

The Scoop

January 2019



Post 372

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

www.ALCH372.com

Our Post History & Closing of 2018

As another year passes, Post 372 is proud to reflect on all the time and efforts our members have made to help our veterans, community and active military.

Enclosed you will find a recap of some of the most memorable and meaningful endeavors we have participated in during the last quarter of 2018.

The upcoming year, 2019, marks the Centennial mark for the American Legion organization.

Legion Posts nationwide, including our Post, will be celebrating

the American Legions 100th anniversary. Be sure to stay tuned for special plans in the near future.

Our American Legion Post 372, chartered in 1950, has been proudly serving our veterans and community for over 68 years!

Over the course of the year, we will be sharing a wealth of the American Legion Post 372's history, including old Scoop newsletters, photos, news articles and more!

To start the year off, we will begin at our beginning.....



Our American Legion Post 372 Beginning

In 1949, a group of veterans, mostly of World War II vintage, became interested in forming an American Legion Post in what was then known as Delaware Township.

Before the war, Delaware Township, now Cherry Hill, was a sprawling area of farmland and wide-open spaces, with few residences and businesses. Veterans in the area became members of American Legion posts in nearby towns. Members of Haddonfield

Post 38, one of the oldest posts in the State, assisted with the organization, some becoming charter members of the new post.

The prospective members envisioned an organization that would be the vehicle for a lifetime of devoted service to God, Country, their former comrades, their widows and orphans, and all veterans.

They had observed other posts, and noted how their members had progressed from combat duty to

community service, and wanted to be part of bringing this type of service organization to their fast-growing community.

Delaware Township Memorial Post 372 received its temporary charter on May 18, 1950, a permanent charter on August 31, 1951, and was officially renamed Cherry Hill Memorial Post 372 on March 19, 1964.

Before the dedication of the present Post Home on November 10, 1957, the officers and members

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Our Legion Post Beginning (cont'd)

met in a building located on Hollis Avenue and Haddonfield Road, a site which was occupied by Capuano's Restaurant for many years afterwards.

THE FORMATIVE YEARS

The idea for forming an American Legion Post in Delaware Township was conceived in the spring of 1949. Temporary officers were appointed, and Edward Lacey became Acting Commander.

The next few months were spent on organization. During these months, even before permanent officers were elected, the Post planned its first activity, a picnic. The affair, which was intended merely to pay for itself, showed a profit, and gave the Post its first experience in making money. A common bond started to develop between members, and lasting friendships were being formed. Permanent officers were elected at the second meeting, in September 1950. Two of the post's officers were recalled to active duty during the Korean Conflict, and a member was killed in an automobile accident; the post's first recorded loss of a member. Building of the monthly social, formation of a Post Auxiliary, welfare activity, community betterment projects (Little League), the acquisition of a property, and leasing of a building for use as Post Home were all accomplished in this first year.

The County and State organizations formally presented the permanent charter to the post in a ceremony held in October 1950.

The first important achievement of that year was the completion of the Post's Constitution and by-laws. On Memorial Day 1951, Post 372 joined with members of the Delaware Township's VFW Post to provide suitable ceremonies over graves of veterans in various Township cemeteries.

On the 4th of July 1952 the Post again joined with the VFW in a parade through the streets of Ertont. The Post also participated in a Camden Country parade on Armistice Day 1952, along Broadway in Camden.

Early in 1954, discussions began regarding the sending of a delegate to Boys' State, and in June of that year, one boy was sent. In December 1954, the first issue of "The Scoop" was prepared, printed, and mailed to the members. Steps were soon taken to start work on the new Post Home. Floor plans were drawn up and discussed.

As the Americanism program developed, the Post sponsored a Boy Scout Troop, conducted a "Safety Essay" in Township schools, participated in the Township's "Youth Week: had at the Garden State Park, and continued to add other youth-related activities.

One of the rapidly growing Post's members was elected Camden County Commander, and another member to the Vice Commander's position. Ground was broken for construction of the new Post Home on February 2, 1957, and

construction was completed, with occupation and dedication of the Home on Sunday, November 10, 1964.

Legion to Induct Post Tonight in Delaware Twp.

Delaware Township Post 372 will be inducted formally into the ranks of the American Legion at ceremonies tonight.

County Commander Albert E. Davis and his staff will install officers.

The ceremonies will be held in Woodland firehouse, Route 38 and Chapel avenue, Delaware township.

Fifty odd members of the post will be initiated by the degree team of the Forty and Eight, headed by Chef de Gare Leo Norton.

The officers elected recently by members of the Delaware township post are Edward P. Lacy, commander; John E. Cunningham, senior vice commander; John E. Yeomans, junior vice commander; Robert H. Ramsey, adjutant; Lawrence G. Wittwer, finance officer; Edward B. Beckett, service officer; Earl V. Seely, chaplain; James J. Gerrow, historian, and Charles J. Reed, welfare officer.

Elected to the post executive committee were August H. Kramer and Albert F. Guenther. Delegate to the county committee of the Legion is John Allison, with August H. Kramer, alternate.

Plans are being made for a dinner to be held soon for members and their wives. An entertainment program is being planned for the remainder of the Legion year.

Courier-Post Newspaper

October 1950

***Stay Tuned for
More LEGION History...***

TBones Grill at the Legion

With the untimely death of our beloved Chef Sal in May, our kitchen was closed for awhile.

However, new member, Jim Theisen, opened the Legion kitchen in October and is known as "TBones Grill".

He is pumping out some great food and we encourage all to stop in and delight your taste buds with his great food specials.



TBones Grill hours are Monday through Friday, with an opening time of 2pm. Depending on the day, they close between 8-9pm. They are open some weekends, depending, in part, on Hall Rentals, so call ahead to check.

Be sure to follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/realbonesgrill/

Log Splitting Days at the Legion



With the exception of Aux President Lynn Collings, all Post members will surely be able to keep warm in the Post this year !

With not one, not two, not three, but yes, FOUR Log Splitting Days, the SAL's have set us up for whatever Mother Nature throws us this winter!

With the generous donation of wood from various sources including Tom Parkhill and Jack Walsh, we had a boatload of wood to be split and stockpiled in the woodshed.

Have a look at some photos from the log splitting days and remember

the faces of these wonderful volunteers that made it possible for our cozy fires !

PS: A non-flammable chair in the fireplace may help keep Lynn warm ;-)



Maintenance & Upkeep at the Legion

With only having a one man paid cleaning crew that comes in on Sunday morning, it leaves plenty of tidying up and cleaning left to do in the canteen and outside in between.

Next time you see a full trash can in the bathroom, an empty soap dispenser, a dirty table, the game room tables & chairs in disarray, trash on the floor, or anything else that needs some attention, please take a moment

to help tend to it.

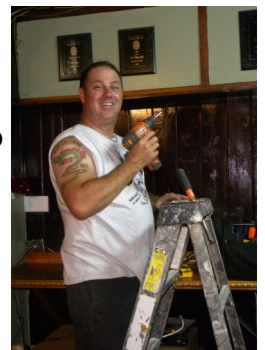
If everyone chips in, we can keep our Post the cleanest of them all!

We would be remiss not to mention all the hard work and time our Maintenance man, Tom Parkhill, puts in to keep the lights lit, the heat running and other needed maintenance around the Post.



Many times you'll see Phil Beck right by his side aiding him in the much needed tasks at hand.

And lets not forget all the others that help out around the Post from time to time to keep things running smoothly.





Post 372 Auxiliary Presents

Winter LUAAU Party!

Saturday, February 16th, 2019 - 6:00pm - 10:00pm
American Legion Post 372, 1532 Martin Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ

DJ * Basket Auctions * Door Prize * Pull Tab Tree Raffle

Includes Buffet Dinner, Hot Dog Cart, Beer, Wine, Water, Soda, Coffee

Event Tickets: In Advance \$35/couple. At Door \$20/each. Tickets available in canteen.
Pull Tab Lottery Tree Raffle—\$5/each. Only 100 being sold.

Wear Your CRAZIEST Hawaiian Shirt!

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULES

General Mtg—4th Tues 7:30pm

Auxiliary Mtg—1st Mon 7pm

SAL Mtg—3rd Wed 7:30pm

Riders Mtg—4th Mon 7pm

(Be sure to check with an Officer for any changes in meeting dates/times)

DUES were DUE !

2019 Membership Cards will be checked up-on entrance at the Legion, so if you haven't renewed your membership, do so asap!

The monthly SAL meeting will NOT be on the third Wednesday in January. It will be held on **TUESDAY, January 15th** as we will be hosting the **CAMDEN COUNTY SAL Meeting.**

Welcome Home for member Spc Elliot Adkisson Jr

Spc Elliot Adkisson Jr, a member of our Post, and son of Legion Officer Elliot Adkisson Sr, received quite the welcome home over the holidays!

25 yr old Spc Adkisson, who is currently stationed out of Fort Carson, Colorado, recently returned from a deployment in Afghanistan and came to NJ to spend the holidays with his family, including his 4 year old son.

What he didn't know was that his family had all sorts of surprises scheduled for his visit!

He was first ambushed while eating brunch at the Cracker Bar-



rel— American Legion Riders, Warriors Watch and other motorcyclists circled the restaurant and went inside to show their appreciation and gratitude for his service.

He was then escorted back to his mothers home in Marlton, where the Fire Department, Operation Yellow Ribbon and others awaited his arrival.

A few days later, proud papa Elliot Sr, had a welcome home feast in the Legion Canteen for Elliot Jr, giving more of our members a chance to welcome and



thank him for his service!

We look forward to seeing him again when he comes back for a visit!



  **Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Santa Visits the American Legion Children !

Santa paid a visit to our American Legion Members and their families in early December!

All the kids had a wonderful time sharing their wish lists with Santa

Richie Derer and all were given a Christmas gift to start the holiday fun!

Aux member Sue Johnson led

the way in a fun filled craft for the kids as Michelle Derer and other members helped with cooking and tending to the holiday party!



11th Annual Cpt Greg Dalessio 5K Run



On Monday June 23rd 2008, Greg Dalessio, a Cherry Hill native, made the ultimate sacrifice for our country while serving in Sal-

man Pak, Iraq.

We stood side by side with his family during their grief, and continue to do so at the Annual Cpt Greg Dalessio 5K that they established after the death of their beloved son, brother, uncle and friend.

Cherry Hill, which is where Greg's family resides.

As in prior years, Legion members and Gold Star father, Tom Pagano flagged the 5K route the day before with over 1500 flags.

The American Legion also provides bananas and oranges for the run, so runners can eat them after the race is over. These were dropped off the morning at the race finish area, where Greg's family and friends were setting up the tables, registration and other particulars for the race.

Legion Riders, and Warriors

Watch riders helped provide Cherry Hill Police with traffic control/

road blocking as the runners came through the neighborhood.

After the race, Tom Pagano and friends picked up the flags from the

route and dropped them off at the American Legion.

Legion members sorted through the flags, separating the good ones and the ones that needed to be retired. They bundled and packed up all the flags.



2008 Flag line at Greg's funeral.

Cpt Greg Dalessio is buried in Colestown Cemetery, which is at the intersection of Church Road and Kings Highway. Consider stopping by to pay this hero a visit.



This past December marked the 11th year of Greg's 5K Run/Walk. It begins at Christ Our Light Church and goes through the Knollwood Section of



Join us on January 12th to visit
HOME for the BRAVE
(Veterans Homeless Shelter)

Date: Saturday, January 12th
Meet at the Legion: 11:00am
Depart the Legion: 11:30am



We will be bringing them lunch and care packages. American Legion
 Post 372, 1532 Martin Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Cherry Hill Veterans Wall of Honor Unveiled

In November, the Cherry Hill Library unveiled the "Veterans Wall of Honor". It is a photo wall, honoring all Cherry Hill veterans, living and deceased and will be on



display for 6 months.

Some of our members entered their photos for the Wall, including Tim Kraft, Art Schneider, Robert Finke and Simon Zayon to name a few.

American Legion members flagged the outside of the Library and stood a flag line to welcome the veterans as they entered for the unveiling and reception.

The Legion also provided cases of water, pepperoni and cheese for the reception. Commander Grizz and the SALs, Josh Seib



and Sean Conway manned the American Legion Information table in the reception area, where they had applications, poppies and information about the Legion

Veterans Day Service at the Legion

We celebrated and honored our veterans on Veterans Day—Sunday, November 11, 2018.

Commander Grizz began with a service outside at the flagpole. Past Commander Kraft then gave a moving presentation honoring our veterans in the Hall.



Aux President Lynn Collings and VP Sandra Kraft, presented the

Commander and Past Commanders Quinn and Kraft with Legion coins in appreciation of their service.

After the services, a delicious lunch buffet was served for all to enjoy.

A special shout out to Smoke-n-



Hogs (SAL members Jerry Salvucci and John Giacoboni) for the donation of pulled pork and mac n cheese. It was an outstanding addition to the food the Auxiliary and SAL's put out for the luncheon as well!

Legion Post Holiday Party

A great time was had by all who came out for the Legion's Holiday Party on December 15th.

Great food, fun and comradery among our members.

Here's to another



American Legion Scholarships

The American Legion, on both a National and Post 372 level, offer a variety of Scholarships.

Annually, the American Legion Post 372 awards the Jack Huhn Scholarship, Tom Goldy Scholarship and Lance Peck Scholarship.

In November, American Legion Baseball Coach Bo Gray and Commander Joe “Grizz” Merimonde present-

ed the Scholarships at a ceremony in the Legion Hall
Congrats boys—well deserved !



**STAY TUNED for
information on our
SUPERBOWL PARTY !
Let's hope the Eagles are in it!**

Thanksgiving Dinner for Our Active Military

While mother nature gave us a prelude of her winter powers on Thanksgiving Day, hundreds bundled up against her frigid force to give some out of state active military men that were training at Cooper Hospital a surprise Thanksgiving.

Auxiliary member, Lori Antico, who works at Cooper Hospital was notified about these men not being able to be home for Thanksgiving, so our Legion stepped up to be sure they'd have a Thanksgiving to remember.



ors Watch, AMVet Riders, Centurions and the Camden County Sheriff's SWAT vehicle, braved the frigid weather with the help of a Cherry Hill Police and Camden County Police to escort some of our nations heroes to the American Legion Post 372 in Cherry Hill for a home-made Thanksgiving Dinner.

Meanwhile, Legion members, local dignitaries, residents

and Jeeps lined the Legions driveway, waving flags and signs to welcome them in and thank them for their service as the Cherry Hill Fire Department displayed the American Flag at the driveway entrance.



With the help of many of our local patriots and veterans, it was our honor to show them some good old South Jersey hospitality!

Motorcyclists of the American Legion Riders, Nam Knights, Warri-



Members of the Post chipped in to make the turkeys and all the fixings for the meal, and our friends at Mission BBQ donated numerous side dishes and desserts as well.

While these heroes were unable



to be home with their families for Thanksgiving this year, we do hope that we were able to provide them with some special memories and a true South Jersey Thanksgiving feast!

American Legion in the Philadelphia Veterans Parade

For the 4th year, American Legion members participated in the Philadelphia Veterans Parade, which was held on November 4, 2018.



Our Legion riders joined numerous other riding groups and MC's to



start the parade off with hundreds of motorcycles.

Legion friend Ed Pierce, participated once again and provid-

ed the vehicle—his Lafrance Firetruck—for the parade. Commander Grizz up front, and members Dennis Gibbons and Sue Quinn-Morris in the jumpseats!

Sue, who is also on the Philadelphia Veterans Parade Committee, enlisted the help of a couple dozen volunteers, including our own Joe Flynn and Kim Bierbach, to help hand out water bottles, flags, program guides, peanuts, breakfast bars and Vet-



eran Appreciation cards in the staging area as all were preparing for the parade. Mission BBQ was at hand helping out as well.

Michelle Derer, who works at Kingston School was able to get the children to sign 400 Thank You cards for our veterans—some of which were distributed at the Parade and others sent overseas.

It was a great day honoring our veterans—the parade gets bigger and better every year!



Veterans Dinner Hosted by Cherry Hill PBA

What a great night at the Legion as the Cherry Hill PBA 176 hosted the 3rd Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, October 6th, 2018!



Among our attendees were two WWII veterans, Simon Zayon and Robert Finke who were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their service, retired Brigadier General John DiNapoli, veterans



from Veterans Haven, and many other veterans from our local area.

Sue Quinn-Morris was also presented with a plaque from the Cherry Hill PBA 176 in recognition of her support for veterans/law enforcement and recognized by Aux Pres and VP, Lynn Collings

and Sandy Kraft.

MISSION BBQ Catered the event, providing their usual outstanding cuisine!

A huge thank you to all our veterans, Cherry Hill PBA 176 and the Cherry Hill Police Department .

