

The Scoop

American Legion Post 372

1532 Martin Ave.

Cherry Hill, NJ 08002



January—March 2026 Newsletter

www.alch372.com



Welcome to The American Legion

Ring in the New Year at American Legion Post 372

What an incredible whirlwind of festive fun we have had at the Legion with lots of celebrations over the past few months.

From Robin's exhilarating Pirates Polyanna, where we embarked on a treasure trove of gift-stealing adventures, to our joyous Legion Christmas gathering filled with shared culinary delights and cheerful holiday tunes, and the Children's Christmas Party with Santa that packed the Hall full of happy, smiling faces of all our Legion children.

Admst the fun we have had, we kept our mission forefront with celebrations for Veterans Day, Food Drives, Toy & Pet Drives for the less fortunate and our participation in the 18th Annual Cpt Greg Dalessio Memorial 5K Run/Walk. Unfortunately, we also had to say goodbye to several members who passed away recently.

Have a look through the Scoop for more details of recent events and what events we have coming up.

Be sure to check out our website and Facebook page for updates as well. of upcoming events and reports of we have taken part in recently.



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4th Annual American Legion Youth Art Contest

A reminder that the submission deadline for our 4th Annual American Legion Youth Art Contest is April 1st, 2026.

It's an incredible opportunity for our local youth to showcase their artistic talents and potentially win a scholarship and showcase it on the façade of our building.

We are accepting submissions from students in Grades 9 -12

from the following schools: Cherry Hill East, West and Alternative Schools, Pennsauken High School, Haddon Township High School, Bishop Eustace Prep School, Camden Catholic High School, Haddon Heights High School and Paul VI High School. For detailed information visit <https://www.alch372.com/vietnam-war-art-contest/>

Join us on facebook



www.alch372.com

17th Annual Cpt Greg Dalessio Memorial 5K Run/Walk

On Wednesday, December 3rd, some members of American Legion Post 372 came together to flag the path for the 17th Annual Captain Greg Dalessio Memorial 5K Run, which involved carefully marking the course to ensure that participants knew where to go and to create a safe and enjoyable race experience. This race, held in honor of Cherry Hill native Captain Greg Dalessio, who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq in 2008, is a cherished tradition in the community. The race took place on Saturday, December 7th, and was a heartfelt tribute to Greg's memory.

Captain Greg Dalessio's legacy lives on through this annual memorial 5K run that bears his name. The race not only pays tribute to Greg's selflessness and bravery but also serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by our military men and women. It is a way for the community to come together and show their support for the Dalessio family and all those who have lost a loved one in service to their country.

On the morning of Saturday, December 6th, runners and community members gathered for the 16th Annual Captain Greg Dalessio Memorial 5K Run. The race was a mix of solemn remembrance and joyful celebration as participants came together to honor Greg's memory.

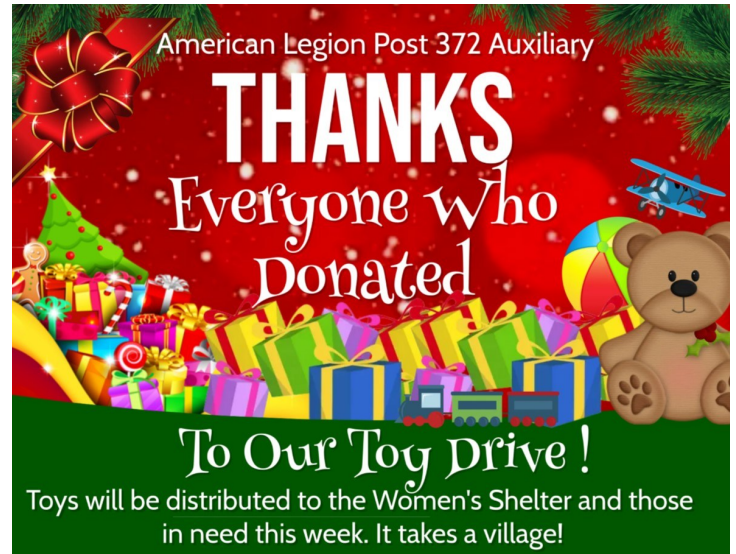
American Legion Post 372 also provided bananas and oranges for the runners as they crossed the finish line. A small gesture of appreciation for their participation. Following the race, an American Legion Post 372 member, along

with Dalessio family members, collected all the flags that lined the route and brought them back to the Legion to be sorted and stored for next years Memorial 5K honoring KIA Cpt Greg Dalessio!





The American Legion Post 372 Auxiliary extends warm gratitude to all the generous individuals who contributed to our Annual Food and Pet Drive. Your donations of food and pet supplies were invaluable in helping us support those in need within our community.



The American Legion Post 372 Auxiliary extends a heartfelt thank you to all the generous individuals who donated toys to this year's annual Toy Drive and helped distribute them. Your kindness and compassion are making a meaningful difference in the lives of families and children in need.

American Legion Post 372 Presents our ANNUAL Visit to

HOME *for the* BRAVE

(A Local Shelter for our Homeless Veterans)

Saturday, January 31, 2026

Join us as we pay a visit to our homeless veterans at the Home for the Brave. We will be bringing them food and gift cards. If you would like to come along and meet / greet the veterans, meet at the Legion at 11:30am

We will be departing the Legion at 11:45am
(We will be car pooling, or drive yourself - Shelter is in Camden)

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

Santa Visits Post 372 Auxiliary Childrens' Christmas Party

The Auxiliary of Post 372 recently hosted their annual Children's Christmas Party on December 7th, 2025. The event brought together families and children for a day filled with festive activities, delicious food, and a visit from Santa himself.

The atmosphere buzzed with happiness and anticipation as kids queued up eagerly for face painting, carefully selecting their preferred crafts to unleash their creativity, and indulging in the delectable treats generously provided by volunteers.



beamed with joy at the sight of jolly old St. Nick, eagerly anticipating their chance to perch on his lap and reveal their Christmas desires. The air was electric with excitement, infecting everyone present with the spirit of joy and celebration.

The success of the Children's Christmas Party wouldn't have been possible without the generous donations and dedicated volunteers who helped make the event a reality. From setting up decorations to serving food and organizing activities, every volunteer played a crucial role in ensuring that the children had a memorable experience. A huge shout out to the young ladies of the Cherry Hill Beck High School Honor Society as well.

The smiles on the children's faces said it all – this party was truly a hit.



The event reached its crescendo as Santa stole the show with his grand arrival. The children's faces



Legion Holiday Party and Veterans Appreciation

Wow, it was a great Legion Holiday Party in the canteen this year! With lots of members jingling and mingling, some with their ugly xmas sweaters, everyone was in the spirit and shared lots of culinary treats. New this year, the Post 372 Legionnaires, FOP Camden City and ShopRite partnered together to provide Gift Cards and goodies in appreciation of their service. The Post 372 Legionnaires provided a \$50 Shop Rite Gift Card, while ShopRite donated an additional \$25 Gift Card and the FOP Camden City provided goodie bags of holiday meal staples and holiday

cards. This collaborative effort truly made the holiday season special for our veterans, showing that together, we can make a difference in the lives of those who have dedicated themselves to serving our nation. Our veterans were presented their gifts by Commander Merimonde and FOP President Lou Hannon and then we all dove in for an afternoon of holiday spirits, food and great holiday classics.



SUPPORT Local Veterans & PBA

Clothing & Shoe Donation Bin

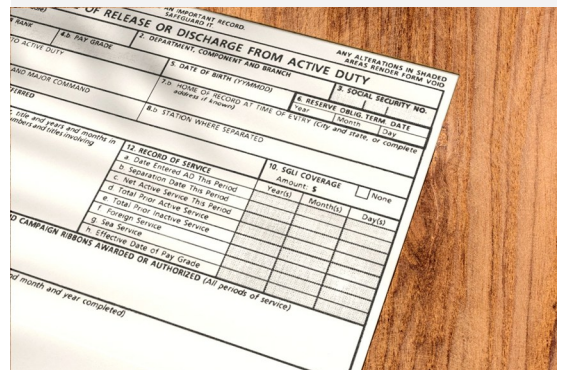


Your donations will help support the programs and services of the American Legion Post 372 and the Cherry Hill PBA #176.

Location: American Legion, 1532 Martin Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ (Behind Cherry Hill West High School)

DD214

If you have someone interested in joining the Legion and they are trying to get a copy of a DD214 for eligibility, have them go to <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>



www.alch372.com

Veterans Day Weekend a Flurry of Events

Veteran's Day weekend was a whirlwind of gratitude and honor, filled with events, services, and celebrations that many of our members participated in.

From our annual Cherry Hill Legion Post 372 Veterans Day service to the mouth-watering Post's Spaghetti Dinner courtesy of the Auxil-



ary, the Philadelphia Veterans Parade, and other local events celebrating our veterans.

Sr Vice Commander Dan O'Pella led our Veterans Day Services at American Legion Post 372 on November 11, 2025. Mayor Fleisher, Councilmembers Doshi and DiRenzo, along with Camden County Commissioner Fleisher, Chief Ostermueller and members of the Cherry Hill Police and Fire Depart-

ments, attended the Veterans Day Service along with members of Post 372. The service was a fitting tribute to the heroism, sacrifice and selflessness of all veterans.

Throughout the weekend, businesses joined in the celebration, offering fantastic deals and discounts for veterans as a small token of gratitude for their service. From free meals at restaurants to discounted merchandise at stores,

the outpouring of support was truly heartwarming.

As the weekend came to a close, a sense of deep gratitude lingered in the air. The dedication and sacrifice of our veterans are the bedrock of our freedoms, and their courage and selflessness will never be forgotten. To all of our veterans, a huge THANK YOU for your service and sacrifice. Your bravery is an inspiration to us all !



Heights Hero Club—Colton Greer

His name is Colton Greer - he is from Haddon Heights, NJ. Commander Joe "Grizz" Merimonde attended a Veterans Day breakfast sponsored by the HEIGHTS HEROS club, a club of Juniors and Seniors at Haddon Heights High School, where this young man was recognized for his dedication and help with raising donations.

Two years ago he raised \$200 which he donated to the VFW in Haddon Heights, and last year he raised \$400 which he donated to



the Police Association. This year, he surpassed both years by raising \$600 which he donated to the Heights Heros Club.

He is one outstanding young man! Seeing our young people doing such selfless acts such as this really hits our Commanders heart. He was so impressed he presented him with a personal challenge coin and you can tell by Colton's smile that he really like it.

Thank You Colin. Keep up the outstanding work!

Veterans Day Interviews at Cherry Hill Township

Mayor Fleisher sat down with veterans from Cherry Hill police department and the two veteran organizations located in Cherry Hill

Township— the American Legion Post 372 and the Jewish War Veterans FURER-BARAG-WOLF Post 126. Among the veterans inter-

viewed were our very own Commander Merimonde and Adjutant Llew . To view their interviews visit the links under photos below



Joe "Grizz" Merimonde, Commander, American Legion Post 372
Ret., U.S. Navy



Llew Schexnayder, Adjutant, American Legion Post 372
Senior Chief Petty Officer, Ret., U.S. Navy

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1322506385846884>

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NEW JERSEY VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



Comprehensive Guide to Benefits available to Veterans in NJ



SCAN the QR CODE to View and/or Print the NJ Veterans Benefit Guide

<https://www.nj.gov/military/assets/documents/NJ%20Veterans%20Benefits%20Guide.pdf>

Passing of Long Time Vetan Member CHESTER “CHET” MA-



It is with deep sadness, we share the news of the loss of a beloved

duty in the army for Desert Storm in 1991. Where he was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma during the first Gulf War.

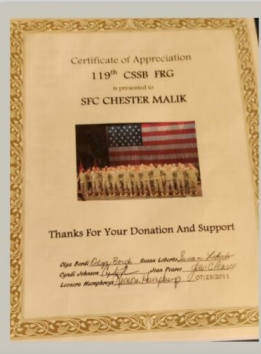
member, US Army veteran, Chester Malik.

member of our American Legion Post 372, Chester Malik. He passed away November 2, 2025. As a dedicated Army Veteran and long-standing member of the American Legion Post 372, Chester's contributions as our Post Chaplain for many years shall never be forgotten.

Chester enlisted in the US Air Force during the Korean War from 1951 to 1955 he obtained the rank of S/SGT staff sergeant and later enlisted in the Army National Guard 1st of the 112th field artillery from 1974 to 1990 during the Vietnam war, Chester retired from the army with the rank of SFC Sergeant first class. Chet was recalled back to active

On November 7, 2025, family and friends gathered to bid a heartfelt farewell to long time Post 372

After his services at St Josephs Church, a celebration of life luncheon was held at the American Legion Post 372 As an esteemed Army Veteran and beloved member of the American Legion Post 372, Chester's legacy as our Post Chaplain for many years will forever be cherished. His unwavering dedication to supporting fellow veterans and veterans organizations truly made a significant impact on our community. His presence and contributions will be deeply missed, but his spirit will live on in the memories of all those whose lives he touched.



Passing of WWII Post 372 Veteran, William Schmacher



It is with heavy hearts we report the passing of WWII Veteran, William "Pop" Schumacher. He was a United States Navy and Marine Corps veteran serving in World War II in Okinawa.

Last year, in a memorable event, William was presented an American Legion Post 372 lifetime membership along with a shadow box of medals and ribbons he had never received. It was a touching ceremony—William was also a life member of the Delaview Firehouse in Delair and a member of the VFW Post 7334 in Somerdale. His services were held at Falco Caruso Funeral Home and interment was in Bethel Cemetery in Pennsauken, NJ.

Family and friends came back to the Legion for a luncheon in the Hall after his services. RIP "Pop"



RIP "Pop"

Passing of 60+ Year Auxiliary Member, Dorothy Wahl

It is with deep sadness we report the passing of Dorothy Wahl, a 60+ year member of the Post 372 Auxiliary. Although she passed in April 2025, we just learned of her passing.

She held nearly every position within the Auxiliary and chaired committees and hosted fundraisers too numerous to list. She held al-

most every position with Auxiliary and chaired committees and hosted fundraisers, service projects, holiday parties and much more throughout her active years at the Legion. RIP Dot, we thank you for all you did for our Legion and your legacy will live on.



Passing of Auxiliary "Santa" Thelma Dougherty

We regret to have to announce the passing of past Post 372 Auxiliary member, Thelma Dougherty, on November 14, 2025.

bringing joy and smiles to our Legion children.

Unfortunately Thelma has have faced numerous health issues over the last 10 years - RIP Thelma and thank you for your dedication and help at American Legion Post 372 throughout the years.



Prayers

If you know of an American Legion Post 372 member that is in need of prayers, please notify your units Chaplain.



Meetings

General Member Meetings - 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. (grizz52@gmail.com)

Auxiliary Meetings - 1st Monday of the month at 6:30pm (pathawk55@gmail.com)

SAL Meetings - 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm (seib.ja@gmail.com)

Be sure to check with an Officer prior to scheduled meeting to make sure there has been no change. Sometimes meetings are cancelled/postponed due to holidays and such.

Effective January 1, 2026, we will be checking for 2026 Membership Cards in the Canteen. If you forgot to renew your membership, please contact your Membership Chairperson

Membership

In addition to active military and veteran memberships, we have memberships available for relatives of veterans. For more information and applications, contact the Membership Chairperson of the unit you wish to join.

General Members - Dan Serabo at danielserabo@yahoo.com

Auxiliary Membership - Cindy Nims at cjnims316@gmail.com

SAL Membership - Sean Conway at seanwconway@yahoo.com

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP -Due to a recent American Legion Auxiliary NJ change in by-laws (12/2025), our procedure for new Auxiliary membership has changed. To become a new member of our Auxiliary, individuals are required to fill out an application form and go through an approval process by our Membership Committee. Once the application is submitted, applicants will be invited to a meeting where the Committee will review their application – upon approval a \$30 membership fee shall be paid, which is an annual fee. For questions on application, qualifications, pricing, etc contact Membership Chairperson Cindy at cjnims316@gmail.com

Legion Email List

If you know of a Legion member that DOES NOT get our Legion Emails, please forward them one of our emails or they can go to <https://www.alch372.com/members/join-our-email-list/> to sign up on the Email list.

(Always be sure to check your SPAM folder in case it ends up there)

Camden County Veterans Affairs

The Office of Veterans Affairs serves all veterans and their family members within Camden County. From help with Military Records to Disability Claims and Home Loans, they are there to assist you every step of the way. This office is available Monday through Friday to give assistance to all our veterans and dependents. If you have any questions regarding their services, please call (856) 374-5801

American Legion Post 372 Banquet Hall

The American Legion Post 372 "Venue for You" is open for rentals to members and the public. It features a beautiful Wood A-Frame Ceiling with neutral colors creating a warm, inviting atmosphere perfect for any celebration.

With Round & Rectangular Tables, Banquet Chairs, and Free Wifi, your guests will be comfortable and connected throughout. The venue also provides Adjustable Lighting, a Roku TV with

various streaming options, a TouchTunes Jukebox, all to enhance the ambiance and entertainment. Not to mention, being Handicap Accessible and offering On-Site Parking, it ensures convenience for all attendees. With a generous Capacity of 100, Full Kitchen, and even an Ice Machine, our space is versatile and well-equipped for events like Baby Showers, Bridal Showers, Weddings, Receptions, Reunions, Training Seminars,

Meetings, and more.

Did you know that members of the American Legion Post 372, who have belonged to our Legion for 1+ years, get a discount on renting our beautiful Hall? Stop by and check out the Hall if you haven't seen it!

Check out all the details about our Hall at <https://www.alch372.com/hall-rental/>, or call Sue Q at 856-495-7270 for more details.

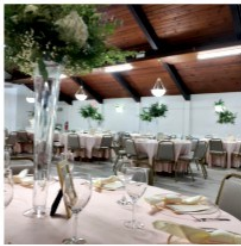


American Legion, 1532 Martin Ave, Cherry Hill, NJ 0002 * www.alch372.com

VENUE for YOU

at the American Legion in Cherry Hill, NJ

***Celebrations * Baby Showers * Bridal Showers * Weddings * Receptions
Reunions * Training Seminars * Meetings and More!***



Beautiful Wood A-Frame Ceiling, Neutral Colors, Round & Rectangular Tables, Banquet Chairs, Free Wifi, Adjustable Lighting, Roku TV (w/Spotify, YouTube, IHeart, HDMI Cord & more), TouchTunes Jukebox, Handicap Accessible, On Site Parking, Capacity 100, Full Kitchen, Ice Machine, and more!

***Visit website for details/pricing or call Sue at 856-495-7270
alch372.com/hall-rental/***

CANTEEN SCENE

Featuring Big Screen TVs, Fireplace, Pool Table, Shuffleboard, Pull Tab Machines, Lottery and Jukebox, it's always a great time with our bartenders! We also have an outside smoking area with enclosed shed and picnic tables. Should you have any questions contact our Bar Manager, Joe "Grizz" Merimonde.

The 4th quarter of 2025 was filled with cheer—fun times celebrating the fall and holiday season with members! Events included the following;

October 31st—**Halloween Bash**—A spooktacular night it was—filled with enchanting festivities and Specialty Drinks expertly crafted by Bartender Josh

December 13th—**Army Navy Game** Watch Party in the Canteen. It's was a celebration of the men and women who serve and protect our nation.

December 12th—Robin's **Pirates Polyanna** was a real hit with our members. Everyone brought in a gift for the polyanna. Daryl led in the fun and games, amid people stealing each others gifts!

December 21st —Our annual Legion **Holiday Party** and **Auxiliary Christmas Tree Raffle**

UPCOMING CANTEEN EVENTS

February 9, 2025—Superbowl Party at the Legion. Festivities begin at 4:30pm. Game starts at 6:30pm. Bring a dish to share. Please sign up on the Food Sign Up Sheet so we know what you will be bringing, Open to Legion members and their guests

St Patricks Party in the Canteen—stay tuned for details!

Post 372



LEGION KITCHEN

with Chef Patti

Tuesday - Friday

Call 856-665-3889 for Hours and/or visit her Facebook page at facebook.com/kitchenpost372



Canteen Scene



SUPER BOWL
2026
February 8th
Game TIME | 6 : 30 PM

Festivities start at 4:30pm. Game start at 6:30pm. Bring a dish/dessert to share. Please sign up on the Food Sign Up sheet, or let Bartender Bobby or Josh know what your bringing.
Legion members and their guests welcome.
Location: American Legion Post 372 Canteen

Be sure to check our website and/or our Facebook page for additional Canteen events that come up.

If you aren't on our Legion email list, sign up to received notifications as well.