

# The Scoop

American Legion Post 372  
1532 Martin Ave.  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002



January 2025 Newsletter

Including 2024 4th Quarter Recap



## Welcome to The American Legion

### 3rd Annual American Legion Youth Art Contest

The American Legion Post 372 of Cherry Hill is thrilled to announce our 3rd Annual Youth Art Contest. All submissions are due by April 1, 2025 and the theme is the Korean War.

It's an incredible opportunity for our local youth to showcase their artistic talents and potentially win a scholarship. The first-place winner

not only receives a \$1000 scholarship but also gets to paint their mural on the front of our building, on one of the 6 "Mural Walls." The second place winner receives a \$500 scholarship and the third place winner receives a \$300 scholarship.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER:**  
Students in Grades 9 -12 from the

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American Legion Post 372

3rd Annual ART CONTEST

Theme: KOREAN WAR

The American Legion Post 372 of Cherry Hill is thrilled to announce our 3rd Annual Youth Art Contest and we want YOU to be a part of it! It's an incredible opportunity for our local youth to showcase their artistic talents and potentially win a scholarship. The first-place winner not only receives a \$1000 scholarship but also gets to paint their mural on the front of our building, on one of the 6 "Mural Walls."

#### Who Is Eligible To Enter:

Students in Grades 9 -12 from the following schools: Cherry Hill East, West and Alternative Schools, Pennsauken High School, Haddon Township High School, Bishop Eustace Prep School, Camden Catholic High School, Haddon Heights High School and Paul VI High School.

#### What to Submit:

Submit a drawing of any Korean War scene on a 24 x 36 (Landscape) white posterboard. Your finished submission, along with the Entry Form, should be given directly to your Art Teacher by April 1, 2025. Complete info <https://www.alch372.com/korean-war-art-contest>.

#### 1st Place: \$1000

Scholarship & will paint mural on the facade of the American Legion Post 372 in Cherry Hill

#### 2nd Place: \$500

Scholarship

#### 3rd Place: \$300

Scholarship



following schools: Cherry Hill East, West and Alternative Schools, Pennsauken High School, Haddon Township High School, Bishop Eustace Prep School, Camden Catholic High School, Haddon Heights High School and Paul VI High School.

For detailed information, including Contest Rules, Flyer, and Submission Form, visit [https://](https://www.alch372.com/korean-war-art-contest/)

[www.alch372.com/korean-war-art-contest/](https://www.alch372.com/korean-war-art-contest/)

Should you have any questions, contact Joe at 856-203-2028

Join us on facebook

# www.alch372.com

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 372 AUXILIARY**

THANKS EVERYONE THAT DONATED FOOD AND PET SUPPLIES TO OUR ANNUAL FOOD & PET DRIVE AND THOSE THAT HELPED DISTRIBUTE THESE ITEMS TO THOSE IN NEED

**HELPING OUR COMMUNITY**



**TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

The American Legion Post 372 Auxiliary extends warm gratitude to all the generous individuals who contributed to our Annual Food and Pet Drive. Your donations of food and pet supplies were invaluable in helping us support those in need within our community. It truly exemplifies the saying, "It takes a village." Thank you for being an integral part of this meaningful endeavor.

American Legion Post 372 Auxiliary

**THANKS**  
Everyone Who  
Donated



**To Our Toy Drive!**

Toys will be distributed to the Women's Shelter and those in need this week. It takes a village!

The American Legion Post 372 Auxiliary extends a heartfelt thank you to all the generous individuals who donated toys to this year's annual Toy Drive and helped distribute them. Your kindness and compassion are making a meaningful difference in the lives of families and children in need.



[www.chfop28.org](http://www.chfop28.org)

Cherry Hill FOP Lodge 28  
&  
Cherry Hill American Legion

**3rd ANNUAL**

**& GOLF OUTING**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

**POSTPONED UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025**

1pm SHOTGUN Start. Registration 11:30am

\$150 Per Golfer \* Dinner ONLY Package \$50 (Limited space. 5pm start)

SPONSORSHIP & AD BOOK OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

**PENNSAUKEN COUNTRY CLUB**

Questions? Contact Tim at 609-682-0582 or Grizz at 856-203-2028



SCAN ME

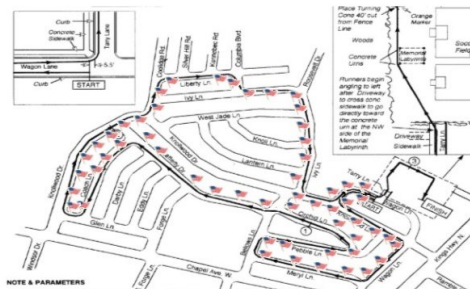
# 16th Annual Cpt Greg Dalessio Memorial 5K

On Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, some members of American Legion Post 372 came together to flag the path for the 16th Annual Captain Greg Dalessio Memorial 5K Run, which involved carefully marking the course to ensure that participants knew where to go and to create a safe and enjoyable race experience. This race, held in honor of Cherry Hill native Captain Greg Dalessio, who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq in 2008, is a cherished tradition in the community. The race took place on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, and was a heartfelt tribute to Greg's memory.

Captain Greg Dalessio's legacy lives on through this annual memorial 5K run that bears his name. The race not only pays tribute to Greg's selflessness and bravery but also serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by our military men and women. It is a way for the community to come together and show their support for the Dalessio family and all those who have lost a loved one in service to their country.



## 16th Annual Cpt Dalessio Memorial Flagging of 5K Route



On the morning of Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, runners and community members gathered for the 16th Annual Captain Greg Dalessio Memorial 5K Run. The race was a mix of solemn remembrance and joyful celebration as participants came together to honor Greg's memory. American Legion Post 372 also provided bananas and oranges for

the runners as they crossed the finish line. A small gesture of appreciation for their participation.

Following the race, an American Legion Post 372 member, along with Dalessio family members, collected all the flags that lined the route and brought them back to the Legion to be sorted and stored.

# Cherry Hill Police Hold Their Annual Shop With A Cop

The Cherry Hill Police held their 6th Annual Shop with a Cop in December. After shopping for the kids at Target, a party ensued at the Ameri-

can Legion, complete with a visit from Santa Claus!!! American Legion Post 372 is honored to be a part of bringing joy and the spirit of Christmas to our

community. ' Together, we are making a difference and exemplifying the meaning of community spirit and togetherness.



# Post 372 Auxiliary Holds Annual Oktoberfest!

The American Legion Post 372 Auxiliary held it's legendary Oktoberfest bash, from 1pm to 6pm on October 12, 2024.

The Legion was buzzing with vibes that can rival Munich's beer tents, along with our our Lil' Wienerschnitzel, the one and only Bobby D, who rocked the house and kept spirits soaring higher than your favorite roller coaster!

Attendees at Oktoberfest at the Legion were treated to an exciting event filled with prizes for the best dressed, opportunities to participate in 50/50 draws,

and a variety of baskets available to win.

The fantastic weather created the perfect backdrop for a day filled with joy and excitement. Surrounded by awesome company and endless fun, Oktoberfest at the Legion proved to be the ultimate destination. Thanks to the support and contributions of all who participated, the event turned out to be a

truly wonderful and memorable day.

This has come to be one of the best fundraisers for the Auxiliary that helps support all the various programs and donations that they make each year. If you haven't had a chance to make it out for one of these event, be sure to mark your calendar for next year!



## Santa Rocks the Children’s Christmas Party!



The Auxiliary of Post 372 recently hosted their annual Children's Christmas Party on December 7th, 2024. The event brought together families and children for a day filled with festive activities, delicious food, and a visit from Santa himself.



Laughter and excitement filled the air as children eagerly lined up for face painting, picked out their favorite crafts to work on, and enjoyed the delicious treats provided by volunteers. One of the highlights of the event was when Santa made his grand entrance. The children's eyes lit up with delight as they saw Santa, eagerly awaiting their turn to sit on his lap and share their Christmas wishes. The excitement was contagious, spreading joy throughout the room.



The success of the Children's Christmas Party wouldn't have been possible without the generous donations and dedicated volunteers who helped make the event a reality. From setting up decorations to serving food and organizing activities, every volunteer played a crucial role in ensuring that the children had a memorable experience. The smiles on the children's faces said it all – this party was truly a hit.



## SAL’s Hold First Log Splitting of Year

With winter closing in, the SAL's held their inaugural Log Splitting event on December 7th!

A big shoutout to all the wonderful souls who showed up to lend a hand – our members will surely be snug as bugs in a rug when the cold sets in now that we have plenty of firewood to keep our fireplaces going!

With a fireplace both inside in the canteen and outside in the smoking area, we have plenty of need for the wood!

Kudos to our members for braving the chilly weather to keep the fire burning, quite literally!



# Veterans Day Weekend a Flurry of Events

Veteran's Day weekend was a whirlwind of gratitude and honor, filled with events, services, and celebrations.

From our annual Cherry Hill Legion Post 372 Veterans Day service to the mouth-watering Post's Spaghetti Dinner courtesy of the Auxiliary, and the Philadelphia Veterans Parade and Festival which brought together thousands of people to honor our veterans. Red, white, and blue rolled down the city streets, accompanied by marching bands playing patriotic tunes. It was also the 249th Birthday of the USMC in which some Post 372 members partook in. With countless local gatherings it was a buzzing few days for many of our members.



sense of deep gratitude lingered in the air. The dedication and sacrifice of our veterans are the bedrock of our freedoms, and their courage and selflessness will never be forgotten. To all of our veterans, a huge THANK YOU for your service and sacrifice. Your bravery is an inspiration to us all !

Throughout the weekend, businesses joined in the celebration, offering fantastic deals and discounts for veterans as a small token of gratitude for their service. From free meals at restaurants to discounted merchandise at stores,

the outpouring of support was truly heartwarming. As the weekend came to a close, a



## PBA Hosts 9th Annual Veterans Dinner

What a wonderful night it was at the Veterans Dinner and Game Night sponsored by the Cherry Hill PBA Local 176 at the American Legion Cherry Hill NJ on Oct 5th! Once again, they nailed it by wholeheartedly honoring our beloved veterans alongside their family and friends. It was heartwarming to witness the camaraderie as numerous veterans from Veterans Haven joined in the memorable occasion. The evening kicked off with a touching moment as Kim Brodie-Finley, a deserving Army veteran, was recognized for her service with a beautiful plaque and a monogrammed cup from the Cherry Hill PBA. As everyone relished the delicious spread from Mission BBQ,

generously provided by the Cherry Hill PBA, Kim led the crowd in entertaining rounds of Bingo and cup games, resulting in a fun competition with prizes, including many proud winners from Cherry Hill's finest. It was truly a night filled with appreciation, community spirit, and good-natured fun. Well done, Cherry Hill PBA, for fostering such a memorable and relaxed evening for our veterans and their loved ones!



### Members Canteen and Game Room

For the enjoyment of our members, we have a bustling Canteen and Game Room. Always a great time with our bartenders Robin, Jimmy, Bobby D, Josh, Janine, Patty, Dave, Chuck and Bets and our Bar Manager, Commander Joe "Grizz" Merionde. Should you have any questions regarding our canteen, contact Grizz at [grizz52@gmail.com](mailto:grizz52@gmail.com)

### Legion Email List

If you know of a Legion member that DOES NOT get our Legion Emails, please forward them one of our emails or they can [click here](#) to sign up on the Email list.

(Always be sure to check your SPAM folder in case it ends up there)

## Congrats to Chief of Police Rob Kempf



Congratulations are extended to Rob Kempf, a member of the Post 372 SAL's, on his well-deserved retirement from his position as the Chief of Police.

Chief Kempf dedicated 26 years of service in Cherry Hill, where he spent the last three years leading the department as Chief of Police. Throughout his tenure in Cherry Hill, Chief Kempf held various significant roles, including Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Watch Commander, Training Commander, and TRT Commander.

It is worth noting that Chief Kempf's commitment to professional development was evident, as he earned his MBA in 2002, pursued law school, obtained his license to practice law in 2010, and successfully graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy in 2017. The celebration of his retirement was held at the Legion Hall, a fitting venue to honor his remarkable career.

Once again, congratulations on your retirement, Rob!

American Legion Post 372 Auxiliary Presents our ANNUAL Visit to

# HOME *for the* BRAVE

*(A Local Shelter for our Homeless Veterans)*

Saturday, January 25, 2025

Join us as we pay a visit to our homeless veterans at the Home for the Brave. We will be bringing them Hoagies and Goodie Bags. Feel free to bring chips/desserts to share with the veterans if you like

Meet at the American Legion at 11:30am.  
(We will be car pooling, or drive yourself - Shelter is in Camden)

American Legion Post 372 Auxiliary, 1532 Martin Ave, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Join us on facebook



[www.alch372.com](http://www.alch372.com)



**Meetings**

**General Member Meetings** - 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. ([grizz52@gmail.com](mailto:grizz52@gmail.com))

**Auxiliary Meetings** - 1st Monday of the month at 7pm ([pathawk55@gmail.com](mailto:pathawk55@gmail.com))

**SAL Meetings** - 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm ([seib.ja@gmail.com](mailto:seib.ja@gmail.com))

**Riders Meetings** - 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm. ([slina74@verizon.net](mailto:slina74@verizon.net))

*Be sure to check with an Officer prior to scheduled meeting to make sure there has been no change. Sometimes meetings are cancelled/postponed due to holidays and such.*

**Membership**

In addition to active military and veteran memberships, we have memberships available for relatives of veterans. For more information and applications, contact the Membership Chairperson of the unit you wish to join.

General Members - Dan Serabo at [danielserabo@yahoo.com](mailto:danielserabo@yahoo.com)

Auxiliary Membership - Cindy Nims at [cjnims316@gmail.com](mailto:cjnims316@gmail.com)

SAL Membership - Sean Conway at [seanwconway@yahoo.com](mailto:seanwconway@yahoo.com)

Riders Membership - Steve Lina at [slina75@verizon.net](mailto:slina75@verizon.net)

**NEW JERSEY  
VETERANS'  
BENEFITS  
GUIDE**



**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**Comprehensive Guide  
to Benefits available to  
Veterans in NJ**



**SCAN the QR CODE to View and/or  
Print the NJ Veterans Benefit Guide**

<https://www.nj.gov/military/assets/documents/NJ%20Veterans%20Benefits%20Guide.pdf>



# VENUE for YOU

*at the American Legion in Cherry Hill, NJ*

*Baby / Bridal Showers \* Celebrations \* Receptions  
Meetings \* Seminars \* Fairs \* and more!*



**Beautiful Wood A-Frame Ceiling \* Neutral Colors \* Adjustable Lighting**

**On Site Parking \* Free Wifi \* TouchTunes JukeBox \***

**TV w/HDMI Cord \* Full Kitchen \* Ice Machine and much more!**

***Visit website for details/pricing or call Sue at 856-495-7270***

*American Legion, 1532 Martin Ave, Cherry Hill, NJ 0002 \* [www.alch372.com](http://www.alch372.com)*

Whether it's a Bridal Shower, a Baby Shower, a Birthday Party or anything in between, our Hall is a perfect choice for your next party!

Did you know that members of the American Legion Post 372, who have belonged to our Legion for 1+ years, get a discount on renting our beautiful Hall?

Check out all the details about our Hall at <https://www.alch372.com/hall-rental/> , or call Sue Q at 856-495-7270 for more details.

Effective January 1, 2025, we will be checking for 2025 Membership Cards in the Canteen.

If you forgot to renew your membership, please contact your Membership Chairperson

Our Auxiliary has had some officer changes, which are reflected below;

1st Vice President - Trish DeSalvo  
Treasurer - Dawn Smith

### Camden County Veterans Affairs

The Office of Veterans Affairs serves all veterans and their family members within Camden County. From help with Military Records to Disability Claims and Home Loans, they are there to assist you every step of the way. This office is available Monday through Friday to give assistance to all our veterans and dependents. If you have any questions regarding their services, please call (856) 374-5801

## CANTEEN SCENE

The 4th quarter of 2024 was filled with cheer—fun times celebrating the fall and holiday season with members! Events included the following;

October 26th—**Halloween Bash**—A spooktacular night it was—filled with enchanting festivities, Live Music by the amazing Decon Zeke and Specialty Drinks expertly crafted by Bartender Josh

December 18th—Robin's **Pirates Polyanna** was a real hit with our members. Everyone brought in a gift for the polyanna. Daryl led in the fun and games, amid people stealing each others gifts!

December 11th —**Donkey Day** at the Legion—(Janine) - Pre orders taken for Donkey Sandwiches, a portion benefitted the Legion.

December 21st —Our annual Legion **Holiday Party** and **Auxiliary Christmas Tree Raffle**

January 1st—**New Years Day Pajama Party**.

What an incredible whirlwind of festive fun we had at our recent celebrations! From the exhilarating Pirates Polyanna, where we embarked on a treasure trove of gift-stealing adventures, to our joyous Christmas gathering filled with shared culinary delights and cheerful holiday tunes, ringing in the New Year in the canteen on New Years Eve, and finally, our delightful New Year's Day Pajama Party where members dawned their most vibrant and cozy jammies for a day of laughter and merriment. It was a memorable month filled with laughter, joy, and great times for our members

## LEGION KITCHEN

Be sure to stop in Tuesday through Friday (12-6) for lunch by Chef Patti! Delicious food at great prices. Check out her facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/kitchenpost372/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 25, 2025—Annual Home for the Brave Visit—American Legion Post 372 Auxiliary presents our annual visit to Home for the Brave. Join us as we pay a visit to our homeless veterans at the Home for the Brave. We will be bringing them Hoagies and Goodie Bags. Feel free to bring chips/desserts to share with the veterans if you like. Meet at the Legion at 11:30. Car Pooling available.

February 9, 2025—Salute to our Iraq Veterans—1pm-4pm in the canteen. As a token of our appreciation to all our Iraq Veterans we will be providing complimentary food and two free drinks on February 9th, from 1pm-4pm in the Legion canteen. Your service and sacrifice deserve to be celebrated, and this is our way of saying thank you.

February 9, 2025—Superbowl Party at the Legion. Festivities begin at 4pm. Game starts at 6:30pm. Bring a dish to share. Please sign up on the Food Sign Up Sheet so we know what you will be bringing, (If you are bringing hot food, please bring it already heated). Open to Legion members and their guests

March 9, 2025—Salute to our Vietnam Veterans—1pm-4pm in the canteen. As a token of our appreciation to all our Vietnam Veterans we will be providing complimentary food and two free drinks from 1pm-4pm in the Legion canteen. Your service and sacrifice deserve to be celebrated, and this is our way of saying thank you.

St Patricks Party in the Canteen—stay tuned for details!

April 13, 2025—Salute to our Afghanistan Veterans—1pm-4pm in the canteen. As a token of our appreciation to all our Afghanistan Veterans we will be providing complimentary food and two free drinks from 1pm-4pm in



the Legion canteen. Your service and sacrifice deserve to be celebrated, and this is our way of saying thank you

May 3, 2025—Cigar Night hosted by American Legion Post 372 and Sons of Italy. Stay tuned for details.

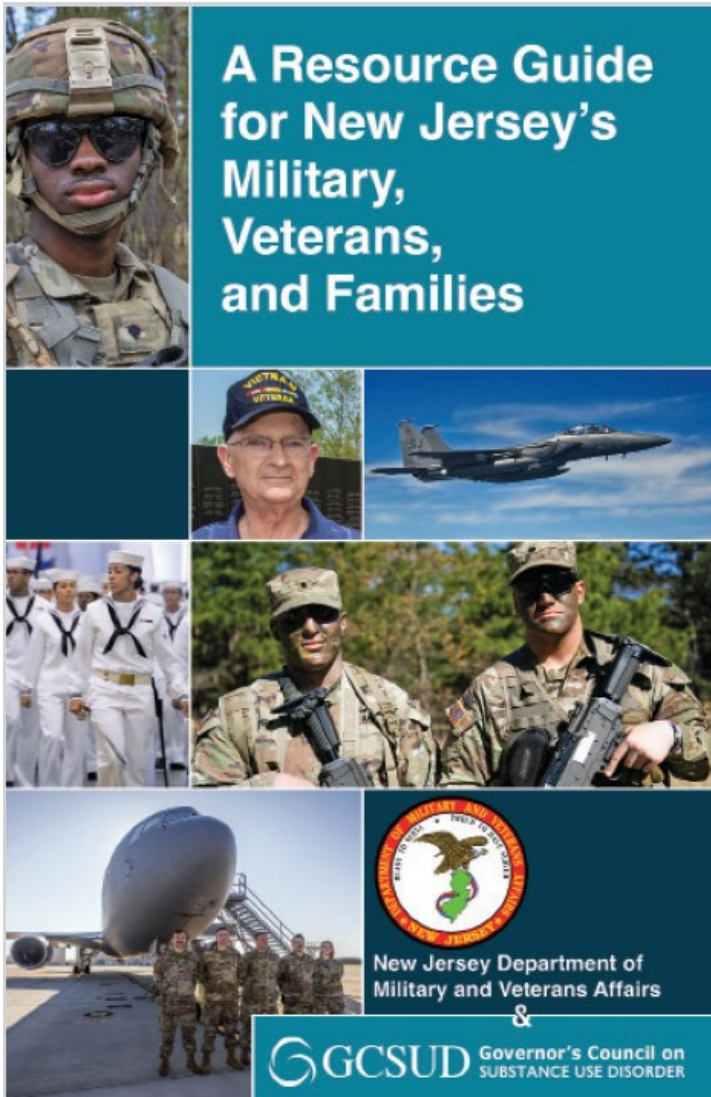
May 17, 2025—Annual Flagging of Locustwood Cemetery. 10am.

May 19, 2025—Annual Golf Outing—Join the American Legion Post 372 and Cherry Hill FOP Lodge 28 for our 3rd Annual Golf Outing on Monday, May 19, 2025 at Pennsauken Country Club, Pennsauken, NJ . Complete details at <https://www.alch372.com/events/golf-outing-2/>

May 26, 2025—Memorial Day Services at the Legion, Locustwood and Cherry Hill Township. Stay tuned for details.

June 1, 2025—90th Annual NJ American Legion Statewide Services. Details to follow.

*Be sure to check out website and Facebook Page for updates on events and new events—and join our email list if you are not already on it.*



**A Resource Guide for New Jersey's Military, Veterans, and Families**

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs & GCSUD Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder

# NJ VETERANS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM



**THIS PROGRAM OFFERS RIDES TO:**

- VA MEDICAL CENTERS
- CLINICS
- OTHER HOSPITALS
- PRIVATE PHYSICIANS
- VA REGIONAL OFFICES
- VETERAN SERVICE OFFICES

SCAN THE CODE AND CALL YOUR LOCAL VSO FOR MORE INFO, OR  
 CALL: (888) 865-8387  
 EMAIL: [VBB@DMAVA.NJ.GOV](mailto:VBB@DMAVA.NJ.GOV)




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*American Legion Post 372*



*February 9, 2024*

# PARTY

**SUPER BOWL**

**Festivities begin at 4pm - Game Start 6:30pm - Bring a Dish /Dessert to Share**

Join us to watch the Superbowl on Sunday, February 9, 2025 !  
Please sign up on the Food Sign Up Sheet so we know what you will be bringing, or just let Bartender Bobby/Josh know.  
(If you are bringing hot food, please bring it already heated)

*Open to Legion Members and their guests*



**AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 372**

# **SALUTES**

*our IRAQ Veterans*

**February 9, 2025**

**1pm - 4pm**

As a token of our appreciation to all our Iraq Veterans we will be providing complimentary food and two free drinks! Your service and sacrifice deserve to be celebrated, and this is our way of saying thank you.

Check out all our photos at <https://www.alch372.com/photo1/>

POST PHOTOS



Check out all our photos at <https://www.alch372.com/photo1/>

POST PHOTOSS

