

# AMERICAN LEGION POST 372

## FLAG TO FLY IN HONOR OF:

September - Walter Cyran

October - David Larsen

November - Charles Macukewicz



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



CURRENT RESIDENT of

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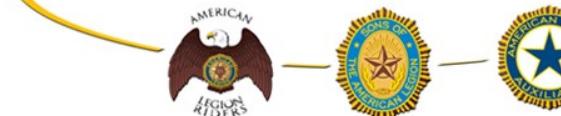
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Cherry Hill Memorial Post 372

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
PAID  
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PERMIT NO. 268  
CHERRY HILL, NJ



September—November 2016



# THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

Post 372

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

[www.ALCH372.com](http://www.ALCH372.com)

## Commander's Message



This is my first chance to formally communicate with our members as your new Commander. Let me thank you all for the confidence you show in me, and I will strive to meet your expectations.

I have served in the Legion for 29 years and 20 of them as an officer in this post under 4 past Commanders. Each Commander has shared their expertise with me and I hope to pass on some of mine to the next Commander.

A special thanks to our past Commander Bill Quinn. for being my mentor. I'm sure I have been his TOR-mentor at times.

My wife and I travel quite a bit, and make it a point to stop at other Legions around the country. If you haven't stopped at other Legions you are missing something. We have one of the most active, friendly, cleanest Posts in the country. Our rental hall is top-notch and a positive source of revenue, the Canteen is the center of

activity of the Post, our picnic grove is like a state park, and some new items are around the corner.

Thanks to the SAL's our new grill is state of the art. The roof is new. The outside of the building just was painted. The Shuffleboard was refinished. New floor and paint in the smoke shed. The parking lot will be resurfaced by the time you read this Scoop. The picnic tables will be replaced. How did this all happen? You. Between the General members,

Sal's, Auxiliary, Riders and Knights, we have a powerful base of volunteers. And you deserve the credit. This is OUR Post home and you make it outstanding. I am proud to be your Commander and with the help of all our elected officials in all the groups within our Post, we will continue to set the standards for other Post's to achieve.

For God and Country.  
Timothy Kraft—Commander



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## Showing Support—Veterans and Police

On Saturday, September 24th, the Cherry Hill PBA Local #176 will be hosting a Free Veterans Dinner at the American Legion Post 372.

We are very grateful to the Cherry Hill Police Officers for thinking of us, showing their appreciation for all our veterans and we thank them, not only for this dinner, but for their service as well.

Unfortunately, our nations Police Officers have been facing a deluge of attacks across our country—a fact we are reminded of in an ever increasing frequency. Ambushes fill the airwaves, funerals too many.

Some of you will remember reading about and seeing the video of

Philadelphia Police Officer and Coast Guard veteran, Jesse Hartnett, who was viciously ambushed and shot numerous times while in his police car earlier this year. Hartnett was one of the lucky ones who came out of it alive.



The Cherry Hill PBA has extended an invitation to him to attend the Veterans Dinners as well. (*Unconfirmed as of print date if he will be coming*).

These incidents effect all of our Police Officers in probably more profound ways then we can imagine. While our veterans face PTSD and suicide rates in staggering numbers, please keep our Law Enforcement Officers in your prayers and thoughts, as they too deal with some of the same issues.

If you are interested in attending the Veterans Dinner, please email call Sue at 856-495-7270 or email [squinn9807@aol.com](mailto:squinn9807@aol.com). Seating is limited and first come first serve.

# Veterans Appreciation Pasta Dinner



hosted by Cherry Hill PBA Local #176

**DATE: Sat., September 24th, 2016**

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

**TIME: 6:00pm**

**Honoring All Those Who Served !**

Brief Ceremony, Special Guests, Dinner, Soda, Water, Coffee, 50/50 and more!

All veterans invited !

Cash Bar Available

**LIMITED SEATING**

**RSVP by 9/11**  
856-495-7270,  
[squinn9807@aol.com](mailto:squinn9807@aol.com)  
or [www.alch372.com](http://www.alch372.com)



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## 2016 Girls State

Once Again our American Legion Auxiliary was able to sponsor a few exceptional students to the Girls State Program. Due to construction at Georgian Court College we were only able to send 6 girls this year.

You cannot imagine how difficult the process is to start with approximately 17 girls from 3 schools and this year we also had a Home Schooled Junior from our own Unit as candidates. All were stellar but we could only fill our allotted spots. After much conferring we chose 8 girls (2 alternates) for the program.

I am proud to announce from our 6 candidates we sent, 4 were chosen to offices. Rachael Lim -Assembly person, Sarah Vesti- Election board, Sofia Benedetto- Senate and Lauren Flood for City council. Congrats to all of our Girls who were able to experience the program. Girls State is a chance to learn how our form of

Government works. This is extremely important to our young people to learn for they are our future leaders. I am sure these fine young women will be more aware of the Presidential election this year and be prepared for their chance to make a difference with their votes in the coming years.

I am sad to say we were not able to send our own Junior Auxiliary member due to a small clerical error. Seems she actually Graduated! the week prior to the program from her Junior year of high school. She was surprised to say the least but felt it was the proper thing to remove herself as a candidate at the last minute. Special shout out to Jessica Walters who graduated a year early with honors. How proud you must be of your accomplishments. We wish you all the best in your future, I



am sure you will be stellar at whatever you choose to pursue for a career. Who knows maybe in the future you will attend the Girls State program as a counselor?

This program is just one of many important things we do as Auxiliary members. Stop by a meeting some time and check us out. First Monday at 7:00pm Oct- May weather permitting in the winter. Our September meeting is the 2nd Monday due to Labor Day. We would like to get to know our members.

For God and country,  
Carol Colucci  
Girls State Chairperson.

## Cherry Hill West AFJROTC Ceremony 2016

Just prior to 2016 Graduation, Cherry Hill West held their annual ceremony for the NJ-781 AFJROTC. The ceremony consisted of both National and local awards. Presenters ranged from retired Air Force Command Sergeant Majors to members of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Post 372 was honored to be there to hand out two awards that evening.

The first award was for the American Legion Scholastic Award. This award is giving to a cadet who ranked in the top 10% of the high school class, who ranked in the top 25% of their



AFJROTC class and who also demonstrated leadership qualities and actively participated in student activities. This year's award went to Cadet Margaret McCurdy.

The second award was for the American Legion General Military Excellence. The criteria for this award is: rank in the top 25% of their AFJROTC class and demonstrates outstanding qualities in military leadership, discipline, character, and citizenship. This year's award went to Cadet Daniel Carpenter

## New Jersey RUN for the FALLEN

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 Thursday, Friday, Saturday



More info & other Hero Markers, [nrunforthefallen.org](http://nrunforthefallen.org)

**JOIN LEGION Post 372 MEMBERS  
in Honoring Our  
CHERRY HILL KIA's**

**Thursday, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016**

**Greg Dalessio \* John Spahr \* Jeremy Kane**  
Marker 129 \* Marker 134 \* Marker 139  
9508 2nd Ave 1121 Dune Dr 24 Street/Landis Ave  
Stone Harbor 1:05pm \* Avalon 2:04pm \* Sea Isle City 2:56pm

Runners run one mile to honor and remember each NJ fallen hero from the current conflicts. Each fallen NJ hero is assigned a Mile Marker up the coast of NJ. The runners stop at each Hero Marker to honor them. Join Legion Members and others, including the Hero's family, at the Hero Markers

of our Cherry Hill KIA to honor their sacrifice and service.

**If interested in going: Meet at the Legion at 11am.  
We will follow each other/car pool along with the Riders**

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



## MESSAGE from the SAL COMMANDER

The lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are upon us, I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful time of the year. It has been an active summer for the Sons of the American Legion. SAL members happily joined the Legionnaires in the Memorial Day services that started at Post 372 and then moved onto the Locustwood Cemetery. We had the honor to participate in the 21 Gun Salute as riflemen at both locations. The following Sunday SAL members attended the NJ American Legion Statewide Services at Locustwood, which was followed with a Luncheon at Post 372.

Our SAL members Bob Deconcini and Joe Flynn organized an outing to a Phillies game over the summer. Bob and Joe purchased tickets in advance and rented a bus to take everyone to the game and back to the Legion after the game. The cost was just \$20 for the night. The entire night was a blast, even the ride to the ballpark. The bus driver missed the entrance to the Walt Whitman Bridge and just kept going and going! Luckily our Phil Beck came to the rescue and guided the driver to another entrance to the Bridge and we made to the game in time for the first pitch. To top off the night Bob and Joe donated the proceeds from the event of \$420 to the Chill and Grill Project. Thank you both for the great time and the donation!!!

Speaking of the Chill and Grill project, the new Post 372 Grill was delivered on schedule to our Legion. John Giacoboni and Jerry Salvucci of Smoke'n Hogs designed and built

an awesome grill for our Post. Mario Papaneri donated all labor for the pad, and the SAL team installed and mounted the grill. The project came in under budget, thanks to all of our Legion Family donations, and the grill was officially christened (baptism by fire!) at the Rider's Rodeo. We are still investigating a lean-to style cover and will keep all posted on our progress.

The Annual American Legion Convention in Wildwood was an awesome time. From a SAL perspective it is an impressive event. Each Squadron in the state was represented, our Squadron 372 was well represented and we claimed all 124 available delegates. Our County Commander Bob Bascou was elected to the position of State Commander. Congratulations to our new State Commander! After the 2 days of meetings, we watched the American Legion Parade just outside of Post 184. This was an impressive and moving afternoon. At the conclusion of the parade our members and members from many posts in the state joined together at Post 184 to share stories, laughs and a song or two. It may be time for the SALs to consider entering a float in next year's parade. Post 372 entered a float in 2012 for the first time and came in 2nd overall! Let's start floating ideas around for next year's parade.

The convention marks the start of the term for the newly elected SAL Officers. I'm honored to serve as the SAL Commander for this new term. I want to thank our past commander Rich Derer for his leadership and dedication to our

Post over the past two years. Rich has kept the Legion Family Spirit moving forward and it is my goal to continue this tradition as Rich and all of our past SAL Commanders have done. I'm also glad Rich is staying on as Senior Vice Commander for the SALs!

Our attention now shifts to the upcoming SAL Family Day which is set for Saturday September 17th. Other members of our Post family contribute to Family Day like the Ladies Auxiliary who contributes delicious salads and desserts. Family Day is one of the best days at our Post every year. Fun, food, games, music and great conversation with our guests and our American Legion Family is enjoyed by all. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Canteen, along with Raffle tickets. I hope to see all SALs and their families and friends there!

Looking ahead we will resume Poker Night at the Legion. This is held on the last Friday night of the month and runs from October through April. "Dealers Choice" games will begin at 8 PM and end at 1 AM. Also, our annual Log Splitting day will be scheduled one Saturday in November.

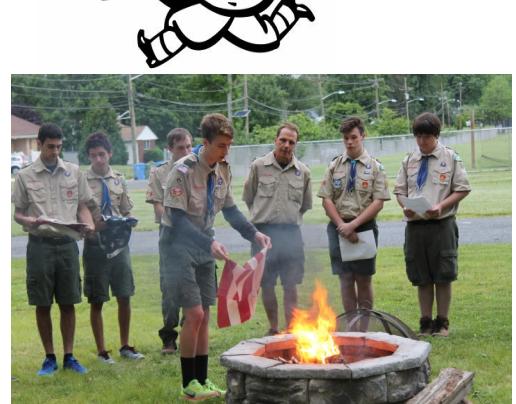
Lastly please remember that our SAL meetings are the third Wednesday of each month. All SAL members are encouraged to come out and show your support for our SAL family. It's an opportunity to meet with your friends and continue the great tradition of supporting our Veterans and their families. With each year we grow stronger in our dedication to improve this great organization. I hope to see everyone soon!  
For God and Country,  
Dave D'Orazio  
SAL Commander Post 372

## Legion Clean-Up & Renovations

The Legion has been undergoing some major upkeep and renovation ! As this Scoop goes to print, we are in the middle of repaving the driveway/parking lot. The building has been power washed, repainted, new picnic tables, gravel parking area for the Nam Knights trailer, new grill, and major renovation of "Sue's Office" to name a few things ! Come on out and see all the work we've done !! Thanks to all for their help !



## Boys Scouts Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Legion



## Cherry Hill Scholarship Awarded

Over the summer, the American Legion Post 372 had the honor of handing out its yearly scholarship at the Cherry Hill West Scholarship night.

This year we gave out one – \$5000 check to a very deserving young man – Justin Cini.

Justin will be attending Stockton College in the fall. He will be studying Pharmacy with the intention of going on to medical school.

His ultimate goal is to become an Air

Force doctor.

Justin was chosen as a recipient of the American Legion Scholarship based on academic standing, who also demonstrated outstanding qualities in military leadership , discipline and overall good character.

Join me in congratulating Justin on his accomplishments and wishing him good luck his future.



**FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE**

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY  
September 16, 2016

A 9/11 Service will be held at Cherry Hill Fire Department, Marlkress Road, in front of the 9/11 Memorial at 8:30am on September 11th.

September 17th—The American Legion Camden County will be holding the Annual POW/MIA Service at 10am at the Lindenwold Memoiral, 2001 Egg Harbor Road, Lindenwold, NJ. Service will be conducted by County American Legion Chaplain followed by short speeches by honored guests. Seating will be provided.

There are many Services being held throughout the state for both 9/11 Remembrance as well as POW/MIA Recognition Day. Check your local newspaper for other services if you are unable to attend the ones mentioned here.



Dave Larsen, a Vietnam Veteran, who served with the 196th LIB Americal Division, passed away in August. He was a Legion Member and past

Officer—an intergral part of our Legion.

All that knew Dave will remember the stories he would share about his comrades from Vietnam and their yearly gathering in Washington DC. There was a deep connection between them. Although there were some very unpleasant memories in Vietnam for Dave and his comrades, Dave's face glowed when ever he spoke about their reunions in Washington.



Dave's services were held at Alloway Funeral Home, where Legion

Upon learning of Dave's death, his comrades from all over the country banded together once again and came out for his funeral services. Over a dozen of them came—from Washington State, Colorado, Florida, New

Hampshire, Texas, Connecticut, Maryland, New York and Pennsylvania.



Rider Members and the Nam Knights stood a Flag Line during the viewing as all Dave's family and friends came to bid him farewell.

After the Services, everyone gathered back at the Legion for a Luncheon, where there was also a short service and Rifle Salute.

Please keep Dave's wife, Peggy, also an Aux. member, and their children Chrystie and Kelly, in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. RIP Dave. You will be missed.

## Stand Down of South Jersey

The South Jersey Stand Down has been held annually since September 1996. Originally a three-day event, the Stand Down was hosted at Fort Dix New Jersey. After a decision was made to hold a one-day event, it was relocated to the Army National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Primary support (provisions of the structure, grounds and utilities) is provided by the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

The Cherry Hill Stand Down provides services to homeless veterans along with shelter, meals, clothing, and medical attention. This annual event is an entirely volunteer effort, organized within Camden County and New Jersey

communities, bringing service providers together such as the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists, Local Veterans Employment representatives, various veterans service organizations, military personnel, civic leaders, local grammar schools and a variety of other organizations. Since 1996 this event has served as a catalyst that enables homeless veterans to re-enter mainstream society.

Please join Legion members on September 23rd at the Cherry Hill Armory to help our homeless veterans go through stations at Stand Down. Go directly to the Armory.

**STAND DOWN 2016**

PROOF OF SERVICE REQUIRED, VETERANS ONLY  
**SERVING HOMELESS VETERANS**  
**FRIDAY, SEPT. 23, 2016**  
**8:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. - CHERRY HILL ARMORY**

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE ARE AVAILABLE:  
VA Benefit Counseling, PTSD Counseling, Mental Health, Welfare, Social Security, Food Stamps, Legal Services, Addiction Services, Housing, Medical, Employment, Unemployment, Haircuts, Clothing and Provisions

Pre-registration and transportation arrangements call:  
1-888-8NJ-VETS (1-888-865-8387), then press #1  
[www.standdownsouthjersey.org](http://www.standdownsouthjersey.org)

## Members of 196th LIB Americal Division Pay Final Respects at Legionnaires Funeral



Dave Larsen, a Vietnam Veteran, who served with the 196th LIB Americal Division, passed away in August. He was a Legion Member and past

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## Veterans Day Service



Join Us in  
Honoring our Veterans...

Buffet Food  
After Ceremony

**November 11, 2016**  
**Time: 7pm**

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



## MESSAGE from Auxiliary President

Well, summer is over and now it's back to work helping our Veterans and Community fulltime. I want to thank those who have

Auxiliary Department or National reminding you that 2017 Dues are now due. Please pay them asap. There will be a Membership Table at Family Day—if you will not be attending, please mail or drop your dues off at the Post. Our dues for 2017 will remain at \$21.

carried the torch while others were not available this summer.

A big thank you to Carol Colucci and Sue Quinn for staying on top of things while I, like others, were off on vacation or participating in Family events.

There are a lot of events coming up in the next few months. Family Day, Veterans Appreciation Dinner, Stand Down, NJ Run for the Fallen, Thanksgiving for the Troops and Veterans Day to mention a few. Check for more details in this Scoop newsletter and be sure to sign up on our Legion email list to receive late breaking news via email.

A reminder to all Auxiliary Members; You will not receive a notice from our



For God and Country,  
Sandy Kraft  
Auxiliary President



## Auxiliary Food Collection

If you are able to donate to our Food Drive please place items in the pot that will be in the Legion from November 1st—November 20th. Items will be donated to veterans/families in need. Non-perishable items. Looking for Thanksgiving Dinner items (canned veggies, gravy, stuffing, potatoes, etc)

**DONATIONS being accepted Nov 1st—Nov 20th**



## MESSAGE from Riders Director



Our first General Membership meeting for 2016-2017 will be held on the 2nd Monday of September, the 12th. The remainder of our meetings October thru May are currently scheduled for the first Monday of each month at 7 PM. The County Auxiliary meeting will be held the first Thursday in December. More details to follow on that.

Please attend meetings whenever possible. As your President I want your input on worthy donations to make, fund raisers, community help, what help should we give to Veterans and any other ideas you have. I need to hear your voice. This is your Auxiliary. Bring your ideas and suggestions to the rest of the membership. I am sure there are plenty out there that have never been brought up before.

Sure has been a hot summer! In fact it was so hot that we didn't have anyone sign up for any of Rodeo games this past July 23rd when we

had Roar to the Shore in Wildwood from September 8-10th, which some of our members attend faithfully every year.

The Fall brings some more annual events, including NJ Run for the Fallen on Thursday, September 22nd, along with the annual Thanksgiving for the Troops on Thanksgiving morning at the Battleship NJ. You will find more information on them in the Scoop and our website.

For God and Country,  
Mickey ( TrikeMan ) Van Brunt  
American Legion Riders  
Director

The summer will end with the annu-



## THANKSGIVING for the TROOPS



## on the BATTLESHIP NJ

**Thursday, November 24, 2016**

**Meet at the American Legion, 1532 Martin Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ at 9am**

We will depart at 9:15am and proceed to the Battleship NJ, where we form a FLAG LINE on the Pier. Bring Your Flags, or make signs of Thanks for the Troops!