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Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-2060 9vA nithsM S&31 American Legion

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January 15-March 15, 2018

www.ALCH372.com

# Commander's Message



Well, we have had a busy few months in closing the year out - with members participating in NJ Run for the Fallen, Stand Down of South

Jersey, the Philadelphia Veterans Parade, Hurricane Relief Drives, Holiday Food Drives, Holiday Kids Party, the Cpt Greg Dalessio Run, and the services for US Navy veteran Kenneth Smith, just to mention a few.

As a Navv veteran myself. I was saddened to learn of the loss of Kenneth Smith on board the USS McCain. In addition to paying respects at his funeral, some members participated in the escort of his remains, a flag line at the church and we also flagged the Funeral Home and Church perimeters - a nice touch and show of respect for Kenneth and his family.

I would also like to give a shout out of thanks to Schetter Funeral home for their gracious donation of 16 beautiful wood poles for our 3 x

Kenneth is the 4<sup>th</sup> Cherry Hill resident killed since Iraq. The others are Jeremy Kane, John Spahr and Greg Dalessio.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Cpt Greg Dalessio 5K Run/Walk was held last month – once again we provided flagging of the and news. route, bananas and oranges for the runners.

The Cherry Hill Police PBA hosted the 2nd annual Veterans dinner at our Post. The veterans were treated to an excellent catered dinner by Mission BBQ, a short ceremony and speaker and a chance to mingle with the Cherry Hill PBA, along with fellow veterans We are fortunate to live in a town that supports Veterans and their causes.

Our Veterans Day Service was well attended and all seemed to enjoy the presentation and desserts provided afterwards. It was a great day to honor all of our veterans.

The SAL's hosted a fabulous Family Day – I believe it was a record turn out! Everyone had a great time. They also spearheaded the annual Log Splitting event to feed our fireplace with the much needed wood to keep us warm and toasty in what's turning out to be a very chilly winter!

In mentioning all these things, I encourage all members to participate in what you can. Even with limited time, there are things you can do to make a difference for our veterans and community! Be sure to sign up on our

Email list so you receive information on all upcoming events

Because of Harry Doerr's assistance, we now have a new natural gas fired boiler and associated equipment. He has saved the post a lot of money both now and future fuel bills. Way to go Harry!

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, Canteen personnel will be checking membership cards upon entrance. Please carry your membership card with you. If you have guests that visit our facility, please speak with them about joining our Legion family – the membership fees range from \$21 - \$35 for the year, an affordable cost for most.

We have dipped heavily into the posts financial reserves purchasing a new roof, parking lot, and now a new heating system, but our building goes back to 1955 and these improvements were necessary. So, stop into the canteen, spend some money, promote Legion membership to your friends/family, try your luck at Pull Tabs, and continue supporting the premier post in South Jersey For God and Country. Commander Timothy Kraft



www.alch372.com

### Military Facts—Did You Know?

- ⇒ The Navy's bell-bottom trousers, are commonly believed to be introduced in 1817 to permit men to roll them above the knee when washing down the decks and to make it easier to remove them in a hurry when forced to abandon ship or when washed overboard. In addition the trousers may be used as a life preserver by knotting the legs and swinging them over your head
- ⇒ The nickname "Leatherneck" originates from the stiff leather stock that early Marines wore around their necks, probably to protect their jugular vein against saber blows.

to fill the legs with air.

 $\Rightarrow$  The U.S. Army was in charge of  $\Rightarrow$  30 of the 43 Presidents served exploring and mapping America. The Lewis and Clark Expedition

was an all Army affair. Army officers were the first Americans to see such landmarks as Pike's Peak and the Grand Canyon.

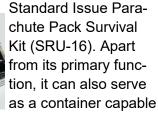
⇒ The Legend of Bill the Goat: Bill the Goat has been the Naval Academy mascot since the early 1900s. Legend has it that a Na-

> vy ship once had a goat for a pet, and on the way home to port the goat died. Two ensigns were entrusted to have the goat stuffed, but got distracted

by a Naval Academy football game. One of the ensigns allegedly dressed up in the goatskin and pranced around at halftime. The crowd loved it and Navy won the game.

in the Army, 24 during time of war, two earned the rank of 5-

- star General (Washington and Eisenhower) and one earned the Medal of Honor (T. Roosevelt)
- ⇒ During the The Great Los Angeles Air Raid in February 1942, the Army ordered a total blackout of Los Angeles and fired 1,400 anti-air artillery and thousands of .50 caliber shots at a reported enemy aircraft. Just a few hours later, it proved to be a false alarm.
- ⇒ A non-lubricated condom is part of the United States Military



of holding up to 1 liter of water.

- ⇒ Stores on US military bases around the world don't accept pennies as currency because they are "too heavy and are not cost-effective to ship".
- ⇒ A "roof stomp" is an Air Force tradition where airmen welcome new commander or celebrate a special occasion by climbing up on the commander's roof and make noise while others bang on



the windows and doors. The commander then opens the door to

welcome in the group for refreshments. (In recent years, some airmen have modified the tradition to a "porch stomp.")

# Effective January 1, 2018 **MEMBERSHIP CARD Check**



Canteen personnel will be checking for 2018 Membership Cards upon entrance.

If you have a question about membership/renewal, please contact:

Legionnaires—Joe at vulcan150002@yahoo.com , Sons of American Legionnaires—Jim Arcinese at jammr@aol.com, Auxiliary— Cindy Nims at artco500@comcast.net)





# American Legion Post 372 "7he Scoop" Quarterly Newsletter

EDITORS: Sue Quinn-Morris, Jim Arcinese DESIGN/LAYOUT: Sue Quinn-Morris DISTRIBUTION: Jim Arcinese, Charlie Alberti ADVERTISING: Sue Quinn-Morris PRINTING: Main Street Graphics



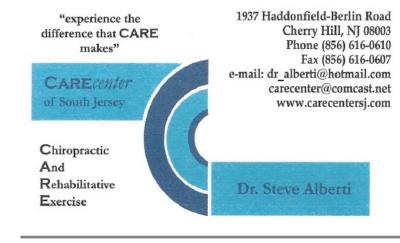
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### Patriot Connections Dog Tag Project Brings it Home for the Holidays for some Vietnam Veterans and their families...

Legion Auxiliary member, Sue Quinn-Morris, of Patriot Connec- and Curry were among tions, has been busy returning Vietnam veterans dog tags over the holidays.

The dog tag of **Danny Gaddis** lice Chief and Vietnam finally made its way home - due Veteran, Ray Milligan, in part to his comrade, Billy Phil- who was in Vietnam as

lips, a retired Philadelphia Police Officer. Phillips served with Danny Gaddis

in the 282<sup>nd</sup> Assault Helicopter Co. in Vietnam. Danny was his Crew Chief, Billy was his door gunner aboard a Huey helicopter flying out of Marble Mountain Air facility outside of DaNang in 1968-69. They flew many combat hours together, even being shot down a few

times....unfortunately Danny died in 1998. However, happy to report his dog tag was returned to his sister, Dona Maines and his daughter in Okla- veterans. Bennett doesnt like homa over the holidays!

Richard Curry was nominated tion's third highest military award, return his dog tag. when he was a nineteen year old

Read more at patriotconnections.org

private first class and squad leader serving with 'A' Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment of the 1st Marine Division. A couple of weeks shy of his twentieth birthday, in August, 1967, Rich and his platoon were sent to establish a defensive ambush position 200 yards.... Read more at patriotcon-

nections.org

son, Adam Curry, in Massachussetts over the holidays.

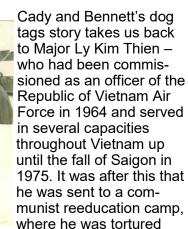
The dog tags of Gaddis hundreds brought home from Vietnam by a retired Po-

logistics support coordinator for a group called Operation Smile. Quinn-

on returning them all since 2010.



Clarence Bennett served in the US Air Force for 4 years in Vietnam, Like many Vietnam to speak much about his time in Vietnam. Imagine his surprise when his wife told him we had conto receive the Silver Star, the na- tacted her, searching for him - to



...his dog tag was returned to his and forced to denounce his anticommunist beliefs. In 1994 he escaped Vietnam on foot through Cambodia and on to Thailand, which is



where British Army and Royal Navy veteran Aaron Bougourd met him in 2006. Bourgourd was there volunteering for the Father Ray Foundation Orphanage.

Major Thien, living as a refugee in Thialand enlisted Bougourd's help to try and find his long lost Morris has been working family in Vietnam, which they were

> able to do. As a show of appreciation, Major Thein's family gave Bougourd about 50 dog tags they had dug up at Ben Hoa Air Base.

Bougourd, a resident of England, has since reached out to Patriot Connections Dog Tag Project to help try and return the dog tags to the veterans.



#### CAN YOU HELP? ...

While over 100 dog tags have been returned, and another 30 in the works, there

is still over 300 left to return. Please take a moment to view/ share the list of dog tags - share it with your friends/comrades check names against your old Vietnam rosters - contact Sue at squinn9807@aol.com or 856-495-7270 if you believe she has your dog tag, or one belonging to a friend, relative or comrade. THANK YOU!

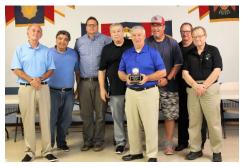
#### **GUESS WHO Answers from page 2**

- 1. Charlie Adams
- 2. Erv Dippold
- 3. Ernie Brosh
- 4. George Hubel

# Legion Baseball & Scholarships

#### 30 Years of Service Honored:

After 30+ years of dedication to coaching the American Legion Baseball Post 372 team, Ron Krowiak has retired - he and his



wife moved to Georgia.

Legion Officers, Bo Gray, and other coaches that Ron has worked with over the years, came out to wish him well in this new chapter in his life.

Bo Gray has graciously stepped up to fill Ron's position and we wish



him well. Please be sure to follow our website for the Legion Baseball game schedule this coming season and come show your support for our team!

We would also like to thank the young men from the Legion baseball team for coming out to help us with our Annual Log Splitting in November.



### **Legion Scholarships:**

Legion Officers and American Legion Baseball Coach Bo Gray presented our Legion Scholarships to the deserving young men this past December. The Scholarships include the Jack Huhn Scholarship, the Tom Goldy Scholarship and the Lance Peck Scholarship. We wish the young men well and were happy to help them with the Scholarships.



Be Connected. Be Heard. Be Informed

All members are encouraged to come out to the monthly meetings. Below find dates/times of meetings.

Legionnaires Mtg - 4th Tues 7:30pm Auxiliary Mtg - 1st Monday - 7pm SAL's Mtg - 3rd Wednesday - 7:30pm Legion Riders - 4th Monday - 7pm

Call 856-665-3889 to confirm meetings as they are sometimes rescheduled due to holidays, etc.

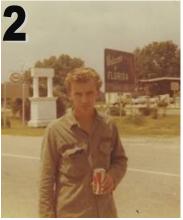


My Health, My Care: 24/7 Access to VA



**GUESS WHO!?** - The four men depicted below are Legionnaires at our American Legion. Can you guess who they are? Give it a go before checking the answers on page 10!









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# Message from the SAL Commander



As 2017 came to a close, the SALs can look back and reflect on many accomplishments for the year. Let's take was held in ear-

a moment to review some of our recent activities.

A big thank you to the SALs, Ladies Auxiliary, Legion Riders, NAM Knights and General Members, for another successful SAL Family Day! Everyone worked together to host the event to celebrate our Veterans and their families and enjoy the day

with all of our family and friends. The Legion's grill was fired up all day long. Our SAL's chefs Joe, Brian and Josh did an excellent job at

the grill. A special thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary for preparing the salads and desserts. Thanks to Al Sacca and Peggy Connolly for the cooking they did at their home for Family Day. We gave away Door Prizes for the first time and they were a big hit. This was all due to the generosity of Dan and Lynn Collins, Chuck Jeffers and his mother Terry, and Bill and Val Norton. These are just some of the many that contributed to the Family Day Celebration to bring this event toity of our Family Day continues to grow. We had a record turnout this year.

We are extremely grateful for the tremendous response for the donations for the victims of the Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. This was done on short notice, but many came through and donated. We

received a "Citation for Meritorious Service" from the Wildwood American Legion Post for the awesome response with this relief effort.

The annual SAL Log Splitting day

ly November. Thanks to all that pitched in. We will be good with wood for

the Canteen fireplace for quite a

Christmas events included the "Children's Christmas Party" with an

appearance by Santa (our Senior Vice Commander Rich). Thanks to all for hosting and attending, it was an exciting time. The expressions on the kids was pure happiness as they participated

with the crafts and sat on Santa's lap. Our Post also hosted a Christmas Party which was a blast. Here again the success of events like these a trick, but seeing the Germans unis all due to the generosity of our Post's members.

Please keep an eye on our website (www.alch372.com) for information about upcoming events, like the Super Bowl party on February 4 and the Valentines Oldies Dinner Dance on February 10. Tickets for the Valentines Dinner Dance can be purchased in advance at the Canteen.

Remember our SAL meetings are gether – thank you all! The popular- held on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM. All SAL members are encouraged to come out and show your support for our SAL family. Keep in mind the SAL Poker Night continues on the last Friday night of each month. All are welcome.

Its's time for all of us to renew our memberships for 2018. We've reached high membership numbers

over the years and we want to continue the progress. With each year we grow stronger in our dedication to enhance this great organization, which builds on the true feeling of

"Family" participation at our post. We have set up January 13 for SAL 2018 Memberships Renewal Day. You can also renew at the canteen.

Lastly, I want to share a snapshot of history – "The 1914 Christmas Day Truce". Just after midnight on Christmas morning 1914, the majority of German troops engaged in World War I ceased firing their guns and artillery and began to sing Christmas carols. Many of the German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man's-land. calling out "Merry Christmas" in their enemies' native tongues. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was armed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. The so-called Christmas Truce of 1914 came only five months after the outbreak of war in Europe and was one of the last examples of the outdated notion of chivalry between enemies in war-

In closing, I want to pass along best wishes for a Prosperous and Happy New Year to the SALs, their families and all members and families of our great Post. Thank you for your support! For God and Country Dave D'Orazio SAL Commander

#### NJ Meritorious Service Medal for Stand Down

In October. Stand Down of South Jersey was presented with the State participate to consider doing so of New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal. The presentation was made by Adjutant General, Brigadier Gen- Maher, is president of Stand Down, eral Michael Cunniff, and Governor Chris Christie at the annual Gover-

nor's Military Review and Awards ceremony at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, NJ. The award recognizes Stand Down's years of service to the area homeless and at-risk Veter-

Several Legion members have made this an annual volunteer tradi- by ambulance.

tion—we encourage all that can next year as well. Long time Legion member and retired FBI agent, Jim and has done an outstanding job every year!

This years Stand Down provided service to 171 homeless and at-risk Veterans. Among them were 4 who needed and received urgent medical attention. One volunteer also required and

received care for an urgent medical issue. One Veteran was evacuated

Each Veteran could select from purchased winter coats, boots and hooded

sweatshirts as well as surplus military gear. Gently used clothing was also available. Stand



Down purchased and distributed winter coats, winter vests, blue jeans, hooded sweatshirts, and new boots. Socks and regular and thermal underwear were also distributed. A meal of spare ribs, hot dogs, hamburgers, salads and fruit was also provided.



#### Philadelphia Veterans Parade 2017

Legion members once again participated in the 3rd Annual Philadelphia Veterans Parade in Center City.

Over 150 organizations and 3000 marchers participated in the parade.

In addition to our participation we donated American flags and bottled water which were handed out to the parade participants in the staging area.





Hurricane Relief Donation Pick Up





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#### Cherry Hill Police—Veterans Dinner, Golf and Police Unity Tour

Veterans Dinner: Once again, the Cherry Hill PBA hosted a Veter- The PBA held their annual ans Dinner at the Legion.

The PBA's special guest this year Pennsauken Country Club. was Deptford Township K9 officer Max Janofsky, a retired Army Staff Sergeant, Bronze Star recipient and gion members all pitched in \$5-\$10 combat wounded veteran who

served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Earlier this year, his wife, Danielle, was diagnosed with melanoma cancer when she was 6 months pregnant. It had spread to liver, kidney,

stomach, and her brain —knowing that her diagnosis was a devastating one, Danielle made the decision lice Department, with the hope of to deliver her baby, a one pound 11 section. Danielle died three days later. Our hearts go out to him.

The dinner was catered by Mission BBQ, who provided outstand-

ing food and are well known for their support of active military, veterans and law enforcement.

A great time was had by all and our sincere appreciation goes out to them for honoring

our veterans and providing this wonderful evening for us.

#### **PBA Golf Tournament:**

Golf Tournament at About a dozen Legion members played and Le-

to purchase a Hole Sponsor Sign.



**Police Unity Tour:** This will mark the first year that the Cherry will have their own Police Unity Tour

In May 1997, the Police Unity Tour was organized, by Officer Patrick P. Montuore of the Florham Park Pobringing public awareness of Police ounce baby boy named Jake, via C- Officers who have died in the line of duty and to honor their sacrifices. What started with 18 riders on a four day fund-raising bicycle ride from Florham Park, NJ to the National

> Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Has grown into nine chapters consisting of nearly 2500 members nationwide who make the trip annually.

Officers who are participating in Hoodie \$40. this event to honor their fallen comrades.

They do have some fundraisers going on to help offset the expenses of the 4 day trip which is



quite costly.

Some American Legion members attended their Police Unity event at Kaminski's Restaurant in December. A

great time was had by all and we even had a couple winners of Chinese Auction items!

For anyone that did not order a Police unity Shirt and would like one, call Hill Police Department or email Sue at 856-495-7270 or email





squinn9807@aol.com.

Men's Shirts: Short Sleeve \$20, Long Sleeve \$30. Hoodie \$40. Kudos to the Cherry Hill Police Women's Shirts: Short Sleeve \$25,

> There will also be 50/50 chances available in the near future—drawing will be sometime in April. Stay tuned on our website and canteen for details on the tickets.







#### Family Day 2017



# Join us facebook

# www.alch372.com

Escort/Funeral of US Navy Kenneth Smith



9/11 Remembrance Service at CHFD



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# MESSAGE from Auxiliary President



Hope you all had a wonderful and safe holiday. Our kids Christmas party was again a huge success. 22 kids were so excited to see

Santa. A big thank you to all who helped to make it work and especially our SAL Rich Derer for once again playing Santa. Kudos go out to our auxiliary member Helen Henry for donating all the kids toys. Thank you Helen.

Back in November, We were invited to attend a luncheon at the Wildwood American Legion Post 184. We were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for all of the donations we col-

lected for the hurricane relief fund during the SALS Family Day. Kevin Culligan from the Nam Knights





donated 17 microwaves and refrigerators for the relief fund. Thank you Kevin and everyone who donated to the relief fund. It was greatly appreciated by all who received these donations.

We have our annual visit to Home for the Brave on January

13th. We will be bringing them hats, scarves, along with hoagies and other food. If you would like to go, please meet at the Legion at

11:30am. Email notices were sent out about this and it is on our website and Facebook page as

February 10<sup>th</sup> will be our auxiliary Valentines Oldies Dinner Dance, 6pm until ?. Food, beer, wine, Chinese auction, 50/50 and a door prize. Please try to attend this fun evening as all our proceeds are used to support our Vets in

> need. For God and Country Lynn Collings **Auxiliary President**





### **MESSAGE** from Riders Director



We have had a SAFE and eventful year and look forward to the new year!

months, we participated in numerous events such as the annual SAL Family Day, 21st Annual Wildwood Bike Week, our Halloween Party and the Legion Holiday Festivities.

On a more somber note, we participated in the NJ Run for the Fallen once amazing and our Post was singled again - let us not forget our Cherry Hill out as a stop along their route. We KIA Greg Dalessio, Jeremy Kane, John need to give a huge thanks to the Spahr and newly added Kenneth Smith. Ken was an Electronics Technijoining us on this momentous occacian 3rd Class on the USS John

McCain and was only 22yrs old when he was killed. We also participated in his funeral procession and flag line at the church service.

To recap the last several We also supported the Greg Dales- CA Post 31! sio 5K Run – this was the 10th year we have been supporting it since the page for upcoming events including beginning.

> I would also like to give a special kudos to those that participated in the Epic Ride! This was pretty ALR from Post 493 Mystic Island for sion! The group was overwhelmed

that so many rode out to escort them back to the Post for a simple luncheon and meet and greet! Good to see you guys from Salina,

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Check our website and Facebook details on our annual St Patty's Day party and upcoming missions. And consider joining us and as always the usual camaraderie at the Post Canteen.

Keep your eyes open for any popup events/rides!

Art Schneider

Your Friendly Neighborhood Director, ALR Post 372



10th Annual Greg Dalessio 5K Run/Walk





Thank you to Charlie Adams for his hospitality (food/beverages) at his home in Sea Isle City during this event/run.