (Center) One of Detachment of NJ SAL's Wreaths. (Right) Wreaths on display for WW2, Korea, and Vietnam Memorials.



(Left) Gathered for the wreath placing ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown. (Center) Marty Widmer and SAL National Commander JR Hall. (Right) The Old Guard explains the Tomb of the Unknown to the attendees.



(Left) NJ Dept Commander Larry Bishop and NJ Dept President Sharon Knight. (Center) SAL National Commander Donald JR Hall, Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer, and National ALA President Lisa Williamson give the "BeTheOne" sign. (Right) (Left) Let Amtrak do the driving. Ridin' in style to DC with Belleville Sq. 105 VC Ricky Vlasakakis, VC James Elmore, and DEC Rusty Myers. 'On our way to represent the Sons of the "Excellent County of Essex" at the American Legion Washington Conference'.



"Make sure that when those wreaths are being laid, you're saluting the service of your family. You're saluting the service of our veterans. You're saluting our flag, and you're saluting the United States of America. That's why we're here." SAL National Commander Donald JR Hall. (Right) Camden County Chaplain Marty Widmer, PDC Jeff Hicks, and Audubon ALA 262 Rosie Widmer at the Korean War Memorial.

*Polar Bear Plunge at Seaside - Fundraiser for the Special Olympics*



Freezin' for a Reason. PDC Nick Wingler getting ready for the Plunge on 24-Feb. The day to be freezin' for a reason. With all of his donors' help, Nick raised a record high of \$1985 for Special Olympics. (The morning of, setting things up, it was cold and raining and only 36°. Brrr.) The Asbury Park Press and Big Joe Henry at NJ101.5 radio reported that almost 8,000 registrants signed up and \$2.75 Million was raised this year, both new records. Thank you to the NJ American Legion Family for helping to increase the donations!



The Legion Family from Monmouth and Ocean Counties raised \$15,500. (Left) Pat Bowman from Toms River Post 129. (Center) Andy Jackson and "Team Tequila" from Mystic island Post 493. (Right) Brave souls raising money for the NJ Special Olympics. (Plunge photo courtesy of Andrew Miller / Townsquare Media NJ)

Detailed article by Big Joe Henry and photos on [www. https://nj1015.com/seaside-polar-plunge-2024/](https://nj1015.com/seaside-polar-plunge-2024/)

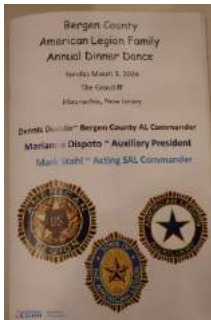


(Left) 2-Mar at the Detachment Meeting at Englewood Post 58, Commander Keith Barnes is presented a \$300 check toward his Commander's Project by his home Squadron. LtoR: Detachment Officers Darryl Cunningham and Charles Taylor II, Keith, and Sq 58 Member Lawrence Davis. (Right) Later that same day, Belleville Sq 105 VC James Elsmore and DEC Rusty Myers made it back from the Detachment meeting to lead Post 105 in Nutley's (wet) St. Patrick's Day parade.



(Left) On 2-Mar, Commander John Bobb of Oaklyn Squadron 84 works on a concrete project at their Post. (Right) Neptune Sq 346 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Paul Williams and Sgt-at-Arms John Skislak prepare to march in the Belmar St. Patrick's Day Parade on 3-Mar. Neptune Post 346's Color Guard has marched in the parade for decades.

*Bergen County's Annual Dinner Dance*



Bergen County's Annual Dinner Dance, honoring Bergen County Commander Dennis Duddie, County President Marianne Dispoto, and Acting SAL Commander Mark Stahl, 3-Mar. (Center) SAL County Commander Mark Stahl is escorted inside. (Right) Detachment Commander Keith Barnes and Vice Commander Charles Taylor II escort Denise Beckham.



(Left) Dept President Sharon Knight as Dept Commander Larry Bishop looks on. (Center) Bergen SAL Acting Commander Mark Stahl. (Right) Detachment Commander Keith Barnes says a few words.

*Buckwheat Breakfast at 174:*



SAL helping out ALA 174 with a buckwheat breakfast on 3-March. (I first thought this was Wayne SAL 174. It turns out it's Squadron 174 from Irmo SC. No matter, here's SAL at work doing what we do)

*Essex County Exec Meeting*



Very first Essex County SAL Executive Committee Meeting at Nutley Post 70, 4-March.  
(Left) Commander Steve Sangemino chairs the meeting as Adjutant Rick Vlasakakis and James Elsmore look on.



(Left) SAL Detachment Commander Keith Barnes installs the new officers to the Essex County Executive Committee.  
(Center) New Officers of the Essex County Exec. (Right) Department Commander Larry Bishop addresses the attendees.

(21 MARCH 2024) – BELLEVILLE, NJ – At the Department Commander's Official Visit to Essex County, the officers of the newly created Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Essex County Executive Committee were installed last week at Post 105 in Belleville.

The Department, or state level, American Legion makes an official visit to each of New Jersey's 21 counties throughout the year, where the Department Commander and his leadership team meet the members of the Posts, Units, and Squadron which make up the local American Legion. March was Department Commander Larry Bishop's official visit to Essex, and joining him were

Department American Legion Auxiliary President Sharon Knight, and SAL Detachment Commander Keith Barnes. These three officers, who preside over the approximately 30,000 American Legion Family members in New Jersey, took office in June 2023 and end their term after the Wildwood Convention during the second week of June 2024.

At that March county meeting, SAL Detachment Commander Barnes installed the newly elected officers of the SAL Essex County Executive Committee, which was officially created in the first week of March. In what has been years in the making, the County Committee mirrors what many other counties throughout NJ already have established – an organization made up of representatives from squadrons throughout the county, which meet together in caucus monthly to administer, guide, and assist their fellow squadrons. The county committee is a key element in the successful operation of the organization, and serves as a conduit of communication between state-level initiatives and priorities and the local squadrons. The creation of a county organization in Essex is a big deal, as one hasn't existed in perhaps 20 years. In fact, the only National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion to ever come from New Jersey was from Essex County in 1980 – National Commander Ernest Wilson of Newark's Squadron 152.

The SAL Essex County Committee is made up of the four active squadrons in the county – Squadron 70 of Nutley, Squadron 73 of East Orange, Squadron 105 of Belleville, and Squadron 185 of Caldwell.

Officers installed that day included County Commander Steve Sangemino (Belleville 105), County Vice Commander Kevin Infield (Nutley 70), County Adjutant Richard Vlasakakis (Belleville 105), and County Sgt-at-Arms Ken Ackerman (Nutley 70). Other officers include County Chaplain Robert K. Krupinski (Nutley 70), who is a dual member and a Marine Corps veteran himself, and Detachment Executive Committeeman James Elsmore (Belleville 105). The current DEC is Rusty Myers, also of Belleville 105, whose term ends in June at which point Elsmore will then serve for the three-year term. Myers also serves as the new County Judge Advocate.

The SAL Committee Chairman appointed by the American Legion Essex County Executive Committee is Henry DeTosto (Nutley 70), an Army veteran, Nutley Post 70 Past Commander, and Adjutant for the American Legion Essex County.

### *A Busy March Around the State:*



(Left) Neptune Sq 346 VC Paul Williams and PDC Carl Albern on cabbage duty for the SAL St. Paddy's dinner fundraiser 16-Mar. (Center) Freehold 54's dinner on the same day, If you didn't come to the American Legion Post 54 for the corned beef and cabbage/ potatoes and carrots dinner this past Saturday (the 16<sup>th</sup>) you missed one delicious meal. Legion Family 54 extraordinary chefs: LtoR: Tom Beams, Kevin Beams (Tom's son), Rich Whalen, Carl Beams, Fred Aschenbach, and Tom Shevlino. They spent many hours on Saturday working in a hot kitchen preparing and cooking all that food. Each year they provide this delicious meal for whoever comes to the post. A generous and sincere thank you to our chefs from your Post Officers and Trustees and I'm sure, all who enjoyed your cooking. Vince Bruno, Post 54 Commander. (Right) Nutley SAL Sq 70's fundraiser in progress.



(Left) Belleville Squadron 105's annual Fisher House donation in the news. (Right) Squadron 105's \$1000 donation to Commander Keith Barnes Project. (LtoR) Keith with Sq 105 and Essex Co Commander Steve Sangemino and Dept Commander Larry Fisher.



At Camden County's Dinner on 17-Mar, Detachment Commander Keith Barnes and Camden County Commander Charles Ross speak to the folks.





(Left) Official Visit to Essex County 22-Mar. LtoR: PDC Danny Dunn, Dept Commander Larry Bishop, SAL Liaison Sophia Dmoch, Detachment VC Charles Taylor II, Detachment Comdr Keith Barnes, and Dept Historian Ken Pulchlopek. (Right) Commander Keith at the Unofficial Conference Meeting in Dover NH, 25-Mar.



The New Jersey Connection at the New Hampshire Unofficial Conference on Red Friday 22-Mar. (LtrR) PNVC/PDC Gary Nelson, ANEC/PDC Henry Hasselhan, Detachment Commander Keith Barnes.

# South Jersey Regional Stand Down

Serving All Veterans (Homeless and At Risk)

## Atlantic City 2024

AMERICAN LEGION

Catholic Charities  
Diocese of Camden

Wednesday, May 22, 2024  
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.



All Wars Memorial  
(Soldiers Home)  
1510 Adriatic Ave.  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401



Donations Accepted & Appreciated  
Payable to SJRSND and mail to:  
SJRSND  
P.O. Box 1071  
Atlantic City, NJ 08404

Want to help? Email us: [sjrsvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:sjrsvolunteers@gmail.com)

### Services Include:

VA Medical    Mental Health    Benefits    Claims    Housings  
Employment    Men's & Women's Clothing  
Lunch    Products    Other Services

Questions or Comments—Please Contact  
P. Tatum (609) 703-2467    Bob Looby (908) 894-0746  
[Ptatum@njamericanlegion.org](mailto:Ptatum@njamericanlegion.org)    [r.looby@njamericanlegion.org](mailto:r.looby@njamericanlegion.org)

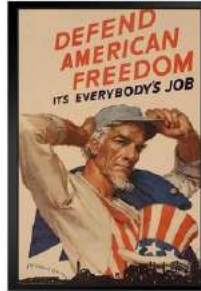
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

NEXT MEETING, APRIL 15, 2024  
NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION

# ACTION ALERT

MARCH 2024

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SONSAMERICANISM](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SONSAMERICANISM)



### TOP NEWS

- PLANNING FOR THE NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH ACADEMY IS IN FULL SWING. MAKE SURE TO GET A REGISTRATION FORM COMPLETED.
- SQUADRONS ARE MAKING PLANS TO SHOWCASE AMERICANISM DURING AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY DAY ON APRIL 27, 2024.
- REMEMBER TO HOST A BLOOD DRIVE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE CWF IN ORDER TO BECOME A NATIONAL 4 PILLAR SQUADRON.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE NATIONAL ORATORICAL FINALS. THE 2024 FINALS WILL BE HELD MAY 17-19 AT HILLSDALE COLLEGE IN MICHIGAN. CONTACT CHAIRMAN CASEY FOR MORE INFORMATION AT [APROUDPATRIOT1776@GMAIL.COM](mailto:APROUDPATRIOT1776@GMAIL.COM)



### FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

THIS IS AN ONGOING PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION. PLEASE REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR FLAG PLACEMENTS AT [WWW.FLYINGFLAGSFORMHEROES.COM](http://WWW.FLYINGFLAGSFORMHEROES.COM). THE GOAL IS PARTICIPATION FROM EVERY DETACHMENT.



DON'T FORGET



SAL Detachment of NJ Children and Youth Commission  
Info: [legion.org/youth/about](http://legion.org/youth/about) - [rusty.myers@ymail.com](mailto:rusty.myers@ymail.com)

### Adopt a Soldier

The American Legion Auxiliary Post 132 is adopting Jakob House, a U.S. Marine, stationed in Saudi Arabia. He is the son-in-law of one of our members, Mimi Lavelle.

Please drop off any of the following at the Franklin American Legion Post 132  
1 Legion Place, Franklin, NJ 07416  
Between 3pm-6pm  
By March 31, 2024

Beef/Turkey Jerky	Protein Bars
Air Fresheners	Handwarmers
Unscented Body Wipes	Deck of Cards
Crossword Puzzles	Travel Size Games
Sunscreen	Candy and Gum
Dr. Scholl's gel inserts	Writing Materials
Medicine: Pepto Bismol-Icy Hot	Personalized Notes
Books and Magazines	Snacks

**NO PORK PRODUCTS**

Adopt A Soldier, Franklin ALA 132

**2024 IS NOW**  
**SONS OF THE**  
**AMERICAN**  
**LEGION**  
**RENEW TODAY!!!**





New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission is with **Battleship New Jersey**

To celebrate the March 21st dry dock departure of the Battleship USS New Jersey, NJMVC is honoring her legacy with a new specialized plate! [#DryDockNJ](#) [#BattleshipNJ](#) For information on ordering this historic plate!



We know her and love her. Read her fascinating history: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_New\\_Jersey\\_\(BB-62\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_New_Jersey_(BB-62))



*Children of Warriors National President's Patch and Scholarship for Junior ALA and Young SAL Members*



**CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' PATCH**

The National President's Auxiliary provides scholarship to deserving children of our member's spouses and service members who have sacrificed greatly for their parents' dedication to defending America and our values.

A general Order Guide has been created for our Service members and SAL youth to be involved in being awarded the National President's Scholarship Fund. How can you assist your child and yourself? The Order Guide and SAL youth will be awarded in some ability to make money for scholarship awards and receiving the following "Children of Warriors" patch. These awards and the youth will receive a patch for this scholarship, which may be presented to the recipient by the following officers.

Any Adult or SAL youth can wear the patch if they meet or beat \$5 for each year old. The maximum is 10 patches and must wear a minimum of \$500 for a year (2023).

Donations can be raised a variety of ways. Adults and SAL youth can solicit donations from family, friends, religious groups, community organizations, fundraising committees, and the community, as well as take rides or other sales, etc. Funds can be raised individually or as a group. The Order Guide of SAL youth receiving the patch needs to have raised the required amount to receive the patch. The goal is for the youth or our organization to be involved and aware of the National President's Scholarship Fund. Contact your local National President, Auxiliary Leader/Secretary with "National President's Scholarship" for more info.

**CALL IT YOUR OWN!**

To receive the patch, complete the following and send to both the Donor and the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters.

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of gift receipt or other)

Special: Mark the amount you want to receive (This is on the back of the patch if needed).



*A Salute, 106 years later.*



Vandals destroyed this beautiful memorial to WW1 Veteran Pvt Maudie Augustus Miller, Battery C 320 Field Artillery. He died on 20-Oct-1918 in a French hospital from wounds he suffered in battle. Volunteers repaired and restored this monument to its former glory to honor this man. Located in the Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery in Lula, Hall County, Georgia. Some people still care. *Courtesy of Robert Clamp, Cornerstone Dimensional Stone / The Memorial Design Studio, West Columbia SC.*



## Cesar Romero, Jersey Shore WW2 Veteran



By Thomas Minton

Good afternoon, folks. I'd like to wish a Very Happy 117th Birthday (15-Feb) to another famous kid from the Jersey Shore, actor Cesar Romero!

Wait, what? He's from Jersey?! Yes! Little known fact, although born in New York City on (Thursday) Feb. 15th, 1907, the handsome, mustachioed star grew up in Bradley Beach, and also attended Asbury Park High School, both here in Monmouth County.

Already a famous actor by the early 1940's (such as his role in 1937's "Wee Willie Winkie," opposite Shirley Temple), Cesar, like so many other stars, answered the Nation's Call for World War 2.

He enlisted in the US Coast Guard on Oct. 12th, 1942, and went on to fight in the South Pacific on board the USS Cavalier (AP-82/APA-37), a Bayfield-Class attack transport. Shunning the spotlight, Cesar embedded himself as just another member of the crew. By war's end, he had been promoted to Chief Petty Officer.

Postwar, he would return to Hollywood, and go on to a long and memorable Hollywood career, notably as the mischievous and scheming Marquis Andre "Uncle Andy" de Lage, opposite John Wayne and Lee Marvin in the 1963 comedy "Donovan's Reef," as well as the psychopathic (and absolutely terrifying) villain 'The Joker' in the 1966-68 TV Show "Batman," opposite Adam West.



Cesar Romero passed away on New Years Day, 1994, aged 86, and is buried in Inglewood, CA.

Gone, but never forgotten. Not only as an actor, but certainly as an American Veteran of WW2, and part of the history of the Garden State.

Thomas Minton is a US Army Veteran, Field Arty 2013-19.  
Admin, 'Sandy Hook History' Facebook Page

*Tom travels extensively around the surrounding area, providing US Army Coast Artillery "living history" displays for parks and museums to ensure the preservation of the legacy of our veterans. He would be more than happy to set up a display for the NJ American Legion, at any location throughout the state.*

Photo Credits: All Public Domain; 1-3, US Coast Guard, c. 1942-1945; Inset: Unidentified Head Shot; 4: as "The Joker," on "Batman," c. 1966-68.

 \*\* Please Like & Follow "Sandy Hook History" on Facebook & Instagram for more amazing maritime and military histories of the Garden State and New York Harbor as well as a review of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle Of The Atlantic and World War 2\*\* 



**SAVE THE DATES: SATURDAY APRIL 20, 2024 & SUNDAY APRIL 21, 2024**

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY OF POST 174 WAYNE, NJ AND THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY OF POST 105 BELLEVILLE, NJ WILL BE HOSTING 2 FAMILY C.O.T.A. PICNICS ON THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 20TH AND 21ST, 2024.

SATURDAY APRIL 20TH WILL BE HOSTED AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 174 BY SQUADRON #174 IN WAYNE, NJ. SUNDAY APRIL 21ST WILL BE HOSTED AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 105 BY SQUADRON #105 IN BELLEVILLE, NJ.

THERE WILL BE CHILDRENS GAMES, FOOD, BEVERAGES & LIVE MUSIC. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HELP OUR C.O.T.A. CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

C.O.T.A. IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH IS DEDICATED TO HELPING TRANSPLANT FAMILIES RAISE FUNDS FOR TRANSPLANT RELATED EXPENSES.

**MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW**



**44th ANNUAL "BE THE ONE" AWARENESS WALK**  
 Wednesday, June 12, 2024 (12-1pm)  
 (with registration and refreshment concessions)  
**REGISTRATION FEE: \$25**

INCLUDES A "BUDDY CHECK" AWARENESS WALK & A REGISTRATION AND CONCESSIONS TABLES  
 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, DEPUTY COMMANDER, AWARENESS INITIATIVE COORDINATOR

REGISTRATION AND CONCESSIONS TABLES WILL BE OPEN FROM 11:00 AM TO 12:00 PM. ALL TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY 11:00 AM. CHECKS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

THERE WILL BE "NO" TICKETS AVAILABLE THE DAY OF THE WALK.  
 TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE UP TO 10 DAYS BEFORE THE WALK AT CONVENTION CENTER FROM 10:00 AM TO 11:00 PM.

PLEASE FOR ATTENTION TO THE BEARINGS NOTED IN THIS FILE.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR MORE INFORMATION, call and speak with our Chair, Kathleen, 974-266-4646, or email, kathy@legion-nj.org. Please direct all questions to the chair, Kathleen, at 974-266-4646 or email, kathy@legion-nj.org. The "Be the One" Awareness Walk is a non-profit event. All proceeds go to the American Legion Department of New Jersey. The "Be the One" Awareness Walk is a non-profit event. All proceeds go to the American Legion Department of New Jersey.

**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**BE THE ONE**  
**END HOMELESSNESS FOR NJ VETERANS**  
 The Committee on Affordable Housing For At-Risk and Homeless Veterans  
 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
 The Foundation for Sustainable Veterans Housing  
**NEEDS PROPERTIES IN SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY!**  
 LAND • VACANT BUILDINGS • A.L. POSTS  
 GOVERNMENT-OWNED • FARMLAND  
 CONTACT:  
**Jim Scanlon, Chairman**  
 Affordable Housing for at Risk / Homeless Veterans  
 National Commission on Homelessness  
 (732) 306-9268 • SAJCBUS@AOL.COM

A Jersey Connection: The frames of early WW2 RADAR units rode the Central RR of NJ rails from Western Electric in Kearny to Sandy Hook, where electronic systems were added. Then the units rolled south to Avon-by-the-Sea. In the Ferguson Plumbing Supply building, the secret Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) units were added. Then the units were shipped by rail to major US coastal cities for protection from enemy attack or ports for shipment to battle zones.

Interesting Reading: A group in Illinois' mission is to fly and maintain four huge 30 x 60 American Flags on I-80 Exit 56, Princeton IL. Quite an ongoing project. Check them out: <https://flagsoffreedomi80.org/>

Veteran and Military personnel owned Business Grants from Burlington County: <https://www.co.burlington.nj.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2186&t=Kue2exAySn5tThbNBkKY8g&s=09>

*For Your Star Recruiter:*

Page: 1 of 2

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**BLUE BRIGADE AWARD CERTIFICATION FORM**

**MAIL:** THE AMERICAN LEGION  
 ATTN: SAL AWARDS  
 700 N. PENNSYLVANIA ST.  
 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

**EMAIL:** [SALawards@legion.org](mailto:SALawards@legion.org)  
 Contact National Headquarters of the above email if you have any questions regarding this award form. \*\*Award form must be received at National Headquarters by July 31

The following SAL member in the Detachment of \_\_\_\_\_ has enrolled 30 or more new members into Sons of The American Legion membership by July 31  
 (A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE SONS MEMBER JOINING FOR THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP YEAR.) TRANSFERS DO NOT COUNT AS NEW MEMBERS

PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW AMERICAN LEGION AND/OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR POST OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS. CONTACT YOUR STATE HEADQUARTERS FOR MORE INFORMATION. LEGION OFFICE: 0202/10015

Please select the appropriate box below for this Blue Brigade award:

1st BLUE BRIGADE AWARD  
 OTHER (See below instructions)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Select the "OTHER" box above only if awardee has submitted award form consecutive years in a row with no missing years.  
 \*\* Consecutive year awardees receive an Blue Brigade Certificate and Chevron.  
 \*\* \$1 plus five awards for consecutive years will receive above items and \$150.00 Embroid Sales gift certificate

**For new members select the appropriate boxes below for the preferred jacket TYPE and SIZE:**

3-SEASON FLEECE JACKET OR  LIGHTWEIGHT SOFT SHELL JACKET  
 SIZES: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL

Recruiter Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of NEW MEMBERS enrolled: \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum of 30 required)

**NOTE:** ALL BLUE BRIGADE AWARD ITEMS WILL BE SENT TO THE RECRUITER'S AMERICAN LEGION STATE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS OFFICE FOR DISTRIBUTION ONCE ALL APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN VERIFIED AND VALIDATED

**\*\* ALL JACKETS ARE CUSTOM MADE TO ORDER BY SIZE AND EMBROIDERED WITH RECRUITER'S NAME, MEMBERSHIP YEAR ETC. AND CAN TAKE APPROX. 8-8 WEEKS TO RECEIVE FROM THE VENDOR**

**RFQ:** All new members enrolled must be listed on the national membership database and assigned a unique SAL membership ID# before submission. Any new members not listed at the time of application submission, will delay the approval process when verified.

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**RECRUITER OF THE YEAR CERTIFICATION FORM**

In the Detachment of \_\_\_\_\_, the top new member recruiter of \_\_\_\_\_ (State) membership enrolled for the current membership year and received and verified by National Headquarters as of the 105% target date as determined by the National Organization is:

**Nominee Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Squadron Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Squadron No.:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Detachment:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cap Size:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Member ID#:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Number of new members recruited:** \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum 30 required)  
 (Complete the attached new member certification form of newly recruited members)

**Squadron Adjutant (Signature):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Detachment Adjutant (Signature):** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Printed: month/year \_\_\_\_\_ Date Printed: month/year \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Squadron Officers - certification form must be sent through the state Department / Detachment Headquarters office.  
 \*\* Department Headquarters contact info can be found at [legion.org/departments](http://legion.org/departments)  
**NOTE:** Detachment Officers - submit to National Headquarters via the below options:  
**EMAIL:** [SALawards@legion.org](mailto:SALawards@legion.org) (Subject Line: Recruiter of the Year Award)  
**MAIL:** The American Legion  
 Attn: SAL Awards  
 700 N. Pennsylvania Street  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204

**This form MUST reach National Headquarters before the 105% Delegate Strength Target Date (Due 30 days prior to National Convention)**

**NOTE:** In the event of a tie, the winner will be the certification form with the highest number of newly recruited members and the earliest postmarked form mailed and/or electronically received form received by National Headquarters.

## *Upcoming Events:*

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Each Month: Hoagie and Bake Sale, Pemberton Riders and ALA 294.  
Mar 29: National Effort to Thank our Vietnam Vets – Lakehurst Navy Exchange Bld 485.  
Mar 29: Welcome Home Ceremony for Vietnam Vets – Collingswood Post 17.  
Mar 29: Fish & Chips Dinner, Rutherford ALA 109.  
Mar 29: Shrimp Night, Atco ALA 311.  
Mar 29: Fish Fry, Leonardo Post 338.  
Mar 30: Blood Drive, Barnegat Post 232.  
Mar 30: Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, Atco Post 311.  
Apr 05: Chicken Parm & Spaghetti Dinner, Oaklyn Post 84  
Apr 07: Tropicana Bus Trip, Englishtown Post 434.  
Apr 12-13: SAL National Commander Donald “JR” Hall’s Homecoming [www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org)  
Apr 13: Shuffle Board Tournament, Wharton Post 91.  
Apr 13: Car Truck Motorcycle Meet, Pemberton Post 294.  
Apr 14: Testimonial Dinner Honoring Department Commander Larry Bishop, Grand Marquis, Old Bridge.  
Apr 14 & 28: Breakfast, Mystic Island Post 493.  
Apr 17: Honor Flight of Southern New Jersey.  
Apr 20: Testimonial Dinner Honoring Detachment Commander Keith Barnes, Graycliff, Moonachie.  
Apr 20: COTA Picnic, Wayne SAL 174.  
Apr 21: COTA Picnic, Belleville SAL 105.  
Apr 24: Blood Drive, Audubon Post 262.  
Apr 27: National American Legion Family Day.  
Apr 28: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Rebuilding Warriors Fundraiser, Headliner, Neptune.  
Apr 28: Annual Father-Daughter Dance “An Afternoon in Paris”, Burlington ALA 336.  
May 05: 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Fundraiser, Somers Point Riders 352.  
May 11: Beefsteak Dinner Fundraiser, Wayne Post 174.  
May 18: ARMED FORCES DAY  
May 22: South Jersey Regional Stand Down, - All Wars Memorial / Soldiers Home, Atlantic City.  
May 23: Beef & Beer Fundraiser hosted by Tuckahoe Post 239, @ Bolero Resort, Wildwood.  
May 24: National Poppy Day  
May 27: MEMORIAL DAY  
June 12: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Buddy Check / BeTheOne / Awareness Walk – Wildwood Convention Center.  
June 13-14: Annual NJ Convention, Wildwood.  
June 15: NJ American Legion Family Department Parade, Wildwood.  
July 11: Military Appreciation / American Legion Night / Monmouth County Tailgate Party, @ Jersey Shore Blue Claws, Lakewood.  
July 12: Smart TV Raffle, Atco SAL and ALA 311.  
July 13: 97<sup>th</sup> Capt Emilio Carranza Memorial, (Hosted by Mount Holly Post 11) Tabernacle.  
July 27: VetDogs Year End Picnic, Wayne Post 174.  
Aug 08: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Jersey Cape Hook, Line, and Heroes Veterans Fishing Event, various launch locations in Cape May County  
Aug 23-29: Annual American Legion Convention, New Orleans.  
Sep 10: 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pig Roast, Brick Post 348.

Send your Event Info to [njSALute@gmail.com](mailto:njSALute@gmail.com)

*Contributors:*

Detachment Commander Keith Barnes (Englewood 58)

DEC Rusty Myers (Belleville SAL 105)

PDC Nick Wingle (Lakewood (SAL 166)

DEC Greg Shaffer (Wayne SAL 174)

PDC Mark Natale (Leonardo SAL 338)

PDC Carl Albern Jr (Neptune SAL 346)

PDP Doreen Gallagher (Neptune ALA 346)

PDC Patrick Gallagher (Neptune SAL 346)

Comdr Barry Conaway (SAL Burlington County)

SAL Sq 70 Nutley

SAL Essex County Exec Committee

DH Lisa Waldron Natale (Leonardo ALA 338)

ANEC/PDC Henry Hasselhan (Atco SAL 311)

American Legion Dept of NJ

ShannonLee Widmer (Audubon ALA 262)

Katie Murphy

Fred Carl – InfoAge Science Center

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

Thomas Minton – Sandy Hook History

Sandy Hook History - Facebook Page

SAL Camden County

SAL Sq 105 Belleville

American Legion Post 346 Neptune

PDC/PNVC Thomas Marsden (Brick SAL 348)

Battleship New Jersey - Facebook Page

What are your Squadron and County up to? Please send pictures (jpg preferred) and articles to [njSALute@gmail.com](mailto:njSALute@gmail.com). Please ID people in the pictures.

Running for 2024-2025 Detachment office? Please send your latest picture and bio for the next issue of the *NJ SALute*.

