

The American Legion Mission

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

Hundreds of local American Legion programs and activities strengthen the nation one community at a time. American Legion Baseball is one of the nation's most successful amateur athletic programs, educating young people about the importance of sportsmanship, citizenship and fitness. The Operation Comfort Warriors program supports recovering wounded warriors and their families, providing them with "comfort items" and the kind of support that makes a hospital feel a little bit more like home. The Legion also raises millions of dollars in donations at the local, state and national levels to help veterans and their families during times of need and to provide college scholarship opportunities.

The American Legion is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization with great political influence perpetuated by its grass-roots involvement in the legislation process from local districts to Capitol Hill. Legionnaires' sense of obligation to community, state and nation drives an honest advocacy for veterans in Washington. The Legion stands behind the issues most important to the nation's veterans community, backed by resolutions passed by volunteer leadership.

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives.



www.alch372.com



CURRENT RESIDENT OF

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 258
CHERRY HILL, NJ

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



May—July 2015



Post 372

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

www.ALCH372.com

Commander's Message



Spring has sprung and nature wakes after a very cold winter. Spring also brings a very active time at the post.

Boys and Girls State is gearing up with interviews being conducted at the Legion—County Orientations to be held in May. The boys will go to Rider College and the girls to Georgian Court for a week learning about state government.

We will be hosting a very special presentation on May 16th—Vietnam KIA James Castaldi, from Camden County, has been posthumously awarded the Silver Star—members from his Battalion, including Lt Gen Davison (ret) will be coming in from out of town to present the Silver Star to his family. Please join us for this special ceremony. (Flyer inside Scoop).

Flagging the veteran's graves at both Locustwood and Colestown Cemetary will take place on May 16th and 17th in coordination with the boy's scouts, legion member's

men and women, Civil Air Patrol and the Jewish Family Children's Service.

The 80th American Legion Statewide Services will take place May 31st, beginning with a parade at Locustwood at 2pm, followed by services and then buffet back at the Legion. See flyer inside this issue of the Scoop for more details.

On June 13th the Nam Knights of America MC—Delaware Valley Chapter, will hold their annual Bash at the Legion. This will benefit veterans and law enforcement. More information can be found on their website <http://www.delvalnamknights.org>

The American Legion Riders of Post 372 are scheduled to hold their annual Rodeo on July 11th. More details to follow in the coming weeks. Be sure to check our website for details of all upcoming

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima let us take time to remember the many lives lost and the bravery shown by our armed forces.

Think about this:

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Remember their names...



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone...even if they don't like you.

When you think the world has turned its back on you, take another look.

The only reason anyone would ever hate you is because they want to be like you.

Have a safe summer and we will see you in September For God and Country,

Bill Quinn
Commander



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Points to Ponder

- ◆ How do they get the deer to cross at that yellow road sign?
- ◆ Is it true that cannibals don't eat clowns because they taste funny?
- ◆ One nice thing about ego-tists: they don't talk about other people.
- ◆ Before they invented drawing boards, what did they go back to?
- ◆ If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
- ◆ If the #2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still #2?
- ◆ If work is so terrific, how come they have to pay you to do it?
- ◆ If you ate pasta and antipasta, would you still be hungry?
- ◆ If you try to fail and you succeed, which have you done?
- ◆ Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
- ◆ Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?
- ◆ If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?
- ◆ What if there were no hypothetical questions?
- ◆ Is there another word for synonym?
- ◆ If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?
- ◆ Would a fly with no wings be called a walk?
- ◆ Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do "practice"?
- ◆ If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?
- ◆ What was the best thing before sliced bread?
- ◆ Why do they put Braille on the drive-through bank machines?



Don't go in there! It's full of vets!

- ◆ If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?
- ◆ Why do we park in a driveway and drive on a parkway?
- ◆ Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone might clean them?
- ◆ Why are they called buildings, when they're already finished? Shouldn't they be called builts?
- ◆ Why is the alphabet in that order?

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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Dr. Steve Alberti

ADVERTISE

Your Business HERE

Only \$25/mth

AMERICAN LEGION TV NEWSBOARD

Be sure to check out our new TV Newsboard in the Canteen. Upcoming Events, Food Specials, Veterans Information and Photos of Events play 24/7 on the TV. If interested in advertising your business on our TV for all to see, call Sue at 856-495-7270 for details

ANNUAL NJ AMERICAN LEGION STATEWIDE PARADE, CEREMONY & SOCIAL

Sunday, May 31st, 2015

Time: 1pm - 5pm

The Annual NJ Statewide American Legion Services kick off with the Parade at 1:30pm in Locustwood Cemetery, 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/Bufferet at American Legion Post 372.

Be sure to come out and meet members/officers from all our NJ American Legions !! Its a great opportunity to mingle, meet, share news and events with our fellow Legions !!!

(All Parade participants are to report to Locustwood Cemetery by 1pm for line up)

Locustwood Cemetery, 1500 Rt 70, Cherry Hill / American Legion, 1532 Martin Ave, Cherry Hill, NJ

AMERICAN LEGION POST FLAG ITO FLY N HONOR OF:



May — Perrakis, Angelo

June — Rocha, Albert A

July — Shields, James F Jr



Message from Sr. Vice Commander

I would like to share a couple of my experiences with the Legion. I used to work for a large corporation and traveled a lot.

Anyone that has had a "traveling" job knows it sounds good to others but to yourself—it can get pretty lonely.

Over 27 years ago, I found myself in Crane, Indiana servicing some equipment. Daily I passed by an American Legion Post, and decided to stop in and find out about joining. I was never so surprised at the welcome I received. 10 minutes

later I was in a Euchre game, and at closing time I wondered where the hours went.

That welcome has been almost universal wherever Sandy and I have gone, and we make it a point to stop in at a Post wherever we are.

That's what makes our Post and the Legion so great. We are a family—home to ourselves and to visitors.

How many times have you heard people say we are a friendly Post ?! I am proud to be a member, an officer of our Post, and an ambassador of the Legion wherever Sandy and I go.

Have you visited a fellow Post lately? Have you bragged about our Post? Your Post? We make our Post great at the Canteen, the Hall, Events, and our interface with other members.

Please attend our monthly meetings and get involved. You ARE the American Legion. God bless our members and families, and keep them safe.

For God and Country
Tim Kraft
Senior Vice Commander

Join Us for the SILVER STAR Presentation

to family of

Vietnam KIA James Castaldi

of Camden County, NJ

DATE: Sat, May 16th

TIME: 11:00am

Cpl James Castaldi was killed in action in Vietnam on Jan 12, 1968.

Now, some 47 years later his heroism will be recognized.

Lt Gen Mike Davison Jr (ret) - his Company Commander in Vietnam, and Tom Golden, his Platoon Leader, will be presenting his family with the Silver Star posthumously awarded to James.

Other local dignitaries will be on hand to join in the Presentation.

Lite Lunch Buffet to follow Presentation.

Location: American Legion, 1532 Martin Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ 08002



1968—Vietnam—Left—Right: William Port and James Castaldi

MESSAGE from the SAL COMMANDER



It's been one Helluva Winter! Thank God for all the firewood that we split back in November. Those fires kept a lot of our buns toasty warm. As is sometimes unfortunately the case during these cold dreary times, our hearts were broken with the untimely passing of Bert Smith. We will all miss her loving hugs and hearty laughter. Our thoughts and prayers are with Marty and his family.

The SAL's started a new winter tradition this year with the introduction 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. We initiated play in January, and have expanded to (2) tables by March! Watch out for Card Shark Alberti! Now let's all "Spring" forward with the best times of the American Legion year! We will start things off with our traditional, time honored service of "Flagging of the Graves" at Locustwood Cemetery, May 17. I ask that all SAL's possible take part in this activity as it honors our departed veterans who gave so much for us to be free. Memorial Day activities will kick-off at our Post on May 25th, and travel to Locustwood, Cooper River and the Township Building for formal services. Of course, there will be a

barbeque afterwards at our Post; another great tradition! The Annual American Legion State Convention will be held in Wildwood from June 11th-14th. This has always been a well-attended event. All SAL members are encouraged to attend and join in on the sun and fun. Just a reminder... If you haven't paid your 2015 dues yet, please pay them now. SAL meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30PM. Come and help us find new ways to help our veterans. You'll get two ice cold beers for your participation ! I'll see you there! For God and Country, Rich Derer

MESSAGE from AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



By the time you read this Scoop your Officers for 2015-2016 have been elected with installation planned for May 26th.

In spite of the snow storm on the first day of Spring, we still had a nice turn-out for the Post Easter Egg hunt. The Committee did an outstanding job of making it happen indoors since there was 8" of snow outside. The children all appeared to have a good time. The Auxiliary has been very busy over the winter months supporting

our Veterans and Community projects. There are a lot of projects on our schedule to be handled before we break in July and August and we could sure use your help. There are so many things to be done, if you just pick one to help with, your Unit would be grateful. The Unit has added several new members over the past 6 months and to each of them I'd like to say welcome and thanks for stepping up. If you are not receiving the Officers' e-mails, please contact myself or Michelle Derer (mderer@comcast.net) and get your

name added to the list. Haven't been at the Post lately?, check the Post and Auxiliary web sites to find out what is coming up. Last, have you paid your 2015 dues? Please don't lose all those years you have been an Auxiliary Member because you put off sending in your dues. Yes, you can rejoin but that means starting all over with submitting an Application and losing your years of continuous membership. All Gave Some, Some Gave All For God and Country Sandy Kraft President

Gathering of Heroes

In April, the American Legion, for the 4th year, sponsored a bus trip to the Irish Pub in Philadelphia for the "Gathering of Heroes", where four Medal of Honor recipients were in attendance to meet and greet all. Medal of Honor recipients Brian Thacker, Barney Barnum, Michael Thornton, Hershel Williams, along with several other high ranking military officials were present. An especially heartwarming touch this year was having WWII Iwo Jima veteran, Bob Scullin, visit our Legion before the event.

In addition to having the Warriors Watch on hand to do their usual rock star meet/greet and coining, members from the Marine Corps League, VFW, and Legion Riders were on hand to present him with coins. Legionnaire Ron Colucci also made a special presentation of a jar of sand from Iwo Jima. As an invited guest to the Gathering of Heroes, we provided Bob Scullin with a rock star escort from the Cherry Hill American Legion to the Irish Pub in Philadelphia for the

event. A special thank you goes out to Cherry Hill Police Department, Delaware River Port Authority, Philadelphia Police Department, and Warriors Watch for a truly exceptional job with traffic control and escorting Mr Scullin to the pub. As usual, the event itself was stellar—a wonderful time to speak with our nations heroes, with a variety of items to purchase and have auto-graphed.



In Loving Memory of Alberta "Bert" Smith and Edna Gallagher



Henry Lewun Charity Fundraiser for the Halle Lewun Trust Fund

Date: Friday, May 1st

Time: 7pm - 11pm

** Lots of Food * Beer * Soda **

** Live Entertainment * Chinese Auction **

Location: American Legion, 1532 Martin Ave, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002



DONATION
\$20 per person
\$30 per couple



**Join Our
Mailing
List!**

www.alch372.com

**Nam Knights of America MC
Delaware Valley Chapter**

9th ANNUAL Poker Run & Bash

Saturday, June 13th
RAIN DATE: Sunday, June 28th

Come party with the Nam Knights at our annual bash and enjoy:

Vendors	Live Band	Food
Chinese auction	Beer	Bike games
Best Represented Club		

POKER RUN - Register at Barb's HD, 926 Black Horse Pk, Mt Ephraim between 9-11am

BASH - 1pm-5pm at American Legion, 1532 Martin Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ

Tickets at the gate, \$25 Donation gets you in!
All proceeds benefit veterans and law enforcement

GET YOUR PIC WITH
THE HOOTERS LADIES!

Message From Riders Director



I want to thank everyone involved with our Cook Off, March 28th it was a great success, we had plenty of food and I'm sure everyone will be looking for next years Cook Off. Thanks goes to our judges who did a great job.

We are presently working on our upcoming Rodeo. We have much work to be accomplished before we can decide on our date and time. We will be making an announcement to this effect very shortly. We have Tom Rhea working real hard getting the information we need for this event. We have a new T-Shirt about to be

released for sales. You will be able to see it at the canteen very shortly.
I thank our Riders for allowing me to be their Director for another year, as always I will give you my best
Mickey Van Brunt
ALR Director
God Bless The USA

Cherry Hill KIA Memorialized with Annual 5K Run/Walk

SUNDAY MAY 31 2015

6th Annual JEREMY KANE MEMORIAL RUN

PLEASE JOIN US IN HONORING THE BRAVE SACRIFICE OF
LCpl USMC JEREMY KANE

Additional information and registration: jeremykanebenefitrun.webs.com

5K Run or 1 Mile Walk
REGISTRATION - 7A.M.
CHERRY HILL HIGH SCHOOL EAST

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE JEREMY KANE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
INSURING THE SUCCESS OF CURRENT AND FUTURE ARMED SERVICES VETERANS OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

When Lance Cpl. Jeremy Kane got word that his Marine reserve unit was being called to serve in Afghanistan, he was conflicted.



The Cherry Hill resident had a lot of reasons to want to stay home. In addition to being on the verge of finishing his degree at Rutgers University, Kane had recently lost his father to cancer. As the oldest son in the family, he wanted to be home to support his mother and brothers as they grieved.

But in the end, Kane went to Afghanistan with his unit proudly.

"He felt terrible that it would cause further stress and strain on the family. But this was his commitment and

he had to stick to it," said Melinda Kane, his mother. "He felt that every American had the duty to give back to his country."

Kane, 22, died Saturday January 23, 2010, when a suicide bomber attacked members of the Marines' 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.

To participate or donate to his Memorial Run go to jeremykanebenefitrun.webs.com



AMERICAN LEGION ANNUAL FLAGGING of the GRAVES

DATE: May 17, 2015
TIME: 10:00am

Join us in our long standing tradition of flagging all the Veterans Graves at Locustwood Cemetery. Meet at Locustwood Cemetery, 1500 Marlton Pike W. (Rt 70), Cherry Hill, NJ at 10:00am on Sunday, May 17th.

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of when Locustwood Cemetery donated 400 plots for Legionnaires and their spouses !!

Questions? Contact Dave Larsen—856-287-5362—Coordinator of Flagging.



Cleaning out your closets? Making room in your drawers? Getting into new sizes?

Our local Homeless Veterans can use what you no longer will. Our Veterans come in all sizes and preferences. Consider sending your gently used discards to Home For the Brave or Veterans Haven.

Contact Carol Colucci at arkguild@aol.com. Lets support our local guys where we know they get everything. Not hidden fees or costs! Just smiles and hugs

History of MEMORIAL DAY



Memorial Day, an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May, honors men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, at least, it marks the beginning of summer.

EARLY OBSERVANCES OF MEMORIAL DAY

The Civil War claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history, requiring the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

Did You Know?

Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time. It is unclear where exactly this tra-

dition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

DECORATION DAY

On May 5, 1862, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he pro-

claimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Many Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I.

EVOLUTION OF MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another



major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

MEMORIAL DAY TRADITIONS

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C. Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials.



Date: May 25, 2015

Join us in our Annual Memorial Day Services

Our schedule is as follows;

- 9:30am—Services begin at the American Legion Post flagpole.**
- 10am—Proceed to Locustwood Cemetery for service.**
- 10:30am—Service at Battan/Corregidor Monument, Cooper River**
- 11am—Memorial Day Ceremony at Cherry Hill Township Building.**

SAL Member, John Giacoboni and crew will be on hand at the Township to do all the cooking and serving of food.

