



August—October 2015



Post 372

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

www.ALCH372.com

Commander's Message



Bring on those crazy hazy days of summer, bring out the swim suits, shorts and comfortable shoes have a

nice cold drink, a dip in the ocean or maybe watch a sun rise or marvel at a beautiful sunset. We all need to relax and spend time with family and friends.

As commander I look forward to facing the challenges of this coming year and hope to lead the Post to a successful future in 2016.

The Post has been very busy this

past year and I would like to take this time to review a few of the many new events that have taken place in the last three months

A Silver Star was presented to the family of James Castaldi, an Army soldier who died some 47 years ago. The ceremony was very impressive and the family very grateful.

Brett Dashevsky a Boys State delegate from the Post was elected Lt. Governor, this is the first time for the post and we are so very proud of him.

A first for our Post included a Nam Knights bash—a fun time for all and a great success.

Boy Scout Troop #70 of Cherry Hill held a flag retirement ceremony at the fire pit on the grounds of the Post.

The Nam Knights MC of DeVal presented the Post with the 50th Anniversary flag of the Vietnam war—a great honor

and we are thankful to the Nam Knights.



The American Legion baseball coach Ron Krowiak is retiring after this season— we wish him good luck and happy retirement.

The SAL picnic will be held on September 19th. This is a great time for your family and friends to be together and enjoy the delicious food, games and music.

Please join our email list—to sign up, visit our website at <http://www.alch372.com>. You will receive periodical emails with upcoming events and breaking news.

In closing I must thank everyone for your continued support—without you there would not be a Post.

For God and Country,
Bill Quinn
Commander

Family Day
September 19th ... 1pm - 6pm

DJ MUSIC, Food, Fun & Games

Roast Pig, Clams, BBQ Steak Sandwiches,
Burgers, Hotdogs, Salads & Corn on the Cob

In Advance: \$20/pp - \$35/couple
At Door: \$20/pp
Advance tickets are NOW available at Legion!

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



www.alch372.com



A loyal Scoop reader, who enjoys these trifling words of questionable wisdom, offers these

pithy observations for this issue's sterling compilation of tidbits; He calls them:

MURPHY LESSER KNOWN LAWS

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
3. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
4. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
5. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
6. If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.
7. The things that come to those who wait will be the scraggly junk left by those who got there first.
8. The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
9. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
10. When you go into court, you are putting yourself into the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

AFJROTC Scholarships

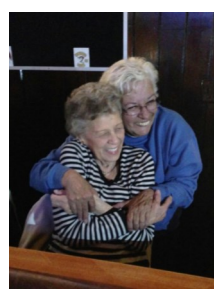
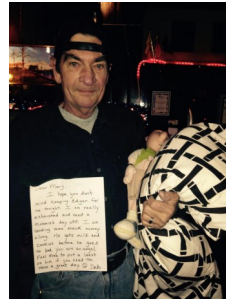


Legionnaire, Sue Shepherd, was honored to present two ROTC scholarships at the Cherry Hill West' Scholarship

JROTC, as well as having overall good character traits. They are; **Antonio Hernandez and Victoria Durkin.**

Post 372 would like to congratulate these two fine young students and wish them the best in their future academic and military careers. To the rest of the Cherry Hill West Class of 2015, well done! Congratulations and best wishes!

Recognition Ceremony on Friday June 12.th The two recipients were chosen based on their academic performance, military participation in



And then with more courage added these tempting morsels: Answering machine message," I am not available right now, but thank you for making some changes in my life. My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine. Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses. Blessed are those who can give

without remembering and take without forgetting. The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere. Every morning is the dawn of a new error. Aspire to inspire before you expire.

A Legion Tradition—With Some New Faces!

Locustwood and Beyond

In May, for as many years as we can remember, the American Legion members have been flagging the veterans graves at Locustwood – this year was no different in that our members were once again busy flagging our veterans graves – however, we had some additional help this year!



In April, the Camden County Veterans Affairs Office, reached out to the Legion, indicating they had some other organizations that would like to help.

Unfamiliar with details of the Legions tradition, meetings were set up with the organizations, which included our Legion, Jewish Family Services, Civil Air Patrol and Samaritan Hospice.

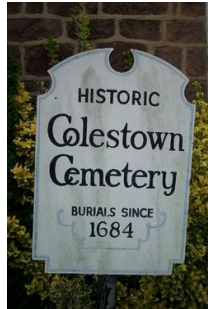
After several meetings and coordination, the volunteers were broken up into 2 groups.

In May, American Legion General Members, SAL's and Auxiliary members were joined by volunteers from the Jewish Family Services – parents and children – to



help with the flagging at Locustwood Cemetery.

Colestown Cemetery – the Newest Tradition !



Meanwhile, at Colestown Cemetery, Legion Auxiliary members, Boy Scouts, Civil Air Patrol and Samaritan Hospice volunteers were busy flagging the veterans graves there.

While flagging of Locustwood has been a tradition for years, flagging of Colestown just recently joined that tradition, under the guidance and hard work of the Auxiliary and Boy Scouts.



Colestown Cemetery is very rich in history, with many civil war veterans, including a Medal of Honor recipient! It really provides a great history and learning experience for our youth.

We look forward to the same participation next year – with the help of our young men and ladies of the community - both to keep the tradition alive and to honor and remember our veterans!

The Tradition Continues! - NJ American Legion Statewide Services –

A couple weeks after our traditional flagging of the graves, Legion members from all over NJ came from far and wide to participate in the NJ

American Legion Statewide Services at Locustwood.

80 years ago, Locustwood Cemetery donated over 400 grave plots to the American Legion—in appreciation of their generosity, an annual parade and memorial ceremony at the Cemetery.



After the parade/ceremony, holding with tradition, the Cherry Hill American Legion provides a delicious buffet for all.

As usual, it was a great time and great opportunity to mingle, and share news with our fellow Legion members from all over the state.



MESSAGE from the SAL COMMANDER



Roll Out Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer! I hope that everyone is enjoying this wonderful time of

the year! As is always a great harbinger of the season, the American Legion Convention in Wildwood was a blast. Post 372 had a well diverse representation.

From a SAL perspective, it is truly an impressive event. Each Squadron in the state was represented, with Squadron 372 claiming all 124 available delegates. Even the SAL National Commander made an appearance. We participated in two days of meetings, followed by the parade on Saturday afternoon, which is always a moving event, and ends as a sing-along at Post 184. Next year we may even be able to enter a float in the parade, as we did three years ago, when Post 372 came in 2nd overall!

Please start floating some of those ideas my way!

In keeping with the official timing of Officer Induction, the convention marks the start of the term for the newly elected SAL Officers. I'm delighted to say that all seated offic-

ers were retained by unanimous vote of the membership. We did add one position as a Chaplain elect.

Your SAL Officers are as follows:
 Commander- Rich Derer
 Sr. Vice—Dave D’Orazio



Vice Commander- Jerry Renteria
 Adjutant- Mike Goffinet
 Finance/Membership- Jim Arcinese & Jim Ihlenfeld
 Historian- Fran Keashen
 Sergeant at Arms- Mike Lobascio
 Chaplain- Josh Seib

The SAL’s also took an active part in the Boy Scout Flag Retirement ceremony. What a wonderful way to say goodbye to “Old Glory” and thank her for a job well done!

Now it’s on to the fulcrum of the SAL calendar; Family Day. The unofficial meeting to kick this off was held in June, with the next un-meeting scheduled for August 19. The Picnic date is set in stone, September 19, rain or shine (as we found out last year!).

This year promises to be another stellar event, filled with fun, food, music, games, and maybe even a

beer or two.

Tickets are now available in advance and can be purchased in the Cantina at any time. Raffle tickets are also available. Hope to see all of you there!

On the horizon we have the resumption of “Poker Night”, held on the last Friday of the month. This will run from October through April, and features “Dealer’s Choice” poker games from 8:PM until 1:AM. November log splitting dates will be discussed at the September meeting, as well as some possible fund raising events.

Please remember that our meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Please circle this day on your calendar and give up the TV for one night! We need ALL SAL’s to come out and get involved. Meet with your friends, show your support and re-dedicate yourselves to improving this great organization! See you all around the Pool Hall ! For God and Country.

Rich Derer
 SAL Commander, Post 372



SAL Members and brothers, Jim and Robert Arcinese, help out at the Legion by hanging new Vietnam flag / lights.

MESSAGE from Auxiliary President



It's been a very active summer for our Legion Family. Please check the Post web site and make sure you are on the e-mail list for weekly updates listing up-coming events. Support our Veterans in any way

you can. The Auxiliary is still accepting donations for Home For the Brave, Vineland Home, Vet Haven and VOA for our Women Homeless Vets.

Contact one of our Auxiliary members directly if you have a donation. Large and small gladly accepted.

We do not have Auxiliary meetings in the summer, but will resume in

September. Please come out. For God And Country,
Sandy Kraft—President



Join Our Mailing List!

www.alch372.com

NJ LEGION Girls State Report



Wow—This was our first year without June Fitzgerald at the helm of the Girls State Program. Talk about a bumpy ride. I never expected to be the new chairperson but here I was.

We had a great group of candidates to choose from, three different schools. Cherry Hill East, West

and Camden Catholic sent us their best to select from. We worked hard to choose our representatives finally selecting: Ally Lazarus , Lily Steele-Dadzie and Jimin Sul from CH East, Rebecca Horner, Callie McFadden, Delaney McQuaide ,Alssya Riess from CH West and of course Grace Jacobs from Camden Catholic. We couldn't ask for better and we hope

they had an enjoyable time during the program. This program teaches



many things including how our form of Government works, camaraderie and how to meet new and exciting people, it is a true learning experience for all involved.

All high school incoming juniors are welcome to submit their names to be a candidate to their school Counselors.

This is a great program to learn about the U.S. form of Government. The Girls learn the basics from day one to the election of a new Governor. I thank all involved in our choices to represent our Unit.

As a side note all Candidates who complete the Program are eligible for a scholarship as well as college credits, talk about a great way to spend a week during the summer. For God and country,
Carol Colucci

MESSAGE from Riders Director



It certainly has been a very hot summer up to now and I hate to see what August will be bringing us. We also had to deal with the storm of the century and I hope everyone made through it ok.

We had our Rider's Rodeo on the 11th of July and it turned out " Great " The Bike Show was a success and there were plenty of trophies handed out. Our Rodeo was a little slow starting but once we got it moving all went well. The food and drinks were also at its best, thanks to our Chef Big Al. Well now we can look ahead

to see what we can do to make next years Rodeo even better. Thanks to all who were involved, job well done

Peggy is in charge of our new shirts and she reports that they are selling well. Seems she can't keep certain colors in stock but she will make arrangements to have more on hand. Thanks Peggy.

I would like to see more of our Riders at our monthly meeting. Remember our meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month at 7:pm , come on out Mickey (TrikeMan) Van Brunt
American Legion Riders
Director

Local Soldier Receives Silver Star Posthumously

James Castaldi of Magnolia and a couple of dozen comrades in the Army's Seventh Cavalry headed down a mountain-side Jan. 12, 1968 – right



into a hornet's nest of about 200 heavily armed North Vietnamese troops.

his company commander knew of his heroics. That oversight was rectified on Saturday, May 15th, 2015 - 47 years later. Castaldi was posthumously awarded the Silver Star – third-highest military decoration for valor – during an 11 a.m. ceremony at American Legion Post 372 in Cherry Hill.

The enemy was moving through the Que Son Valley in preparation for the planned Tet Offensive on Jan. 30 and quickly overwhelmed Castaldi's unit, not unlike the Seventh Cavalry under Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Retired Lt. Gen. Michael Davison Jr., 73, of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, presented the star on Armed Forces Day to Castaldi's



cousin, Anthony Caravello, along with Platoon Leader, and now retired PA State Trooper, Tom Golden, and 2 other Platoon members.



"He deserves it," said Castaldi's cousin Anthony Caravello, 78, of Havertown, who grew up with him. "He's a hero."

Davison was the 7th Cavalry regiment captain of C Company, Fifth Battalion, who commanded the battle from a mountaintop.

"I feel good about bestowing this honor because this needed to be rectified," he said. Davison sent in his second platoon over three miles of rough terrain to help, but it did not arrive in time to save everyone in the first platoon of about 25. Half were wounded and three were killed.



Essentially, they were all fighting for their lives," Davison concluded. Davison said he takes "full responsibility" that recognition of Castaldi's bravery "fell through the cracks" because a report could not be filed by the platoon leaders. A platoon sergeant was killed and its leader, Lt. Tom Golden, was severely wounded. Golden was transported by helicopter for

medical treatment and experienced a long and tough recovery

It was Golden

who located Davison a few years ago because he wanted to file that long overdue action report that had haunted him



Michael Davison said the award may never have been presented if it weren't for Sue Quinn-Morris, a member of the Legions Auxiliary who found Castaldi's relatives.



The platoon leader and sergeant were quickly hit as the unit sought high ground, and Castaldi – then a private – tried to fill the void, firing a machine gun until he ran out of ammunition, then using his handgun until he was killed by an explosive satchel charge.

When Castaldi's body was returned from that Vietnam War battle, neither his family nor even

Retired Lt. Gen. Michael Davison Jr., Platoon Leader, and now retired PA State Trooper, Tom Golden, and 2 other Platoon members were escorted to the Ceremony by the Riders....



Nam Knights host 50th Vietnam War Commemorative Congressional

CHERRY HILL –The Nam Knights of America MC – Delaware Valley Chapter – recently became a partner of the Vietnam War Commemorative Program. The Program is designed for organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families – by planning and conducting events and activities that recognize Vietnam Veterans and their families’ service, valor, and sacrifice.

The Nam Knights kicked off their new partnership by hosting the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemorative Congressional Ceremony at the American Legion on July 8, 2015.

Nam Knight members, Legion members, and friends (including our beloved Lt Col Bancroft), gathered together to watch our Nations’ Capitol pay respect to all our Vietnam veterans and their families for all their sacrifices.

The Ceremony was streamed live



from Washington DC at the American Legion.

During the Ceremony, Defense Secretary Ash Carter and congressional leaders thanked Vietnam War veterans for their service and presented pins to dozens of veterans at a Capitol ceremony Wednesday that marked 50 years since U.S. ground troops arrived in Vietnam.

The Vietnam War taught Americans many lessons, “many hard-won, some difficult to swallow,” Carter said

“We must support our warriors, regardless of our feelings about the war,” he said, calling that a lesson “some learned the hard way in the Vietnam era.”

Carter and other speakers said they were gratified that “our troops today are welcomed home” and that veterans, including those from Vietnam, are often thanked for their service and appreciated by those back home.

Former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, himself a Vietnam veteran, told the crowd that he and other veterans feel a special bond. He said that he, too, is grateful that the nation’s attitude toward veterans has greatly improved since he returned from Vietnam.

Those who have experienced war know the truth, Hagel said: “There is no glory in war, only suffering.”

At the Legion, among the Vietnam vets in attendance, it was very emotional – bringing many memories to the forefront.

We were all grateful to see their service and sacrifices recognized.

The Ceremony was followed by a light buffet and comradery among members/guests.



NJ Legion Boys State Report

Wow! American Legion Post 372 certainly has some bragging rights for the 70th NJ American Legion Boys State Program!

For those of you not familiar with Boys State – it is selective

educational program (high school students-juniors) - a week long Program, held at Rider University. It is a mythical fifty-first state organized and administered for citizenship training purposes under the auspices of The American Legion, Department of New Jersey.

It is a participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government. At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs.

Legion posts select high school juniors to attend the program. American Legion Post 372 sponsored 15 boys this year.

American Legion Post 372 delegate Brett Dashevsky, a junior at Cherry Hill East High School, was elected as Lt Governor ... a first for our Legion.

In addition to Brett's outstand-



ing accomplishment, we are proud to report we also sponsored a Mayor, 4 Freeholders, a Councilman and 8 other young men who successfully completed the Boys State Program this year. They are;

Lt Governor Brett Dashevsky

Mayor Jacob deBlecourt

Freeholder Paul Crozier

Freeholder Samuel Greenberg

Freeholder Marcus Herceg

Freeholder Patrick Stewart

Councilman Mitchell Finkelstein

Other participants included Carmen Carusone, Andrew Ellis, Da-

The Jersey Boys State has been held annually since 1946 - American Legion Post 372 has had one delegate elected as Governor – which was Governor Steven R. Goldkrantz in 1984. We have had Senators in 1961, 1978, 1978, 1979, 1988 and 1990.

Our Legion is very proud of all these young men, both past and present, and we look forward to sponsoring a new round of young men next year.



WWII Veterans Honored

More than two dozen World War II veterans were honored in May with a luncheon at the Cherry Hill Public library.

The library, its friends organization, Cherry Hill American Legion Post 372 and Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126, Jewish War Veterans, co-sponsored the event.

The oldest veteran attending was John Kane, 96, who was raised in the township. He was a telephone communications technician in the European theater



from 1943 to 1945 during World War II, which ended 70 years ago.



Veterans were urged to tell their stories in writing or via a video interview.

American Legion Post 372 became a partner with the Library of Congress—Veterans Oral History project in 2008. Any veteran interested in being interviewed may contact Sue at 856-495-7270.



Flag Retirement and Vietnam Flag Dedication



In an impressive show of attendance and participation, the Boy Scout Troop 70 of Cherry Hill performed a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Legion in June.

formed the flag retirement, complete in Boy Scout Code.

Also participating in the Ceremony were Commander Quinn, Legion Chaplain John Murphy and Lt Col Al Bancroft of Camden County Veterans Affairs.



a Program to assist in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families.

The Legion has

had the flag and proclamation framed and it is now proudly displayed for all to see in the Legion



It was evident their Leaders have instilled the responsibility we all have to treat our flag with respect and dignity.

With utmost respect, they per-



In conjunction with the Ceremony, a surprise presentation was given by the Nam Knights of America MC. President Mike "Chainsaw" Bray and Steve "Roaddog" Berry presented the Legionnaires with the 50th Vietnam War Commemorative Flag and Proclamation.

The Nam Knights recently became a Commemorative Partner, which is



Cpl Jeremy Kane Annual Run

Jeremy Kane, a Cherry Hill resident who was killed in action in 2010, is honored each year at the Cpl Kane 5K run/walk, which takes place in May.

This year we had 5 Legion members to assist with the Run by placing flags along the entire 5K route. The flags are

used as markers so the runners know the route and where to turn. Big flags are placed at Cherry Hill East High School, which is where the run begins and where a Ceremony is held in Jeremys honor.

Some Legion Riders also participate by providing a motorcycle escort for the lead runners.



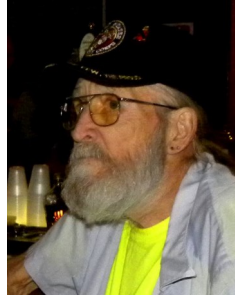
Veterans Honored Over Memorial Day

Legion members honored our deceased and living Veterans over the Memorial Day Weekend, which included Services at our Legion, Locustwood Cemetery, Cooper River, Cherry Hill Township and Camden County Veterans at Harleigh Cemetery.



Our Friends who have recently passed....

In Memory of Ted Verlander, Jeff Brown & Jack Semler



More Photos



Check our Website for Upcoming Events !

Sal's Kitchen

Hours

Mon-Tues: Closed

Wed—Thur: 12noon—4pm

Friday: 12noon—9pm

Sat/Sun: Call to inquire.

DAILY SPECIALS and FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER SPECIALS.

Check out our Website for weekly Friday Night Dinner Specials and Sal's full menu



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