



# SOUNDOFF

July - August 2016



George P. Vanderveer Post 129 American Legion (established 1919) —A Centennial Post

## COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Michael Schaffer

Well here we go, this will be my first message to the Post as your Commander, I just want to say that being your Chaplain, my greatest joy, and Vice Commander, learning the ropes, has been an eye opening experience. There is one thing I have learned while traveling around the county, the state and traveling with the riders to my neighboring states. Visiting many other Posts, we stand out as unique. We are not just Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons or Riders. We are "129", truly an "American Legion Family"

This is an excerpt from my induction speech:

When you opened this post 8 years ago, there was a realization that it was not going to be easy to keep this place open.

When I attended my first meeting after my transfer in, thank you Sgt. Maj. Joe Reiher for introducing me here, at the end of the finance report there was \$2,500 in the bank.

With the incredible work of the officer core and membership we are financially secure and have been able to accomplish some wonderful things.

Some of my observations about our family have brought me to a point revelation.

**The Auxiliary...** what can I say ...your devotion to the Legion and the Post has always amazed me. About a month ago Ms. Pat Corbin and Ms. Jane Keely and I took a road trip to the Vineland Home for a volunteer's luncheon. We got to spend about 4 hours total in the car and that was the best thing that I think could have happened to me. I have a greater appreciation of the Auxiliary commitment and I hope that we can refocus our time to cooperation and meeting the goals of the Post and the Legion.

**The Sons...** This is a group of men whose sole purpose is to honor their veteran family members, making sure that this Family meets all of its goals and commitments by being there to provide whatever support the Family needs. Mr. Bobby Jorge, SAL Commander, has been a friend and confidant for all the years I have been here. The commitment of the Sons is wonderful and I know that whatever help the Legion or the Auxiliary may need in the future I know the Sons are a phone call away.

**The Riders...** this is why I came here, they are the Post ambassa-

dors. They are the most visible part of the Post around the state and the country. In our colors we have travelled to New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland, Delaware. They have made escort rides in the rain for funerals; they have ridden hundreds of miles to escort our fallen hero's home from Dover Air Force base. From N.Y.C. to Quantico to escort steel from the world trade center to build a memorial for 13 fallen fire fighters from 9-11 who were Marines. Again, I know that Art Brown, my friend, my ear when I need to unload, and all of the Riders will be here for us whatever the call. These are my Brothers and Sisters. I thank you. This Post is the perfect example of a true Legion Family. Thank you all!

Anyone who thinks running this place happens by magic you are sadly mistaken. There are decisions that need to be made daily, there are obligations that need to be met, and there is a passion to help others. That needs to be the new commitment of this Legion Family every day.

We need to get out into the community and let the people of

(continued page 2)



## COMMANDERS MESSAGE

(continue from page 1)

Toms River know that the American Legion is on Church Road and if you need a hand up "not just a hand out" we are the folks you can come to.

Brothers and sisters, this is not our American Legion Post, we are caretakers for the next generation of veterans and their families. The Post was here when we got here, though we have made it better. Is it the best it can be, no, but the challenge is now ours, to make it better. Not just the building, but the legacy we can build over the next 100 years, that the commitment and devotion that our charter members had 100 years ago was one that will carry forward for the next generation of Legionnaires.

Wow, what a way to start. The last 8 weeks have been an amazing run. Elections, Legion College, the re-dedication of the Veterans Memorial at Ocean County College, Memorial Day Weekend, a Memorial Dedication for Jim Harvey at the Green Island Community Center, the services at the Ocean County Memorial park, a funeral service for a fallen brother at St Joseph's cemetery, officer inductions, the Riders dedication of the Hero's Monument, the Legion Convention and now leading up to the Fourth of July, and even with all that, and our personal commitments, the "FAMILY" got it all done with honor, respect, joy, and fun.

Thank you for putting your trust in me. I do not stand alone with the challenges that we will face in the coming year. I stand shoulder to shoulder with my Legion Family as we all look forward to share with the county and state that we are truly "129"!



## AUXILIARY MESSAGE

Greetings All,

Our Unit has been extremely productive this year.

The Unit's mission is to provide comfort and support to veterans, their families and the community around us. It takes a team to accomplish the mission. Our team is Unit 129. Through the efforts of the Ways-n-Means Committee, Unit 129 has donated approximately \$40,000 to the following programs, organizations and causes: Department of New Jersey American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion, and Sons of American Legion. Post 129, A.R.M.S., Children's Specialized Hospital, Mary's Place, C.O.T.A. and the Toms River Fire Company #2.

The Unit President (2015-2016) extends her heartfelt appreciation to Carol Rutzler, Paula Harpe, Laurinda Miller, Mary Jane Cohen, Dolores Laib, Mariann Zito, Bernice Cloos, Dottie Abercrombie and Donna Schwartz for services rendered to Unit 129.

A special THANK YOU to three gentlemen who have supported the Unit always: Ed Rutzler, Dale Harpe and David Corbin.

Here are some fun Department of New Jersey convention highlights;

Potluck dinner at motel for all

on Wednesday.

Trolley ride through parade route.

Dancing Officers.

Buffet servers for the County party.

Family interactions.

A great time was had by ALL.

\* WE ARE FAMILY \*

Congratulations to the newly installed 2016-2017 Unit 129 Officers

President	Patricia Corbin
1 Vice President	Pamela Bowen
2 Vice President	Paula Harpe
Secretary	Jane Keeley
Treasurer	Carol Rutzler
Historian	Patricia Terrell
Chaplain	Jane Keeley
Sgt. at Arms	Dottie Abercrombie



Unit 129 Auxiliary Officers



Also congratulations to County Officers Secretary Dolores Laib, and 2 Vice President Laurinda Miller, and Department Chairman Jane Keeley (Americanism), Patricia Corbin (Children's Miracle Network) and Mariann Zito (Woman of the Year). All are Unit 129 members.

For the good of the order, visit Unit members who are under the weather. Report the sick and shut-in to the Unit Chaplain.

The next Unit meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 8 at 7pm.

Let's Keep the Adventures coming!

For God and Country,  
Patricia Corbin, Unit President



Vice Commander Ed Rutzler knows the importance of having the proper tools and the high level of knowledge necessary of holding his very important office. The time Ed has spent studying at Legion College shows his level of expertise as he keeps Post 129 flowing.



Dotty Abercrombie-Chairman and Donna Schwartz-Co-Chair tallying this year's Poppy donations with June Chmura, Mike Guadagnino, Robin Boggiano, Al Kopec, Judy Legregghi, Bill Legregghi and Al Murphy.



### American Legion Riders – Post 129

#### Summer Tuesday Bike Night

May 10<sup>th</sup> – June 14<sup>th</sup> – July 12<sup>th</sup> – August 9<sup>nd</sup>  
5pm – 8pm

**\$5.00 Admission gets you 2 hot dogs, chips and soda or water**  
**The famous outside Bunker Bar is Open!!**

Live Entertainment by Brother S.A.L. – a great rock band that are all Sons of the American Legion Squadron 129 Members!!

**Location: American Legion Post 129 – 2025 Church Road, Toms River**

Come in and Show Off Your Bike and Have a Great Time!!



For More Info contact Rocky Lucia at 917.417.4818 or at [rplucia@verizon.net](mailto:rplucia@verizon.net)

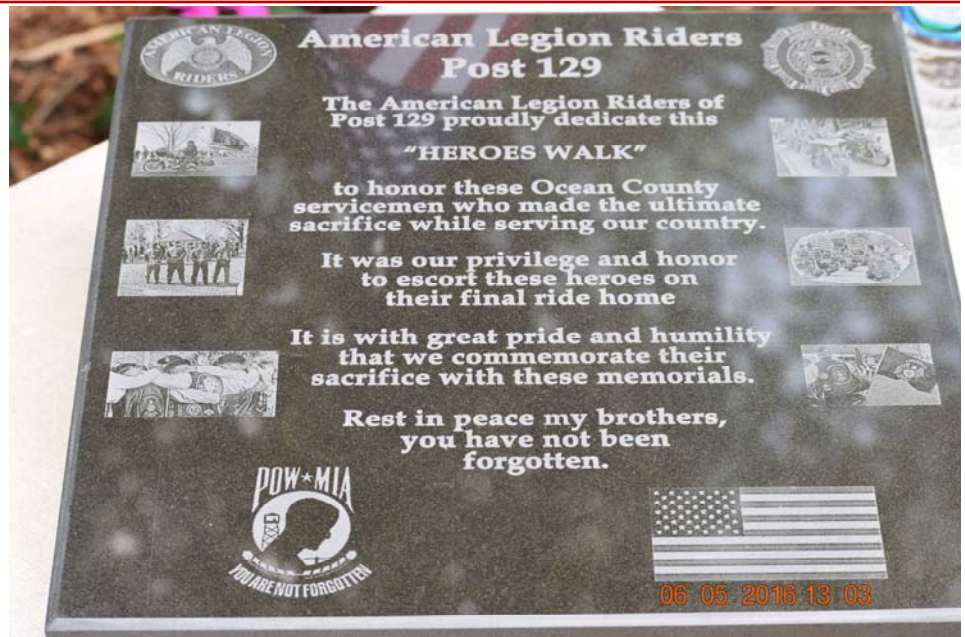


## RIDERS MESSAGE



Art Brown, President Riders 129

It is with great pride that in the 2016 American Legion calendar year, our "Heroes Walk" project was completed. As you may or may not be aware this was a two year project that was brought to completion on our June 5th BBQ, which was attended by approximately 350 people. Sixty of these were family members of the five young men that we escorted from Delaware to their final resting places in Ocean County. This project was headed by Al Gashler and fellow committee members Rich Gato, Mike Wolff, Pete Chafetelli and myself. After each escort we told the family members that their sons would never be forgotten. With this project completed that promise is easier to ac-



complish. Al Gashler put on a half hour "tribute" that brought tears to not only family members but many in attendance. It must be said that this project was the work of not only the committee, but the entire membership by pushing the military paving stones which funded this project. This project was totally funded through the hard work of "Riders" and their belief in this memorial.

The BBQ was held this year, instead of a "Poker Run" so that it would be more of a family event. When I say family, I mean our individual families as well as our fellow American Legion Post 129 family. In years past I believe that many believed that our func-

tion in the picnic area was for motorcycles "only". Bob and Linda Hoehn came to me with this idea of a Country Western-BBQ and we set out trying to make it a success. With members Willie Girard, Dan Heullitt, "Panama" Weyersberg (did anyone else really know his last name) Mike Wolff, Ralph Capasso and Mike Dorick cooking we put out a great food combination as well as beer, soda, and water for a very reasonable price. Everyone seemed to have an enjoyable day, considering a brief shower while setting up. We had a local Country Western Band in Tommy Baz and his Bullzeye band members. We also had members of the "THUNDER" 106 radio station stop by and say hello. All in all a great day.

Six days later the Riders of our great post headed down to Wildwood to participate and represent our post in the Parade. We had 36 motorcycles and 45 participants. Road Captains Bob Hoehn and Mike Dorick put together a formation involving our three wheel riders and two rows of red, white and blue motorcycles. The members bought T Shirts and POW/MIA head gear. I am proud to announce that we finished 1st in this event. I know we



all shared in the pride of taking that award home representing American Legion Post 129.

For God & Country  
Art Brown,  
President



## BINGO

.....every Thursday. Doors open at 5 PM—play starts at 7 PM.  
Progressive—Refreshments served—50/50 - Mystery Prizes

BINGO					
7	25	44	57	62	
15	22	40	50	70	
11	30	FREE SPACE	46	74	
2	28	37	55	68	
10	27	39	59	75	

## MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP

I am proud to report that we have exceeded last year's membership of 1679. Our Membership is now at 1700 an all-time high and still the largest American Legion Post in the State of New Jersey. These numbers are great but we can still do more, our retention rate for our new members is not good. If any member knows of any legionnaire that is not happy with The American Legion, ask them to contact their local post I'm Sure that we can help solve any problems that exist. If we don't know what's broken, we can't fix it. Each year we lose more and more members. On a state level we are losing over 2000 members a year, we all need to help stop the bleeding of members due to non-retention. As we start to approach our 100 Year anniversary we need to have a

strong showing of membership.

As June comes to a close and we start another legion year please be an Early Bird and send in your 2017 dues. We need all the help that we can get to help support all the great programs that the American Legion does for its Veterans, their Family Members and the Community, and remember.

### "Membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion"

Please support your post and send in your dues we need your help to support and maintain all the good things that make us who we are "VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA!"

As I said before, The American Legion needs your help with membership. Please reach out to your Friends, Neighbors, Co-Workers and Family members and encourage them to join this Great Organization of Veterans. With your help

and the help of others we can keep The American Legion Strong! We are losing more and more members every year, I am asking every member to please try and sign up at least one new member this year especially the Service Men and Women that have served recently.

REMEMBER WE ARE A LEGION FAMILY AND NEED TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER. THAT GOES FOR MEMBERSHIP AS WELL. SO LET'S GROW MEMBERSHIP TOGETHER FOR 2017-2018. ANYONE THAT NEEDS ANY INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP YOU CAN CONTACT ME AT [rjg548@comcast.net](mailto:rjg548@comcast.net) OR CELL # 732-604-8326

FOR GOD AN COUNTRY  
Rich Godfrey  
Ocean County  
Membership Chairman



## CANTEEN NEWS

Eric Ianuea

As Nat King Cole would say, "Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" are here, and the Canteen is stocked with "soda, pretzels and beer." So far, the weather has been cooperative for all of our events, and we only hope it will continue the rest of the season.

Both our Memorial Day Picnic and the Riders' Country & Western Family BBQ were well attended, and why not? There was great food, great entertainment, great beverages and great company at a great price.

Our upcoming outside events include our Independence Day Picnic, which will be held on Saturday, July 2, from Noon to 5 PM. Entertainment is by the Dee Cee's. Tickets are \$15. If you purchase a ticket in advance, you will receive a free beverage ticket at the door.

On Saturday, July 30th, at 1 PM, we will be hosting the Post's first "Hawaiian Luau and Pig Roast". Wear your wildest Hawaiian attire, since there will be prizes for the most imaginative. Tickets are \$20, and children under 12 are free. Again, pre-purchase your tickets, and receive a free beverage.

Our Labor Day Picnic will take place on Saturday, September 3rd, from Noon to 5 PM. Tickets will be \$15. More information to follow.

Our Riders first two "Tuesday Bike Nights" have drawn larger and larger crowds. These nights are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the Summer Months. Tickets are \$5, and include two hot dogs, chips and a soda or water. There are 2 "Bike Nights" remaining this season: Tuesday, July 12th, and Tuesday, August 9th, from 5 to 8 PM. As Riders' President Art Brown stated, "Although it is called "Bike Night," all Legion Family Members are welcome to enjoy the music and the fun.

"Bike Night" Entertainment is provided by our own SAL Band, 'Brother SAL', featuring Rocky & Tommy Lucia, Dan Curran and Rob Riehl. Commander Mike Schaffer has acquired an American Flag the size of a house, which is the backdrop for 'Brother SAL'. It is quite a sight to behold.

Wednesday Nights are when our Horseshoe League competes. Anyone interested in participating, see Trustee Mike "the painter" Dolan down at the Bunker Bar.

Thursday Night is Lady's Night. All drinks for the ladies are half price. As stated last month, members dressed in drag will still have



to pay full price.

The Canteen opens at 11 AM daily, seven days a week. Chef Mike Speary of Ryan's Catering offers a full hot and cold menu, along with lunch and dinner specials all week long.

Along with our nine (9) beers



**HOME  
OF THE  
FREE  
BECAUSE  
OF THE  
BRAVE**

4th of July Picnic

Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup>

12-5 in the grove

Rain date

Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup>



Forth of July fare, burgers, dogs, chicken, salads and all of the fixens

Entertainment by "Slap Happy"

\$15.00 per person children under 12 free

One free "beverage" with pre purchased tickets Join us in celebration of our nations birthday



on tap, the Canteen offers a variety of domestic and foreign bottled beers. We also have non-alcoholic Coors Lite and St. Paulie's.

Our Bartenders and Staff have come up with some new tropical cocktails for the summer. You will definitely want to try the new "Legion Passion, Coconut Cannon, Pineapple Bunker Blast, Military Mango Passion, Cranberry Apple Burst, and our Ruby Red Squadron." They are all prepared by our outstanding bartenders: Bernice, Duke, Warren, Robin, Lisa, Lori, Joe (Sgt. Major), Gabriella, Danielle, Nikki, Joe Kelly and Robin M.

Last month I Inadvertently forgot to mention LISA, when listing the bartenders. If you come to the Canteen on Friday night, chances are that Lisa has either poured you a beer or mixed you a cocktail. I told Lisa that I would mention her twice in this SOUNDOFF edition. So here goes LISA, LISA. Again, my apologies.

**Remember, when you support Post 129, you support the best Post in the USA.**

## PARTIOTIC QUIZ NO. 3

1. What were the "Stalwarts"?
  2. What descendants of Presidents of the United States have themselves become Presidents?
  3. What two States of the Union are most nearly of the same area?
  4. On what occasion did a group of Northern States consider military action separately from the Federal government?
  5. What member of a Cabinet was probably as well-known as a poet as he was as a statesman?
- Answers next issue

### Answers to Last Issues Quiz 2

1. General Grant wore the uniform of a private in the Union army, with the shoulder straps indicating his rank sewn on, when he accepted the surrender of general Lee, April 9, 1865.
2. Walt Whitman was dismissed by Secretary James Harlan from his position in the Interior Department on June 30, 1865, because his volume of poems, "Leaves of Grass," was held to be obscene.
3. Georgia is the largest State east of the Mississippi. Its area is 59,265 square miles, Florida, with an area of 58,666 square miles, comes second.
4. The Civil War was waged without a formal declaration of war and concluded without a treaty of peace. The war began, according to subsequent Supreme Court Decisions, on April 19, 1861, on which day Great Britain and France issued proclamations of neutrality. President Johnson's proclamation of amnesty, the equivalent of a peace treaty, was published on May 29, 1865.
5. President Cleveland was severely criticized by the Grand Army of the Republic for going fishing on Memorial Day.

**Aloha**

**HAWAIIAN LUAU AND PIG ROAST**

**Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in the grove**  
**Rain date Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Wear your wildest Hawaiian attire**  
**Prizes for most imaginative**  
**Food music, prizes and surprises**

**\$20.00 per person, children under 12 free**

**Pre purchased tickets receive a free beverage**


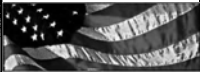







*July: From the Roman Emperor, Julius Ceasar*

Birthstone

July 2016

Ruby

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Life is a lot like Jazz—it's best when you improvise. Gershwin					1	2 POST July 4th Picnic
3	4 INDEPENDANCE DAY 	5 General Mtg. 7:00PM	6 	7 	8	9
10	11 Next Auxiliary Meeting in August	12 	13 SAL Mtg. 7:00PM	14 	15	16
17	18 Trustee/Board Mtg. 7:00PM	19 Full Buck Moon	20	21 	22	23
24 	25 Legion Riders Mtg. 7:00PM	26	27 Korean War Over 1953	28 	29	30 Hawaiian Luau 31

**!!HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE 4TH OF JULY!!**

**JULY 2nd 1926: The United States 'Army Air Corps' is Created.**

## JULY ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> THE CROSSTONES

SATURDAY JULY 2<sup>ND</sup> HOLIDAY PICNIC  
SLAP HAPPY \*\*NEW BAND\*\*  
IN THE PICNIC GROVE

SATURDAY JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>  
IN THE CANTEEN TBD

FRIDAY JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> THE TRUE TONES  
SATURDAY JULY 9<sup>TH</sup> JERSEY GIRLS

FRIDAY JULY 15<sup>TH</sup> THE DEE CEE'S  
SATURDAY JULY 16<sup>TH</sup> TBD

FRIDAY JULY 22<sup>ND</sup> SLAP HAPPY  
SATURDAY JULY 23<sup>RD</sup>  
BOB KULIK & GEORGE RIZZI

FRIDAY JULY 29<sup>TH</sup> THE KOKOMO'S  
SATURDAY JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> PHIL CENICOLA

SATURDAY JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> HAWAIIAN LUAU  
IN THE PICNIC GROVE FEATURING  
CHRIS DANIELS & THE PROOF

BE SURE TO CHECK FOR LAST MINUTE CHANGES AND/OR CANCELLATIONS.  
UPDATED LISTS ARE POSTED ON THE BULLEEN BOARD IN THE ENTRANCE HALL













**August:** From Julius Caesar's successor, Augustus Caesar

Birthstone

August 2016

Peridot

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 General Mtg. 7:00PM	2  Invasion of Kuwait Operation Desert Shield 1990	3	4 	5	6
7  Purple Heart Day	8 Legion Aux. Mtg. 7:00PM	9 	10 SAL Mtg. 7:00PM	11 	12	13
14  V-J Day	15 Trustee/Board Mtg. 7:00PM	16	17 	18  Full Sturgeon Moon	19	20
21	22 Riders Mtg. 7:00PM	23 	24	25 	26  Hummingbirds migrate south	27
28	29	30	31 	Airplanes are interesting toys, but of no military value. Feridand Foch		

**Happy Birthday US Coast Guard, 226 years, Semper Paradus, Guardians!**  
Known as the service 'that gets more done with less'.

## AUGUST ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>

GEORGE KULIK & GEORGE RIZZI

SATURDAY AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup> TBD

FRIDAY AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup> "WHO ARE THOSE GUY'S"

SATURDAY AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup> TBD

FRIDAY AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> TRUE TONES

SATURDAY AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>  
OUR IN HOUSE BAND  
MADE UP OF SAL MEMBERS  
"BROTHER SAL"

FRIDAY AUGUST 26<sup>RD</sup>

SATURDAY AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>

SLAP HAPPY

PHIL CENICOLA

FORMALLY OF "THE STREETHEARTS"



BE SURE TO CHECK FOR LAST MINUTE CHANGES AND/OR CANCELLATIONS.  
UPDATED LISTS ARE POSTED ON THE BULLEEN BOARD IN THE ENTRANCE HALL

## OCEAN COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL LEAGUE 2016 SEASON POST 129 SCHEDULE

### TUESDAY – JUNE 7 (5:45pm):

Point Pleasant Boro @ Toms River South Post 129

### WEDNESDAY – JUNE 8 (5:45pm):

Toms River South Post 129 @ Donovan Catholic

### MONDAY – JUNE 13 (5:45pm):

Toms River South Post 129 @ Brick Post 348

### TUESDAY – JUNE 14 (5:45pm):

Lakewood Post 166 @ Toms River South Post 129

### WEDNESDAY – JUNE 15 (5:45pm):

Manchester @ Toms River South Post 129

### MONDAY – JUNE 20 (5:45pm):

Donovan Catholic @ Toms River South Post 129

### TUESDAY – JUNE 21 (5:45pm):

Toms River South Post 129 @ Point Pleasant Boro

### THURSDAY – JUNE 23 (5:45pm):

Mystic Island Post 493 @ Toms River South Post 129

### FRIDAY – JUNE 24 (5:45pm):

Toms River South Post 129 @ Mystic Island Post 493

### MONDAY – JUNE 27 (5:45pm):

Toms River South Post 129 @ Manchester

### TUESDAY – JUNE 28 (5:45pm):

Brick Post 348 @ Toms River South Post 129

### THURSDAY – JUNE 30 (5:45pm):

Toms River South Post 129 @ Lakewood Post 166

### FIELDS

BRICK POST 348 – Brick High School

DONOVAN CATHOLIC – Whitty Road Complex, Toms River

LAKEWOOD POST 166 – Lakewood High School

MANCHESTER – Manchester Township High School

MYSTIC ISLAND POST 493 – Pinelands Regional High School

POINT PLEASANT BORO – Point Pleasant Boro High School

TOMS RIVER SOUTH POST 129 – Toms River South High School

## AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

Another great year for Unit 129  
To all our dedicated members, I  
thank you.

As of date we have 471 Auxilia-  
ry members and growing stronger  
each month, being the largest Unit  
in New Jersey.

Looking forward to another year  
as Membership Chairman and will  
continue with your help making  
Unit 129 even stronger in num-  
bers.

### Recruit! Recruit! Recruit!

Still have outstanding 2016 dues  
to be paid?

Any questions please call me @  
732-272-7552.

Renewal notification for 2017 will  
be arriving in September, so  
please mail back to me A.S.A.P.  
You are "Keeping Us Strong".

Laurinda Miller  
Membership Chairman

## CONGRATULATIONS

Bob Scheiderman

The Officers and members of  
Post 129 have yet another feather  
in our caps.

One of our members, CONRAD  
HOFFMAN, has been elected De-  
partment Commander of the VFW.  
Connie is well known to many 129  
members, as he and his wife, Pat,  
have been part of our 129 Family

for a very long time. Connie has  
22 years with Post 129, and we  
are very proud of  
his accomplishment within the  
VFW. Connie is a member of our  
local A. J. Weeks Post of the  
VFW (the Toms River VFW, down-  
town) Post #6063.



We are proud to say that your  
American Legion Post and the A.J.  
Weeks Post 6063 have had a  
close relationship for many years;  
and in fact, A.J. Weeks himself  
was a member of Post 129...true!

So we extend a hearty CON-  
GRATULATIONS to the VFW on  
their wise choice, and wish only  
the best to Department Command-  
er Connie Hoffman and his staff,  
and assure them that if they need  
us we will always be available.

Congratulations to the Officers  
& members of Post 6063.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Al Kopec – Historian

As I attempt to digest the volumes  
of records and historical docu-  
ments that have been accumulat-  
ed with astounding diligence, I  
come across articles that continue  
to resound with appropriateness to  
recent events that I would like to  
share. Below is an article from  
the 72nd American Legion Conven-  
tion which still has relevance to-



day. See if you would agree.  
Speaker calls flag burning act of 'war'

INDIANAPOLIS — Addressing the nearly 7,000 delegates and alternates to the 72nd National Convention of The American Legion, Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., emphatically described the current wave of flag desecration as a "state of war."

Speaking at the opening session, Tuesday, Aug. 28, Congressman Hyde told the delegates that we are "in a state of war. I don't mean overseas — I don't mean the tense situation in Saudi Arabia ... it's a culture war and it's going on in our country. It's a war between those who despise America, despise every traditional ideal that has made America unique in the history of the world."

"There are those who demonstrate their contempt for America by doing such things as burning the flag or dragging it in the mud. Those are the people who are standing in opposition to the rest of us who love our country, love what it stands for, but we recognize that as long as we're human — we won't be perfect, but we try."

"The burning of the flag is an act of extreme contempt. It is but one manifestation of this war to please this counter-culture, who have contempt for America, and the war between those of us that respect our great country and what it stands for."

He pointed out that, "the flag symbolizes the unity that — no matter what our culture, no matter what our color, race or creed — we all share the fact that we are members of the human family."

Hyde said he couldn't understand why anyone would want to burn the American flag. "So many have died fighting under this symbol. So many of our men and women have only the American flag as a final blanket and as a last reminder to their families and friends."

"The opportunities are endless and limitless in our country. That is freedom," he said.

He congratulated the members of The American Legion on their steadfast dedication to protect the American flag, ensuring our descendants will share in the freedoms that we are privileged to enjoy.

(1990 Convention Report)



### PUBLISHED...

...6 times per year and mailed to more than 2500 members.

### DEADLINE...

...for the next issue (September-October) is August 15. Submissions can be e-mailed to:

**soundoff.al.post129@outlook.com**

or via U.S. mail to:

Al Harbord, 1038 Audubon Drive, Toms River, NJ 08753.

### EVENTS...

...send your events for the calendar to Bob Scheiderman at: **knottoday1@verizon.net**

### ADVERTISING...

...business card advertising accepted for 6 issues (1 year).

Single card \$75.00. Double card \$140.00.

Other sizes available upon request.

### ON LINE AT...

**http://soundoffalpost129.wix.com/soundoff**

**AMERICAN LEGION - POST 129 PRESENTS**

**Boston, Salem, & Cape Ann**

**INCREDIBLE PRICE INCLUDES:**

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- ◆ 4 nights lodging
- ◆ 8 meals: 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- ◆ Full Day Guided Tour of Boston
- ◆ Boston's World Famous Faneuil Hall & Quincy Marketplace
- ◆ John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
- ◆ Full Day Guided Tour of Scenic Coastal Massachusetts
- ◆ Guided Tour of Historic Lexington and Concord
- ◆ For more pictures, video and information visit: [www.GroupTrips.com/AmericanLegionPost129](http://www.GroupTrips.com/AmericanLegionPost129)

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**September**

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**Departure: Legion Post, 2025 Church Rd, Toms River, NJ @ 8 am**

**Day 1:** Depart your group's location in a spacious, video and restroom equipped Motorcoach and set off for historic Boston. This evening, you will enjoy Dinner and check into a Boston area hotel for a four night stay.

**Day 2:** After enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you will depart for a Full Day Guided Tour of Boston. Today's sights include Trinity Church, Boston Common, John Hancock Tower, and more. During the day, stop for an extended lunch break at world famous waterside attraction "Quincy Market & Faneuil Hall Marketplace". Get a taste of the Boston experience by visiting the replica set of TV show "Cheers", great shopping, attractions, and more. Afterwards, your guided tour continues with sights such as USS Constitution - "Old Ironsides" and Cambridge. This evening, enjoy DINNER WITH ENTERTAINMENT before returning to your hotel.

**Day 3:** Enjoy a Continental Breakfast and start off with a visit to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum - with permanent exhibits dedicated to First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, The Space Race, and more. Then depart for a guided tour of Lexington and Concord. This tour highlights a visit to the Minute Man National Historical Park, the birthplace of the American Revolution. This day is often voted by groups as their favorite part of the trip. This evening, you will end your day with a relaxing Dinner.

**Day 4:** Start your day with Continental Breakfast before departing for a Full Day Guided Tour of beautiful coastal Massachusetts. Visit Salem, a city with more than three hundred years of New England history and the site of the infamous Salem Witchcraft Trials. Then, continue your tour onto scenic Cape Ann. There you will visit the vintage New England seaside town of Gloucester - "America's Oldest Seaport". Next visit Rockport, another coastal town with quaint shops, restaurants, and galleries. This evening, enjoy a relaxing Dinner and return to your hotel.

**Day 5:** Today, after enjoying Continental Breakfast, you depart for home... a perfect time to chat with your friends about all the fun things you have done, the great sights you have seen, and where your next group trip will take you!

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**Final Payment Due: 7/15/2016**

**FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:**

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## SAL MESSAGE



SAL Squadron 129  
Commander Bob Joerg

How the time passes. Too quick. Cannot believe in four days it will be the beginning of summer. Well the SAL has a new executive board and I am very proud of the men that stepped up to support me; thank you gentlemen. We just got back from convention and had a wonderful time down there. The SAL had a very big showing at the convention to help our Legion with everything they needed to do. Thank you to all that helped

out and came down. We took four



Squadron 129 SAL Officers

plaques at convention. I'm very proud of our squadron. Moving forward we are trying to get together and have a battle of the bands. More info will be coming. Now we are going to talk about my favorite thing, membership. The 2017 membership cards are in so in about a week they will be ready to pick up. Renew early so we can be number 1 in membership in NJ again. I am working with membership to work out an early bird special if you pay your dues early. Thank you to my entire SAL 129 squadron. Looking

forward to a great year.

For God and Country  
Bob Joerg



On April 30, 2016 incoming National Commander Charles Schmidt visited Post 129. Pictured (l-r) Mel, Rocky, Charles Schmidt, Bob Joerg.





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