# The Scoop

American Legion Post 372, 1532 Martin Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 856-665-3889



# The American Legion

October-December 2012

WWW.ALCH372.COM

# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Well, I hope everyone had a great antee, disability compensation for summer, it was a hot one. service disabled vets, medical ber

We had some sad news at the Post this summer. The passing of a Legion member Kenneth E. Dward and Sal member Richard W. Hegarty. May they rest in peace.

As summer comes to an end the Post hosted two large events.

The first was the Congressional Gold Medal presentation to a local resident Arthur Carmichael of Cherry Hill. Arthur was one of the original Montford Point Marines; this is the highest civilian honor for one of the trailblazing African American recruits that trained in a segregated facility at Camp Lejuene, NC between 1942-1949. The medal was received at the Cherry Hill Municipal Building followed by refreshments and pizza back at our Post. Congratulations Arthur.

The second event took place on Post grounds, the Camden County Office of Veterans Affairs held a Veterans Outreach event. This outreach program provided information for VA eligibility qualifications for veterans and family, educational benefits, home loan guar-

antee, disability compensation for service disabled vets, medical benefits, along with burial and cemetery benefits. For more information call 856-373-5801. We would like to thank Deer Park Fire Company for the food they provided and to Senior Vice Commander Tim Kraft and his workers from Deer Park Fire Company, and the Rev. Floyd L. White Director of Veterans Affairs. This would not have happened without the work of Sue Quinn Morris for a job well done.

Did you know located here in Camden County is the oldest post in New Jersey, and that is Post #17 of Collingswood Tatem-Shields named after two infantry men in WWI? It was first commanded on August 11, 1919. The building has a four lane bowling alley and a pool hall. There are sixty seven members and still have meetings.

By the time you read this letter Family Day sponsored by the Sal's will have taken place—as always they do a great job. Thank you.

On October 7th the Legion Riders will have their third food cook-off. I know it will be another successful event. Come and join us.

Please try and make it out for our

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Veterans Day Service. See details inside this issue of the Scoop.

Last but not least on August 31<sup>st</sup> Carol (Doyle) Colucci held the largest birthday cake I have ever seen for Ron. Happy Birthday Ron!

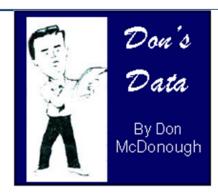
For God and Country, Bill Quinn Commander



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Attention Post #372 Veterans... Mayor Chuck Cahn's Cherry Hill Administration will present a patriotic Veterans Day ceremony on November 11th and has asked our Post to join in the activity they are planning. Details are still being ironed out and more information will be forthcoming. It should be noted that for the past six years, our Post, under Commander Ernie Brosh held its own Veteran's Dav ceremony and combined it with the annual Flag Retirement ceremony. So that date should be a full day of activity...More helpful hints: Use those empty toilet-paper rolls to store various appliance cords. It not only keeps them neat but you can write on the roll just

what appliance it belongs to...Here's an alert
to all the veteran\_service
clubs in South Florida:
Popular SAL member
Marty Flynn and his
friend, Sally—also a Legion Auxiliary member—
have flown south to become official snowbirds

having purchased a home in Melbourne, Florida. They will be commuting between their present home in Dennisville, NJ near Wildwood and Melbourne. Former Commander Tom Goldy and Tommy O'Reilly—two Post stalwarts—made Melbourne their winter home as does SAL member Harry Price. Furthermore, our very dedicated former Service Officer, Wes Barnett and lady friend Patty have also permanently relocated to North

Jacksonville, Florida. Wes has made many generous donations and accomplished much during

his relatively brief period with our Post... Candles will last a lot longer if you place them in the freezer for three hours prior to burning..Hey Legion Riders!: Did you

know a motorcycle license in Japan costs an amazing \$8,000 American bucks to obtain...or that a new Harley-Davidson bike will start at \$25,000 and go up?...Much sadness last month at Post #372 when SAL member Rich Hegarty passed away. He was a valuable member and always willing to help us Legionnaires in any way he could... Our new Ex-Commander, Ernie **Brosh** attended a recent political fundraising picnic in Northeast Philadelphia and met and chatted with New Jersey Congressman Jon Runyan. The C-Man remembered Ernie and the Post and pledged to continue helping

veteran's and maintaining his close identity and relationship with Post #372. He even posed for photo with a smiling—but shorter—Ernie Brosh, who immediately put the funny photo on his Facebook page. Can you imagine...Got blood stains on your clothes? Not

to worry, just pour a little hydrogen peroxide on a cloth and proceed to wipe off every drop of blood. Works every time!...Is there a harder, more dedicated Post Officer than Adjutant Russ Smith. He willingly takes on so many important chores to keep the Post operation running smoothly. He just made your Post look proud statewide by enlisting a record

number of sixteen young boys for a Good Government Session with the American Legion Boys State Program. And, for the

first time, adding students from Camden Catholic to the selected mix of hand-picked high school scholars...Member **Brian Napier**, continues to make pretty pictures and donate very interesting artful displays for our Post walls. Newly-displayed on a wall behind

the banquet table in our hall are photopictures of some of our nation's most historic engagements along with a donated 9 -11 flag inscribed with the names of all the horrible day's casualties. Also, the special lighting and installation were done at those sites by, who else...but the Arcinese Brothers, Jim and Robert. Thanks men!...To clean those artificial flowers, pour some salt into a paper bag and add the flowers. Shake the bag vigorously and the salt will absorb all the dust and dirt and leave those flowers looking like new. Works like magic! Longtime Legionnaire Art Capilli, a member of our Post for close to sixty years and always with a jolly sense of humor, is seeking help in getting a special electric-chair rail installed at his Cherry Hill home. If you think you can help, please contact our Post Service Officer Bill Coneby by calling 856-665-3889...The State of New York will no longer pay for buglers at a Vet's funeral (about 300 a month) because of severe budgetary demands. Meanwhile, Federal funding continues to pay for a threemember funeral detail to play "Taps" and attend military funerals. It authorizes two active-duty National Guard troops and a bugler. The State funding cuts only apply to the bugler.. Good thing Post #372 has its own musically-automatic bugle...Finally, Try this one: Got a head-

ache?..Take a lime and cut it in half then rub it on your forehead. The throbbing will go quickly away..(But maybe the hangover continues..?) ...





# Veterans Day Service & Flag Retirement Ceremony

\* Including a Special Presentation to a Local Gold Star Mother \*

November 11, 2012 Time: 2pm

Join Us in Honoring our Veterans...

**Buffet Food After Ceremony** 

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

Questions? Call 856-495-7270 or email Squinn9807@aol.com

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED NOVEMBER 11

# MESSAGE FROM THE SAL COMMANDER



Sadly, summer is over but we are about to FALL into a bunch of new and exciting projects and events that all the American Legion has to offer. Before I get

into that, I would like to acknowledge the untimely loss of a truly dear friend of mine and the American Legion family Rich Hegarty. Rich, with his soft spoken words and presence frequently had a great story to tell at the canteen and always gave myself and the members of the post a sense of comfort and warmth. He will truly be missed and will remain in our memories forever.

On a lighter note, family day once again was a HUGE success as usual. I want to thank everyone for their participation and making this event our biggest and best of the year. The food was superb, the music got the crowd going, and oh yea, the jell-o shots were a big hit again. Many don't realize the time and effort that is put into this event in the months prior. That said. I would like to the SAL's, ladies.

and general members for all of their help and hard work. We could not have done it without you! Somehow, we always come together as one to make family day go off without a hitch. Hope to see you all there next year.

Next on the SAL's agenda is preparing for the cold winter months ahead. This is usually kicked off with our annual log splitting (date still to be determined). If you're like me, there is nothing better that sipping a few cold ones in front of a crackling warm fire at a bar. This atmosphere seems to be seen less and less at bars that I seldom frequent. We will hang a sign-up sheet in the canteen and all are encouraged to attend. The event usually starts early on a Saturday or Sunday morning and wraps up in the early afternoon. Food and beverages will be provided. If you or anyone you know has spare wood to donate that needs to be split, please contact me or a member of our board.

Tuesday October 16th at 7:30 PM the SAL county meeting is being

held at our post. All SAL members are encouraged to attend to listen in on what is going on with the county. Food will be provided. Just a reminder that our meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month and all SAL members are encouraged to attend to voice their opinions and to keep up on current events. I also encourage all SAL members to start thinking about paying your early bird membership dues. The last thing you want is to decide to "stop by the legion" one night and the friendly bar tenders ask for your card and its expired. In all seriousness, your dues are important to keeping this organization going and are pennies compared to the friendship, camaraderie, and memories that you will develop at the American legion.

For God and Country Tim Viguers SAL Commander

# MESSAGE FROM THE LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR



The 4th Annual NJ Run for the Fallen began on Sept 28th and finished up at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel on the 30th.

We had 3 markers to support this year.

September 28th was also the day of Operation Stand Down at the Cherry Hill Armory. We had participants in both the NJ Run for the Fallen and Operation Stand Down.

October 7 is the fall edition of the Comfort Food Cook-off. This looks to be shaping up as a good event and competition. If you would like to enter, more information and sign up sheet can be found in the canteen. It is always a great time.

Thanksgiving Day we ride to escort eat and watch the boats go by and support our troops to the Americas Best Value Inn. This is held Thanksgiving morning. Stay tuned for more details on our website and in the canteen.

Ed Oil, our Ride Captain, led a group of us on a really nice ride through the Pine Barrens. KSU at 10:00 and we returned to the post

shortly after 4:00PM. Ed seems to have a photographic memory of the roads in the Pine Barrens. Our last stop was the Sweetwater Casino to for a while. We do not need a GPS so long as we have GP-

Pray for our troops.

For God and Country, Gary Gottron Post 372 Program Director

## MESSAGE FROM LADIES PRESIDENT



It's official, summer has ended. Every year I think "OK" things will settle down and I can get into a routine. I am finally

starting to admit to myself it will never happen. There are many events in September from Labor Day right through the annual Stand Down event at the National Guard Armory. Every day there is at least 2 or 3 things to get involved in. You can pick an event with a Military or Patriotic theme or something to benefit the community. Whatever your passion it's happening in our area. Check our website to see what is available. Things crop up on short notice sometimes so be sure to check often.

During WW II there was still segregation in the military. This is why you hear about the Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee Airmen and the Montfort Point Marines. Some members of our post came out to help honor Arthur Carmichael as he changes have happened. If you received a Congressional Gold medal at the township municipal building in August. Mr Carmichael is a Marine, it didn't matter he was

kept separate from the other was asked of him and his fellow Marines. It was an honor to have him and his family return to our post to share time with a very special person from our country's history.

As we proceed into the fall there are quite a few things to remember. There will be the annual Veteran's Day Flag Retirement ceremony on November 11th, watch for the details. It is wonderful to see our Nation's flag honored as we honor all our Veterans for their service. Last year it was a full house.

We will have our "Soup Pot" for food donations, unfortunately we already have people on our list needing a little help from their friends. We will have our Children's Christmas party sign up and of course we will be in the thick of football season. Stop in once in awhile to see what haven't been in the post for awhile you will be surprised at all the changes taking place, don't be afraid to make a sug-

gestion. We are very fortunate to Marines for training, he did what have the privilege to give our input. Please remember to vote this November and don't forget your Photo ID, many will be turned away at the polls, this is one of the most important things an American citizen can do. Our Veteran's fought for us to keep this privilege, don't let it be wasted by apathy. We are very blessed to have the ability to vote, speak and act as free thinking people.

> On Thanksgiving Day there is a dinner given for many of our Nation's finest at the America's Best Hotel here in Cherry Hill. If you are available it's always a great time to wave them in and Thank them as they sit down for a full course holiday meal. There will be details posted on our website in the next few weeks.

Please keep our soldiers in your thoughts this holiday season, they are away from their families so we can enjoy ours. Finally I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. And a healthy, safe New Year.

For God and country, Carol Colucci President.

# REMINDER

If you know of any Veteran, or a family member of a Veteran who is hospitalized, or is in need of Assistance, please call the Post Chaplain, Chester Malik at 856-427-4223

# HALL RENTAL

The Legion Hall is available for rental for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, parties, etc. For more information. contact Charles at 856-482-6855

# POST FLAG TO FLY IN HONOR OF., October Hillman, John D. November Miller, Gerald E. December Dettinger, Robert C

# Retired Cherry Hill Marine honored with Congressional Gold Medal

CHERRY HILL - In a casual pale blue shirt and dark military cap, township resident Arthur Carmichael hardly stood on ceremony Monday as he accepted the Congressional Gold Medal for his service in a racially segregated Marine unit during World War II.

Lesser known than the Tuskegee airmen of the Air Force but just as important for their role as the first black Marines, the 20,000 men of Montford Point were so named for the separate facility where they trained at Camp Lejeune, N.C., from 1942 until 1949.

"I didn't expect all this," said the 88year-old Carmichael, a Browns Mills native who had to be coaxed to a luncheon in his honor following the municipal hall ceremony.

"I have to take my medications." A hospital stay for heart issues prevented the military retiree from attending a June 27 ceremony in Washington, D.C., where about 300 Montford Point Marines were awarded medals.

So Carmichael's medal, in essence. came to him, as did honors from the township and the Camden County Board of Freeholders. A representative from the U.S. Senate handed Carmichael a flag that had flown over a Chicago resi-

tol. Retired Col. Al of the county's Office of



Veterans Affairs, cited Carmichael's service in World War II. Korea and Vietnam.

"You did it

all," Bancroft told the career military man, who worked at an ammo dump in the Marines.

Montford Point began training the country's first black Marine recruits shortly after a 1941 executive order from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt prohibiting discrimination in federal hiring, including defense. De-

spite Harry Truman's later order desegregating the armed forces, the Marines stubbornly remained the last unit of the military to integrate.

But need outranked bias, and at the out-

break of the Korean War in June 1950, the number of African-American Marine enlistees increased 100 percent, according to the Montford Point Marine Association website. About 500 Montford Pointers remain alive, according to the military. Monday's ceremony recalled the trailblazing path of the Montford men,

one of whom was Carmichael's own brother, Tony, now the Capi- dent. Frank Monev, a retired Marine from the Vietnam era, fol-Bancroft, lowed the path of his uncle, a Montford Pointer who became a helicopter mechanic.

At the Carmichael ceremony, the 66-year-old Money explained that Montford Marines consigned mostly to ammunition and depot units made their first impression on the military brass during World War II bat-

tles in France. Until then, they were isolated. some derisively referred to by white officers as Montford "monkeys."



"They were proficient because they had trained so long and so often, but they couldn't go anywhere," said Money, a Moorestown resident. "They couldn't even go on liberty.



"Every one of us here stands on somebody's shoulders."

On Monday at least, those shoulders belonged to a frail Arthur Carmichael, who finally committed to a postceremony luncheon at the township's American Legion Post 372.

He was escorted by Cherry Hill police and the Nam Knights of America Motorcycle Club.

# 9th Annual Thanksgiving For The Troops

ing in the Annual Thanksgiving for the Troops. Same time, same at 10am on Thanksgiving morning. We'll leave at approx. 10:20 to go over to America's Choice Hotel (Cherry Hill) and await the arrival of the busloads of troops. The Riders will leave a bit earlier to meet up with other Riders to



Once again we will be participate escort the troop buses to the hotel.

If you have never participated in this event, I highly recommend you place. We will meet at the Legion do, if its at all possible. The event ends at approx. 12noon. The troops that come in are unable to be home for Thanksgiving, so they are surprised with a full home cooked meal to thank them for their service and perhaps make the holiday a little easier to cope with since they can't be home.

> Hundreds come out—from various organizationsapprox. 600 riders to escort the buses and another few hundred at the ho

tel form a flag line to welcome the troops in. I still



struggle for words to explain the energy and emotion of the day. I'm not sure there are words-it may be one of those things you just have to see to understand.

> To read more about the event or see photos/videos from last years event, visit our website.

Hope to see you there!

# Camden County Veteran Outreach Event Kicks Off at **American Legion Cherry Hill**

CHERRY HILL—Throughout the year, the Camden County Office of Veterans Affairs will partner with other local Veterans service organizations for special outreach events across Camden County. The first such event kicked off with the help of the American Legion Post 372 of Cherry Hill.

Veterans and their families were invited to American Legion Post 372, 1532 Martin Avenue in Cherry Hill on Wednesday, August 29 from

12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Camden County veteran



service officers were joined by case workers from the U.S. Veterans Administration, in addition case workers of our state legislative and

federal representatives' offices. The Camden County One Stop Career Center will provide veteran employment resources, the South Jersey Eye Center was there for screenings, Bancroft Neurohealth offered information on brain injury services.

Harleigh Cemetery, Volunteers of America, the National Guard Armory, along with many others were there to provide active military and veterans with helpful information.

New Jersey Veterans Haven, from Winslow, was also present providing information on their program, which connects veterans with transitional housing. Right <sub>l</sub> now there are approximately 8,000 homeless veterans in the state of New Jersey and this program provides them with the ability to acquire transitional housing and a variety of other services to get back

on their feet.

Attendees had access to information on VA program eligibility, education benefits, VA home loans, veterans disability issues, VA pensions, medical benefits, burial benefits, GI life insurance, post traumatic stress disorder, agent orange referral, funeral Honor Guards, nursing home applications, discharge upgrades, military awards, and much

As usual, the ever faithful Cherry Hill Deer Park Rehab Unit was on hand to provide free hot dogs and soda to all participants as well.



# **Honoring Three Cherry Hill Heroes**

The New Jersey Run for the Fallen is a organization of runners whose mission is clear and simple: To run one mile for every New Jersey service member killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. Each mile of sweat and pain and each flag saluted, is to pay homage to one service member's life and their family.

The last Friday, Saturday and Sunday of September, they run across New Jersey to raise awareness for the lives of those who fought and died, to rejuvenate their memories and keep their spirits alive, to support organizations that aid the families of those killed, and to aid in the healing process for the native New Jersey residents whose lives have been affected by the war.

Each KIA has a Run Marker where family and friends may gather while the runners come by and pay homage to their life and sacrifice.

Legion members gathered at the Run Markers for Lt Col John Spahr, Cpt Greg Dalessio, and Lcpl Jeremy Kane to pay respects to our local hometown Heroes in appreciation for their sacrifice and in support of their families.

They shall never be forgotten.



Lt Col. John C. Spahr. Age: 42 years old. Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Died: May 2, 2005



LCpl. Jeremy Kane. Age: 22 years old. Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Died: January 23, 2010.



Capt. Gregory T. Dalessio. Age: 30 years old. Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Died: June 23, 2008

# 5th Annual Memorial Run for Capt Greg Dalessio

On December 1, 2012, the 5th Annual Cpt Greg Dalessio Memorial 5K Run/Walk will be held in Cherry Hill. Legion members have participated since the conception of the run and will do so again this year.

Legion members flag the 5K route to help runners/walkers navigate through the neighborhood. We also supply bananas and oranges for the runners after the run.

Legion Riders and riders from other organizations participate by forming a motorcycle and flag line at the beginning of the race. And of course, our dear friends of the Deer Park Fire Rehab are always on hand providing hot coffee and snacks, on what usually turns out to be a pretty brisk morning!

If you are interested in being a runner/walker, please visit http:// www.patriotconnections.org/events/ cpt-greg-dalessio-5k-memorialrunwalk/ for details and registration form.

If interested in helping with flagging and/or flag line, please contact Sue at squinn9807@aol.com or 856-495-7270.



In Advance; \$15 - Entry & Tasting Fee At Door; \$10 - Entry Fee only, \$7 - Tasting Fee



Bragging Rights & Prizes to be Awarded. Trophy for 1st Place Winner.

Entrants sign up at the Legion Make enough for 20 servings

# A Relic of War Returned to Vietnam Veteran Bernie Mihenski

PLYMOUTH, PA - On September 1st, USMC Vietnam Veteran, Bernie Mihenski, was presented with a piece of his past - from nearly a half a century ago.

Back in 1993, a Vietnam USMC veteran and retired police chief, was in Vietnam with a group called Operation Smile. He was there as logistics supmedical program. In the small shops lining the street outside his hotel, he saw that vendors were selling what appeared to be old, rusty American dog tags as souvenirs. He bought 350 of them and later gave them to the



POW/MIA Awareness Committee of New Jersey.

One of those dog tags was Mihenski's.

Relics of a war, just small tabs of metal stamped with a soldier's name, rank, serial num-

ber and other pertinent information. For collectors, the dog tags didn't have much meaning, but for the veterans from the Vietnam War, the tags represent more than most of us can fathom.

The POW/MIA Committee has worked to reunite the dog tags with their owners' families. Several veterans' organizations have helped with the project, including our own port coordinator for the project's American Legion Riders. This return however, was handled by the Nam Knights of America MC.

Bill "Pillow" Loh and Mike "Chainsaw" Bray, members of the Nam Knights of America MC from the Delaware Valley Chapter, set out on their motorcycles Saturday to make the trip to reunite Mihenski with his lost dog tag.

Fittingly, they met with Mihenski at the VFW Post 1425, in Plymouth, PA. There, Mihenski was presented with his dog tag and a Nam Knights Challenge Coin - his family and friends by his side. Mihenski then offered a short tour of Plymouth to Bray and Loh, where they visited the war memorials.

"This was one of the most gratifying experiences I have participated in," recounted Bray after returning home. Bray is also a General Member of the American Legion in Cherry Hill.

Cherry Hill American Legion Auxiliary VP and Research Director for the POW/



MIA Committee, Sue Quinn-Morris, was elated with the news of the return. She's been researching and locating the veterans for returns. A daunting task at times and often met with skepticism when first approaching the veteran with the news.

"What we have done since receiving the dog tags a couple years ago, is to ensure that each dog tag, when welcomed, is hand delivered to the veteran - by a fellow veteran - brother to brother, "Quinn-Morris stated.

There are still hundreds of dog tags to be returned. To learn more about the project and view the list of dog tags in their possession, visit their website at

www.powmiaawareness.org



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Veteran, Military, Law Enforcement and Patriot Related Events and News in NJ, PA and surrounding areas...

All Organizations are encouraged to SUBMIT their Upcoming Events on the Community Calendar

www.PATRIOTCONNECTIONS.org

# POW/MIA Recognition Day—5 NJ MIAs returned

The third Friday of September is nationally recognized as POW/MIA Recognition Day. Some members of the Legion attended the POW/ MIA Recognition Day Breakfast held at the Merion in Cinnaminson.



For all the New Jersey men still missing from foreign wars, the 400 men and women who attended the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony had a message: We won't forget you.

The event was started by former Assemblyman Jack Conners and is now hosted by Assemblyman Herb



Conaway, of Delanco.

.The Rev. William Bleiler, national chaplain for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a priest in the Camden Diocese, gave the opening and closing benedictions. A bagpiper and military honor guard joined in the ceremony, placing caps from the various services on a table left vacant for those still missing.

A group of former POWs, including several from World War II, were al-

so honored.

Force Col. Marty Chapin of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, adding that it's important to remember the MIAs and POWs more than once a year.

Col. Jeffrey Doll, commander of Army Support Activity at the joint base, praised the "wonderful ceremony."

I was happy to have this opportunity to honor our POWs and MIAs," Doll said.

As she waited for a ride. Carrie Lane of Delanco said the ceremony

moved her to tears. Her late hus-"I thought it was wonderful," said Air band, LeRoy,was a disabled veter-

> "It was sad, but I was glad they did it." Lane said.

As part of the ceremony, a slide presentation of the 43 Vietnam NJ POW/MIA's was shown.

In the last 18 months, the remains of five New Jersey servicemen have been recovered — 4 from the Vietnam War and 1 from the Korean War.

A presentation was also shown covering the funerals of these men

SHOWN BELOW ARE THE VIETNAM POW/MIA'S WHOSE REMAINS WERE RETURNED THIS YEAR. LEFT TO RIGHT—BRUCE LAWRENCE, GUNTHER WALD, AADO KOMMENDANT AND ROBERT BENNETT. KOREAN POW/MIA, GEORGE PORTER, ALSO CAME HOME, BUT NO PHOTO AVAILABLE.









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Editors: Don McDonough, Ernie Brosh, Sue Quinn-

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**Design, Layout & Publishing:** Sue Quinn-Morris **Printing:** Main Street Graphics, Maple Shade, NJ

Advertising: Charles Alberti

Mailing: Jim Arcinese & Charles Alberti

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Therry Hill Memorial Post 372