

AMERICAN LEGION POST 372

FLAG TO FLY IN HONOR OF:



April - Ed White
May - David Larsen
June - Charlie Danks



www.alch372.com



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Cherry Hill Memorial Post 372
American Legion
1532 Martin Ave
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-2060



April—June 2017



Post 372

1532 Martin Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
856-665-3889

www.ALCH372.com

Commander's Message



As your Commander, you and our fellow members have entrusted the operational success of our Post to me and to the elected and appointed staff officers and other officials. Because of your decisions we have one of the best Posts in the County, and maybe in the State. This has happened because of the elective process. In April you will select and ultimately elect the officials that will run our Post for 2017/2018. This is the time to make changes to your officials or to re-elect the people that YOU feel have done the job and deserve another term. The General members, SALs, Auxiliary, and Riders all have to make good decisions to keep this Post running. This cannot be a popularity contest, please nominate and elect the best qualified people for the job, and please, if you think you can do a better job, then campaign and run for office. Our Post is successful because of the officials

you have elected and their dedication to the American Legion, our Post and most of all, our Veterans. This is one of the best times of the year for Post 372. Activities include the Gathering of Heroes event in Philadelphia, on April 10th. We sponsor a bus trip to and from. Don't miss a chance to meet Medal of Honor recipients. Then help us interview candidates on April 18th at the Post for participation in Boys State. We have all lamented that the teenagers of today lack what it takes to join the "world". Come help the Post interview, and select some of the finest students and young Americans Cherry Hill has to offer. How about joining us at Locustwood Cemetery on May 21st for the annual flagging of Veterans graves. What better way to honor our fallen Veterans and honor their memory. Meet fellow volunteer's from the JCC and help guide them thru our tradition. Also, reserve June 4th for Statewide Services at Locustwood. This year marks 82 years of State services honoring our comrades resting at Locustwood. Afterward, join us at the Post for a buffet, and camaraderie. Speaking of buffet, our own Chef SAL, is doing

lunches on Wed, Thurs, Fri, and a great dinner on Friday night. Enjoy a delicious meal with Sal, and then throw the dishes away. See you at the Post For God and Country
Tim Kraft—Commander



Date: May 29, 2017

Time: 9:30am

Location: American Legion, 1532 Martin Ave., Cherry Hill



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APRIL ELECTIONS at the Legion
Don't forget to come out and vote in the Elections
being held in April !
 General Membership—Tues, April 25th
 SAL's—Wed, April 19th
 Auxiliary—Mon, April 3rd
 Riders—Mon, April 24th

Our cook is in on Wednesday and Thursdays from 12noon - 3pm, Fridays 12pm—9pm and Saturdays 12pm—3pm. Friday nites and Saturdays dependent on Hall Rentals. Call the Legion ahead of time to check 856-665-3889, or sign up on our email list and you will receive weekly email with dinner specials, kitchen hours and more information.

Gregory J. Parkhill
Operations Manager

"Punctual, Meticulous, Spotless."

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American Legion Post 372

"The 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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American Legion Post 372 ANNUAL
Flagging of the Graves

Sunday, May 21, 2017 - 10am

Join in our long-standing tradition of placing flags on all the veterans graves at Locustwood Cemetery.

Meet at Locustwood Cemetery, 1500 Rte 70, Cherry Hill, NJ at 10:00am.
 Questions? Call the Legion at 856-665-3889

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 Website: www.CherryHillNuEar.com



Don't forget—we have a spacious Hall/Meeting Room available to host your party, meetings and seminars.

Whether it's a surprise birthday party, a bridal shower, church service, business seminar or anything in between, we have the perfect facility for your needs!

We offer a significant discount to American Legion Post 372 members.

110 Maximum Seating Capacity * Full Kitchen w/ice Machine * DJ's permitted (no live bands) * Food—while we do recommend you get catering prices from our in house cook, you are welcome to bring your own * Special pricing for weekday rentals for meetings/seminars/funeral luncheons.

Visit our website at www.alch372.com for more detailed information and/or call Sue at 856-495-7270



Flagging of Locustwood & Statewide Services

In 1932, the Locustwood Cemetery Association deeded 400 free grave sites to the American Legion for use by Legionnaires and their spouses, and erected a monument memorializing their service.

As part of the transfer of grave sites, the American Legion committed to holding an annual memorial on the first Sunday after Memorial Day, a tradition that has continued since 1935 !! (Annual NJ American Legion Statewide).

Keeping with this tradition, American Legion Post 372 members gather on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day weekend, in preparation of Memorial Day and Statewide

Services, to honor and remember our veterans (and fellow Legionnaires) by placing American Flags on all the veterans graves. (Annual Flagging of Locustwood)

The following week, on Memorial Day, American Legion holds Services at our Legion, Locustwood, Cooper River and attends the Cherry Hill Township Services.

NJ American Legion Statewide Services, which are held on the Sunday after Memorial Day in front of the American Legion monument at Locustwood Cemetery, brings NJ American Legion Officers, Honor Guards and members from Legions throughout the state of New Jersey

for a parade and service. Local dignitaries and other veteran organization representatives are among the speakers and guests as well. Following the Service at Locustwood, American Legion Post 372 has a Social/Food Buffet at the Legion.

These events/traditions have deep roots which include a commitment to fulfill a promise made between NJ American Legion and Locustwood some 81 years ago.

Please be sure to come out for these events and support our veterans, past and present, and your American Legion.

82nd Annual NEW JERSEY



Statewide Parade, Ceremony & Social



Sunday, June 4th, 2017

Join in the 82nd Annual NJ American Legion Statewide Services – The Annual NJ Statewide American Legion Services kick off with the Parade on Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 1:30pm at Locustwood Cemetery(Rt 70, Cherry Hill), followed by a Ceremony, with Guest Speakers including NJ American Legion Officers, S.A.L. Officers, Auxiliary Officers, Gold Star mothers and others. Afterwards there is a Social/Bufet at American Legion Post 372,1532 Martin Ave, Cherry Hill. Be sure to come out and meet members/officers from all our NJ American Legions !! Its a great opportunity to mingle, share news and events with our fellow Legions !!

Legion Post 372 Member, Receives Navy & Marine Corps Medal

American Legion Post 372 member, Midshipman 3rd Class Jonathan Dennler, of Medford received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the highest non-combat decoration awarded for heroism by the US Dept of the Navy, on Tuesday, Jan 10 in front of the entire Bridgade of Midshipmen assembled in Alumni Hall. He was given the award for his heroic actions while leading a Boy Scout troop, July 2016.

While camping in Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada, the troop experienced a major storm with up to 80 mph gusts and lightning strikes. Two



trees fell on the campsite, killing a scout and an adult volunteer and severely injuring others.

When Dennler couldn't contact anyone on the radio for help, he canoed more than 1.5 miles at night in 60 mph winds to a ranger station to bring back help and medical supplies.

The Navy and Marine Corps Medal falls in order of precedence just below the Distinguished Flying Cross and above the Bronze Star. To win this award, there must be evidence the act of heroism involved very specific life-threatening risk to the awardee. The award came as a surprise to both Dennler and his classmates, who listened in silence while academy Super-



do back in high school when a classmate broke their leg at a basketball game, because he was an Eagle Scout.

"He is a quiet young man who would not want a big fuss, but rightfully deserves it," said 20th Company Senior Enlisted Leader Chief Electronics Technician Nicholas Howell. "Out of his classmates, he is the one who has the level head to think clearly and decisively act to contain the situation and help bring about the best possible solution."

intendent Vice Administrator Ted Carter read the award citation then gave him a rousing standing ovation. "It was an incredibly humbling and unexpected experience," Dennler said. "I'm very thankful to everyone who helped to make that happen and for the support of my family and friends."

The award wasn't a surprise to his parents, who also attended the award presentation. Dennler's mother, Monica Dennler, described her son as "persistent and tenacious."

"He knows how to persevere, and has a kind heart," she said. "He was the only one who knew what to



American Legion Medal Presentation

Jonathan & his 2 lifelong buddies visited the American Legion with his parents and member Tony.

Tim Kraft and Fred Peterson presented the three young men with the American Legion Medal for their heroic acts.



HOME for the BRAVE Collection Drive

When the Auxiliary was informed that there will be approx. 25 veterans transitioning out of Home for the Brave Homeless Shelter over the next several months, they went right to bat to help set these veterans up for their upcoming independent living! Several Auxiliary Units from within Camden County, worked together in getting donations to help these veterans get set up. Our Unit focused on kitchen and toiletry

items, while other units focused on cleaning goods and small appliances.

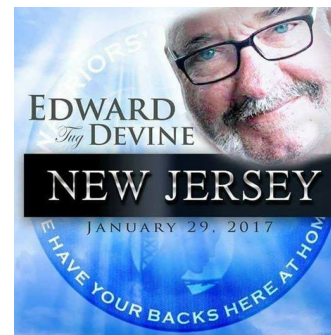
The cut off for accepting donations was March 31st—Home for the Brave will be picking up the donations in mid April. If you were unaware of this collection, that would mean you are not on our Legion Email List. Please take a moment and sign up as you will receive all late breaking news that does not

make it in our quarterly newsletter. Be sure to frequent our website and Facebook page as well.

We thank all those that were so gracious in donating to our homeless veterans!



Warriors Watch Director Laid to Rest



Known and loved by many, Ed "Tug" Devine, was a true patriot, and widely known in NJ/PA for his dedication and volunteerism with Warriors Watch Riders, NJ Run for the Fallen and the Bellmawr Park Fire Dept (life member) to name a few. He was always finding away to serve our community. He was big man with even a bigger heart. Always thanking a Veteran for their service to our country.



our dear friend Tug. He will surely be missed by all.

His Funeral Services were held Saturday, February 4th at Gardner Funeral Home in Runnemede, followed by a luncheon at our American Legion.

Hundreds of people (bikes and cars) came out to pay their last respects and share fond memories of



On March 9th, the children from Cherry Hill West High School Media Program and the Cherry Hill Police Department visited the Legion to include our members in the Community Video they were working on. The Video is spotlighting the diversity of our community.



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MESSAGE from Auxiliary President



Where has this past year gone? Can't really say it's "finally" Spring as most of February and March have seen their share of Spring and Summer days. I'm taking this opportunity to publicly thank each member who has stepped forward, whenever there was an opportunity for the Auxiliary, to help our Veterans and/or our Community.

Our members who attended the March meeting know that The Home For the Brave has 25 men transitioning out of the facility during May and June. HFB is an ongoing program for Homeless Veterans our Auxiliary is proud to help throughout the year. May is perfect for showing your support of our Post and our Veterans.

Locustwood Flagging, Memorial Day Services, and Officer Instal-

lations. Facebook postings and web sites will show dates, time and place. Finally, this will be my last year as President of the Auxiliary. Thanks to everyone who has supported my Presidency the past 3 years; it has been my privilege and honor. Please support your 2017-2018 incoming Officers. For God and Country Sandra Kraft Auxiliary President



You are invited to come out and join us for our

SUMMER SHUFFLEBOARD TEAM

(Table Top Format) on Monday Evenings at the American Legion Post 372 at 7pm. June 13th - August 21st.

(Note: Closed on July 3d).

For more info call Mark McWilliams at 856-297-6625

MESSAGE from Riders Director



Welcome Back! We've had a few months off... even though it was cold we still managed to provide support: Pearl Harbor Day,

Honor Mission Escort WWII Iwo Jima & Korean War Robert Scullin, Funeral & Escort for Edward "Tug" Devine, Cpl Marc Ryan 5K Run/Walk, Veterans Day and much more that individuals have done on their own. I would like to take a moment to say thank you to Mickey & Frannie for their support and devotion to the Riders and the American Legion. Although Mickey has not been able to fulfill his duties as Director due to personal and medical reasons, he is

and will remain our Director! This year is not up... so until the time comes that a new Director sits in his seat, he will remain the Director of the Legion Riders of Cherry Hill Post 372. Take care of yourself and your family my brother. See you on the road! As far as where we are headed this year... hopefully not crazy! Our St. Patrick's Day Party may very well be a yearly thing for the Riders and the events we have coming up are as follows: Benefit for Jim Rupinski (4/2), ALR CH281 Beef & Beer (4/6), Ride For Hope (4/9), Gathering of Heroes (4/10), VFW Beef & Beer (4/29), Centurions Poker Run (4/30), ALR Post 252 Hoagie Sale (5/6), ALR Meet

& Greet (5/21), Vietnam Traveling Wall (6/14-19) ... just to list a few! Any that come up will be posted on line at Patriot Connections and/or the Legion. All events are optional but your participation is greatly appreciated. In closing, I would like to ask ALL RIDERS to check their bikes, do a once over before each ride and think about your responsibilities on the road when you ride solo as well as with a group. We all have to look out for each other as well as ourselves and loved ones. Be safe and enjoy your rides! See you on the asphalt... Art Schneider 'Acting' Director, ALR Cherry Hill Post 372

MESSAGE from the SAL COMMANDER




I hope everyone had a happy winter season. We had our share of cold days and quite a few warmer days than expected too.


Now spring is in the air and the summer breezes are not far behind. Flowers are blooming and the trees are once again full of leaves. It's a beautiful time of the year. Here's a brief recap of the events at Post 372 over the past few months. Our members accompanied the Ladies Auxiliary on another visit to the Home of the Brave Veterans Center in Camden. The Auxiliary brought lunch and gifts for 30 Veterans that day! The Vets were very appreciative of the generosity of our Post's Ladies Auxiliary division. The SALs gave the Auxiliary a donation to help offset their costs for this great day. As I mentioned before, it is a

quite a moving experience to sit and talk with our Veterans. The Grill Cover was in place through the winter months and it did its job protecting our grill from the snow and rain. Thanks again to Josh Seib for providing the funding for the cover in memory of his father Brian Seib. Our Post hosted a Super Bowl Party and it was a terrific day. The food was delicious as always and it was a very exciting game to watch. The SALs sponsored a raffle for a HD LED 55" TV, congrats to the winner! We split the proceeds of the raffle with the General Members. The Poker nights at our Post continued through April. Each night was exciting with the many different Dealer's Choice poker games played. We will cancel the games through the summer months, May through August, and pick up again

in the Fall. On to new events. Post 372's long standing tradition of "Flagging of the Graves" will take place on Sunday May 21st at Locuswood Cemetery. Please join us and meet at the cemetery, 1500 Route 70 at 10 AM on the 21st and we will place flags on all the graves of the Veterans. The American Legion Sponsored Boys State and Girls State programs are available for high school students this summer. These programs are summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for high school juniors. Please go to our website for more information on these great programs for our high school students. Nominations for the SAL Board members occur in March and April with the election in April. Installations take place in May. Congratulations to the SAL Board members and all the Board members at our Post.

There are many events ahead of us, too many to list in this article. Please visit our website for information on upcoming events like Memorial Day and other Post and Statewide Services. Not too far on the horizon will be our Family Day picnic scheduled on September 16! As always, we'll schedule an informal meeting in July and one in August to prepare for the big event. Remember our SAL meetings are the third Wednesday of each month. Attendance was up at our last meeting and I hope the trend continues. Your input is very valuable at these

 **American Legion Post 372 Sponsored**
Free BUS TRIP to
GATHERING OF HEROES


Monday, April 10th, 2017

BUS Departs at 5:30pm from American Legion, 1532 Martin Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ and proceeds to the Irish Pub, 20th & Walnut St., Phila, PA
Meet & Greet Medal of Honor Recipients:
Barney Barnum * Mike Thornton * Brian Thacker * Hershel "Woody" Williams
Gathering of Heroes Event 6-9pm at Irish Pub 20th St Phila - \$20 Donation.
Live Auctions including 2012 Harley Davidson Sportster signed by Philadelphia Eagles
BUS Picks us up Irish Pub at 8:45pm and takes us back to the American Legion.
Must Reserve Bus Seats - RSVP to Sue at 856-495-7270 or squinn9807@aol.com - Seats going fast !
All proceeds benefit the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation.

meetings. With each year we grow stronger in our dedication to improve this great organization. If you are not receiving the emails from the SAL Commander, please provide your email address at the next meeting or you can leave it at the Canteen. During the summer the SAL monthly meetings will be canceled. We'll skip the June, July and August meetings and officially pick up again in September.

Lastly, I want to share a snapshot of history from a collection of Philadelphia Evening Bulletin World War II articles. In the picture to the right on August 14, 1942 Samuel R Paoli 22

of Philadelphia PA was sworn in by Ensign J.A. Emery of the U.S. Navy Recruiting Station as an apprentice seaman with his eight loving sisters looking on. Samuel was the only boy in his family and was a barber in Drexel Hill PA. This was a memorable day for the Paoli family! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon. Thank you for your support! For God and Country, Dave D'Orazio



WWII Iwo Jima Marine Veteran Laid To Rest



Friend and fellow Legion member (Merchantville), WWII Iwo Jima Marine Veteran, Robert Scullin, was laid to rest in March with full honors.

He served two enlistments in the USMC during WWII and Korean War and was wounded in action.

Pvt. Bob Scullin was 19 when he landed on Feb. 19, 1945, with tens of thousands of other Marines on Iwo Jima, whose very name conjures images of ferocious combat. Twenty-seven service members – 22 Marines and five Navy seamen – received the Medal of Honor for their actions during a two-month battle that claimed the lives of 4,590 Americans and more than 20,000 Japanese.

They had been taken into the Japanese forces' elaborate, fortified cave system – miles of underground tunnels linking hundreds of bunkers and blockhouses.

We were scared all the time . . . every time we heard comrades were shot," Scullin said. "A first lieutenant was shot through the neck and it shook us up. You just didn't know if you'd get shot or not."

On March 3, he was sitting on a ledge of volcanic rock near two fellow Marines when a Japanese sniper targeted him. He pointed to a spot on a table

and used salt and pepper shakers to show where his friends where. Then his hands moved to his jaw where the bullet struck.

"When I was shot, I put my hands on my face and they [comrades] pulled me back from the ledge," Scullin said. "I heard them calling for a corpsman and was taken away on a stretcher.

"I gave them a thumbs-up, but I don't remember being on the beach or getting on a boat."

The battle continued until March 17, but it had ended for Scullin, who was treated first on a hospital ship, then transferred to hospitals in Honolulu, San Francisco, and Providence, R.I. "I didn't open my mouth for five months," said Scullin, who underwent numerous surgeries. At home with his parents later, he got up from his sleep one night and began pulling the bureau drawers in and out as though operating an

antiaircraft gun. "I was dreaming," he said.

"My mother heard me and came to check."

"But I often think about Iwo – especially in February," he said while interviewed by a Phila



Inquirer reporter in 2012.

Some of you will remember how thankful Mr Scullin was when he joined us for the annual Gathering of Heroes Bus Trip a couple years ago. Our Legion Riders, Warriors Watch, Marine Corps

League and others coined him at our Post and the police gave us an escort from the Legion all the way to the Irish Pub in Phila - even closing the Ben Franklin Bridge for Mr Scullin - to meet and greet fellow WWII comrades and Medal of Honor recipients Mike Thornton, Barney Barnum, Brian Thacker and Hershaw Williams. He talked about that day for a long time with his friends and family - he loved it.



Vietnam DOG TAG Return & Support Fellow Rider

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017

Rally Location: Lower Bank Inn, 1509 Cnty Rd 542, Egg Harbor, NJ

Rally Time: 1:15pm / KSU: 1:30pm

WE WILL RIDE TO BENEFIT AS A GROUP

Join fellow Riders in the honor of returning a deceased Vietnam veterans dog tag to his nephew, Jim Rupinski Jr AND support Jim (Legion Rider) as he prepares for a kidney transplant. American Legion Post 493 (Mystic Island) will be holding a benefit for Jim at their post on April 2nd. It is there that we will also present him with the dog tag of his late uncle, Vietnam army veteran, John Guyer. A Waretown native, John died from injuries in a car accident shortly after returning home from Vietnam in 1970. His dog tag just recently made its way home from Vietnam.

The flyer, with details about the benefit for Jim is included here – there is \$20 donation at the door, and the benefit will include live music, Penne Vodka w/chicken, 50/50 and Chinese Auction. Jim will be having surgery in late April (his wife his donor) - with quite a long road of recovery, PLEASE JOIN US TO SUPPORT OUR FELLOW RIDER.

If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation to Jim Rupinski, make check out to American Legion Riders Post 493—In memo put "Donation for J. Rupinski" and send to 420 Radio Rd., Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087. - More info about the Dog Tag Project visit www.PatriotConnections.org

Presented by: The American Legion Riders Post 493

Kidney Transplant BENEFIT FOR **Jim Rupinski** "JERSEY JIM"

FIGHT KIDNEY DISEASE

Sunday **APRIL 2nd**

\$20 P/P KIDS UNDER 12 FREE

PENNE VODKA W/CHICKEN 50/50 and Chinese Auction

FROM **1PM** TO **5PM**

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