

SOUNDOFF

July-August 2018



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

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Another convention has come and gone. This year's convention in Wildwood kicked off the American Legion's Centennial Celebration, and for all those who attended, I hope you had a good time. Thank you to the convention committee who were instrumental in making it a success. Once again, on behalf of the American Legion Family of Post 129, congratulations to our new Department Commander, Ray Miller.

Our Memorial Day Picnic/Pig Roast was a big success thanks to Rocky Lucia, Commander Squadron 129 and his many S.A.L. members who helped that day. Special thanks go out to S.A.L. member Pete Coleman for his help with the pig roast and to the members of the Brick S.A.L. for their help. The Auxiliary Unit 129 were in attendance and helped with the 50/50. A job well done by all who helped and came out and supported our Legion Family that day.

I would like to thank all our outgoing officers for a job well done and to our incoming officers of the



Commander Ed Rutzler

Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L. and Riders. Congratulations and good luck in the upcoming year. If we all work together, I know it will be a good year. I would especially like to thank the membership, and all past and current officers for your support in my decision to run for commander of our Post. I will try not to let you down. With your continued support and help and that of the Auxiliary, S.A.L. and Riders, I think we can make this year a successful one.

I will be looking for volunteers to chair various events and fundraisers, anyone interested please see me. I will listen to any suggestions you may have and after careful consideration and research, if necessary, I hope to make the best-informed decision for the good of our Post. It is my intention to have a joint meeting in July, date to be determined, with two representatives from the Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L. and Riders to discuss dates for upcoming events and ideas for fundraisers, for the good of the Post.

So, as we move forward into our centennial year, let's make this a Post to be proud of. Again, congratulations to all incoming officers.

For God and Country Ed Rutzler, Commander



Incoming 2018-2019 Legionnaire Officers



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Just back from The American Legion Convention in Wildwood and I am proud to report that our Commander Ed Rutzler received his first Gold Brigade Award and Jacket. Ed also received The Department of New Jersey Recruiter of The Year Award, Job well done Commander. I was honored to receive my Sixth Gold Brigade Award. Post 129 was well represented in The Membership Department.

I am proud to report that we have exceeded last year's membership of 1762. Our Membership is at 1782, an all-time high, and still the largest American Legion Post in the State of New Jersey

As we close out the Membership Year on June 30th, our new year starts on July 1st. Please be an Early Bird and send in your 2019 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"

Without members, there would be no Legion programs, we would have no voice on Capitol Hill. Without members, there would be no accomplishments in assistance and support to veterans, their families, the community, state and nation. But The American Legion has recorded consistent accomplishments for veterans and their families since 1919. We can't do this alone. Your dues makes this possible.

It is often emphasized, "It's not the price you pay to belong, but the price you paid to be eligible to belong. "The American Legion Membership Card gives our members access to nearly 14,000 Legion Posts worldwide and guarantees that our members will always have a fellow veteran nearby.

But more important are the intangible benefits of membership, the ones you can't put a dollar value to – the lifelong friendships that develop from being actively involved with others and most importantly, the self-satisfaction of knowing that just by being a member we are helping others less fortunate than ourselves.

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!"

We need your help with membership so please reach out to your friends, neighbors, coworkers, and Family Members and encourage them to join this Great Organization of Veterans. With

you and the help of others a 100% MEMBERSHIP GOAL can be achieved in the State of New Jersey. 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 veterans that have served recently. Any member that is an Early Bird and sends in their dues between July 1,2018 and October 1,2018 will be put into a drawing for a paid membership for next year, and dinner for two in our Canteen on a Friday or Saturday night. Good Luck to All. Just remember you must be in it to win it

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 2018 -2019. Remember this is the start of our Centennial Year. Veterans still serving Veterans and Veterans still serving New Jersey.

ANYONE THAT NEEDS ANY INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP YOU CAN CONTACT ME AT: rjg548@comcast.net OR CELL # 732-604-8326

For God and Country
Rich Godfrey
Post Membership Chairman
Department of New Jersey
Membership Chairman 2018 2019



AMERICAN LEGION POST 129 & CAREGIVER VOLUNTEERS of CENTRAL JERSEY

OPERATION: SENIOR VETERAN INDEPENDENCE

Dear American Legion Member:

Post 129 is pleased to announce our strategic partnership with a local nonprofit agency, Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey. In keeping with the values of the American Legion and our commitment to assist veterans and provide care that has been earned and deserved, this partnership will provide free vital services to allow our members to remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible and provide meaningful connections.

The following free services are available to any of our members who live in the towns Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey serves, are over 60 years old, no longer driving and to anyone who is a caregiver:

- Door to door transportation to medical appointments in volunteer cars
- Grocery shopping
- Relief to caregivers of those with a chronic illness or any form of dementia who cannot be left alone (non-medical assistance is provided)
- Friendly Visits to offer companionship to those who are living alone
- Check-in phone calls
- In-home visits with a pet therapy dog and volunteer through Caregiver Canines®
- Referrals to other helpful nonprofit agencies

If you, or someone you know could benefit from this assistance, please call our Service Officer Mike Schaffer at 732-685-7768 or the Post Commander at (732) 255-9250 and we will connect with you.

To learn more about the Caregiver Volunteers visit: www.caregivervolunteers.org.

We truly believe that you, as a veteran will benefit from this partnership and we are proud to connect you to this great organization.

Ralph Wolff

CONVENTION

From my position, as Convention Committee Chairman, the Post had an Excellent Convention! The Post received numerous awards for Membership, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Richard Godfrey. In the convention parade, our entry of a Mixed Honor/Color Guard took 2nd place. Our Riders took an "undeserving" 4th place, they most definitely should have been 1st.

The Volunteerism at Post 129 is alive and well. Whatever was

asked, had a volunteer to fill the need. It was a "combined effort". The Post members, the Auxiliary, the SAL, and even some of those that were non-members, but Friends of the Post, pitched in.

Not having everyone's last names leaves me at a disadvantage but using first names will let them know that they are appreciated. The first names of those that assisted are as follows, and they will know their last names... I

hope 🤤

Dale, Duke, Jane, Paula, Carroll, Ed, Mike, Joe, Mel, Richard, Patricia, Jane, Bob,

Darlene-an Awesome Cake, Tom, Cliff, Stan, Anthony, Cindy, Gerd, Bernice, Frank, Evan, Danielle, Bob, Pam, Ralph, Rocky, Laurinda, Dan, and everyone else that I may not have won the battle with CRS to remember your names, a combined JOB WELL DONE, THANK YOU!

You know me, David E. Corbin

CANTEEN NEWS

Eric Inauen

This Spring may have topped last year's Spring as being the rainiest on record. The rain, however, never puts a damper on the Canteen or the Bunker Bar faithful. Member turnout has been outstanding, and the Bartenders and Bar Committee thank you for your support.

HORSESHOES: Our Wednesday night Horseshoe League is well underway. The Post has Trustee Mike Dolan to thank for that.

CORNHOLE: Because of its success in the Canteen this past Winter, Mike Dolan has organized Thursday Night Cornhole down the Bunker. Thursday night is also "Lady's Night" where drinks for the ladies are as close to half price as possible (drink specials are not included).

BIKE NIGHTS: The Riders' May and June Bike Nights were well attended. Bike Nights are held on the second Tuesday of the month. Their next two Bike Nights will be held on Tuesday, July 10th and August 14th, from 6 to 9PM. Tickets are \$10 and includes food and live entertainment.

Speaking of entertainment, Rich Gato continues to book great bands for your listening pleasure on Friday and Saturday Nights. There is NO cover charge, and there are always discounted drink specials.

RYAN'S CATERING provides a full lunch and dinner menu 7 days a week. Chef Mike Speary also comes up with daily specials. Ryan's continues to offer \$20 Saturday Night Specials. The specials include 2 appetizers, 2 entrees and a shared dessert for \$20. You are allowed to mix and

match. No other Legion or VFW in the area provides these services.

NEW NEW: The Canteen will soon be accepting credit cards. We will be accepting Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover Cards. (Currently, we are training our bartenders in the process. As soon as the training is complete, credit cards will be accepted on all shifts. Credit Cards are for the Canteen and Bunker only and not for food from Ryan's Catering. We thank you for your patience in this matter.

BUNKER BAR UNDER AT-**TACK?** It was reported to Mike Dolan that a squad of Legion Chipmunks and Squirrels unmercifully attacked our cornhole equipment at the Bunker. Members reported seeing them in little helmets, Kevlar and brandishing Mini Rambo Knives. They sliced through our cornhole bean bags with disciplined military precision. Our Bunker Lovalists told Mike they would form a "Varmint Watch." They have requested the Post purchase two M-16-A2 Assault Rifles with 30 round mags, along with night vision equipment. They felt that this would neutralize the threat.



Mike told them that we are not at that stage quite yet. The Bar Committee advised Mike that if we do go this route, we would require the Watch Volunteers to have 20-20 correctable vision. The Post can not afford to have its kegerators and TV's shot to hell. We will keep all Members posted through the SOUNDOFF.

You can't have a great bar



without great bartenders. Fortunately, the Canteen at Post 129 has both. We cannot say enough about the fantastic job being done by Warren, Robin, Lisa, Lori, Danielle, Joe, Shea, Nancy and Chuck. The Canteen opens daily at 11AM. Closing times vary on the day of the week and the amount of people in the bar. The Bunker Bar opens at 5PM, Tuesday through Friday. On Saturday and Sunday, it opens at 2PM. The Bunker is closed on Monday.

REMEMBER, when you support Post 129, you support 'The Greatest Post in the USA.



Ocean County Memorial Chapter 24 of the DAV meet at Post 129 the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7PM.

Tin Can Sailors meet at Post 129 on the 3rd Wednesday at 12 noon.





Ralph Wolff Finance Officer Post 129

SO YOU THINK YOU ARE HAVING A BAD DAY!

Jason Redman's Bad Day

On a mission in Iraq, his squad was ambushed by Al-Qaida operatives. Not the hit and run types but the fight to the death types. Three members of Jason's team were wounded, including Jason: he took hits to his left arm that made him sure he had lost it, then took a round to his face that passed through the side of his head and blew out his nose and a good portion of his jaw. His team was able to fight off the ambush and get Jason and his injured comrades into choppers and to a medical facility, where the medical team was able to get him stabilized and save his life.

But what kind of life awaited him? Shot up, on his way back to the US and an uncertain future, he was forced to take stock of what lay ahead of him and his family. He would fight to regain the use and command of his body and his soul. To Washington he went, to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. And he fought every minute of every day. He asked for no sympathy—in fact, he posted a sign on his door and it began like this-

"If you are coming into this room with sorrow or to feel sorry for my wounds- go elsewhere. The wounds I received, I got in a job I love, and doing it for a people I love, supporting the freedom of a country I deeply love..."

This sign was ultimately autographed by President George W. Bush and now hangs at the Wal-

ter Reed as a permanent reminder of the spirit of our fighting forces.

After years of intensive therapy and rehabilitation, not to mention 37 surgeries, Lt. Redman shares his "bad day" and his challenges at various speaking engagements around the county. To learn more about Jason read: "The Trident" or look him up on YouTube. Jason's "overcome spirit" is a lesson for all of us as we deal with our everyday challenges, our bad-days so-to-speak.

Jason certainly put things in perspective for me and I would encourage you, as a Veteran, to put things into perspective for yourself when your day goes bad. Take a walk through the halls of a VA hospital or visit a local nursing home. So many folks have it much worse than you.

Okay, with that being said, let's talk about finance.

There has been a lot of movement in the leadership of the Post in the last month and I am encouraged that the shift will be beneficial to the membership, our veterans in-need and to the Post's finances.

We are working on the 2018-2019 budget and it should be completed in early July. This new fiscal year budget will see Post 129 in a better position to help our veterans who are having those "bad-days" that have extend out into months and years. Our new partnership with Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey will give us the ability to seek out and help many of our local veterans. (See Mission "Senior Veteran Independence" in this newsletter)

I am also pleased to announce that Post 129 is now accepting credit cards. This transition will make it so much easier to enjoy the benefits of your post while not having to carry cash.

Lastly your post is a place to come and relax, meet old friends and make new ones, tell your story to a fellow veteran who appreciates what you went through and who will more than likely tell his story back. Your Post is a place where, when you come in, everyone knows who you are. Remember the theme song from Cheers?

Making your way in the world today
Takes everything you got
Taking a break from all your worries
Sure would help a lot
Wouldn't you like to get away
Sometimes you want to go where
everybody knows your name

THANK YOU, CHILDREN & YOUTH DONORS

Post 129 would like to thank and recognize these additional Children and Youth Donors. Their names have been added as Founding Members on our Web Site (alpost129.org.). We also have corrected some mistakes that we made. The corrections are also listed below with our apologies.

<u>DIAMOND CLUB MEMBERS (\$500 or more)</u> Evan and Sue Darrow

Platinum Club Member (\$250 to \$499) Lakewood Maennerchor

GOLD CLUB MEMBERS (\$100 to \$249)

John Mangieri

Shamrock & Thistles and Pipes & Drums

SILVER CLUB MEMBERS (\$50 to \$99)

Andrew Slinchak

AUXILIARY MESSAGE

I would like to first congratulate all the incoming officers and would like to wish them all a very productive year here at the post. The Auxiliary looks forward to working with the Legionnaires, SAL, and Riders with their upcoming events for our Veterans.

I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy summer and hope that the sun finally shines itself on us all. Right now, is the time to get out while it is sunny and free of rain to recruit new members and show them what we do for our Veterans, bring them to the Post and show them our Friday & Saturday nights in the canteen or down at the Bunker bar.

If you have any questions regarding Membership, please contact our new Membership Chair Carol Rutzler

Well this is a short message, but I hope that everyone has a great summer.

Remember when you see a Veteran say THANK YOU because without them we would not be here.

For God and Country Pam Bowen President Auxiliary Unit 129



AUXILIARY UNIT 129

Presents

Nursing Home Veterans' Bar-B-Que

Friday July 27, 2018 Noon to Three PM

Help is always welcome!



Darlene Scheiderman @ (732) 341-7462

President Pam Bowen and 2018—2019 Auxiliary Officers



SAL MESSAGE

Well here we are heading into the dog days of summer finally! Our SAL squadron has been busy. We hosted our first Memorial Day pig roast and BBQ which was a great success. I would like to thank my executive board for all the hard work planning this event. I would also like to give a huge thanks to Pete Coleman, my finance officer and head of the pig roast committee. Without his hard work and meticulous planning, this event would not have been successful as it was. I would also like to thank all the volunteers that came out and helped that day. Without your help, we would have never pulled it off. Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank our brothers Rich, Ryan and Raymond from the SAL squadron 348 from Brick. These guys are the experts at setting up and cooking pigs. They arrived at 5am and stayed the entire day. It's great when other squadrons can help each other out and be successful. I hope we have more of that in the future.

Installation of officers is complete and I'm proud to announce that I'll be your Commander for another year! My executive board stayed the same with Vice Commanders Bob Joerg and Mel Aballo, Finance officer Pete Coleman, Sgt. at Arms Joe Rutzler, Chaplain Glen Blue, Historian Mike Guadagnino and adjutant Dan Curran. These guys did a great job for me last year and I'm looking



forward to another hard working, successful year. I would also like to take this time to send a special thanks to outgoing Post Commander Mike Schaffer. He has supported the SAL from "day one" and we tried our best to work hard for him. We wish him the best as Department Chaplain and we are very much looking forward to working under the incoming Post Commander Ed Rutzler who we will give the same unwavering support. I would also like to thank the Auxiliary and the Legion Riders. If we continue to all work as a team, nothing will stop this Post from being extremely successful.

We just got back from convention in Wildwood. It was great to get away and enjoy some downtime with our post and other posts and be involved in the festivities. It's a great time if anyone would like to go in the future.

2019 membership cards will be out. We will be running an early bird special again and we are looking forward to another good year in membership, gaining new members and retaining existing members. Membership is what keeps us alive, so please renew early and if everyone knows just one person that they can get signed up, it will make a huge difference in our numbers.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for a great 2018. Thank you to those who attending meetings showed up to volunteer their time at events. An hour of your time can help us tremendously and goes a long way. I look forward to everyone's participation in 2019. On that, everyone have a great summer and if you have any questions about anything, including membership, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

For God & Country,

Rocky Lucia Commander SAL Squadron 129





July: From the Roman emperor Julius Ceasar.

Birthstone

July 2018

Ruby

Sun	day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1		2 General Mtg. 7:00PM	3 Dog Days Begin!	4 Independence Day Happy 4th! !	5 Bingo	6	7
8		9 Legion Auxiliary Mtg. 7:00PM	10	11 SAL Mtg. 7PM Cornscateous Air Is Everywhere.	12 **TMGO • New Moon	13	14
15		16 Board Mtg. 7:00PM	17	18	BINGO	20	21
	GIONS DERS	23 Riders Mtg. 7:00PM	24	25	BINGO	27 End of Korean War 1953 O Full Buck Moon	28 World War I began, 1914
29		30	31		Breezes are cool, barby is hot! Beaches are peaches: find a good spot!		I'm glad it's finally hot enough to complain about how hot it is.

!!HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE 4TH OF JULY!! July 2nd 1926: The United States Army Air Corps Is Created

JULY ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY JULY 6TH

SIMPLY 3

SATURDAY JULY 7TH

THE "HALF BROTHERS"

FRIDAY JULY 13TH

"WILD ROSE"



SATURDAY JULY 14TH

THE DYNAMICS **NEW GROUP**

FEATURING: BARBARA PETRIZZO ANTHONY CAGGIANO JIM MILLER

FRIDAY JULY 20TH THE JERSEY SHORE CATS

SATURDAY JULY 21ST GEORGE RIZZI & THE JERSEY HORNS

FRIDAY. JULY 27TH

JOHNNY D & THE DECADES

SATURDAY JULY 28TH "WHO ARE THOSE GUYS?"

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

August: From Julius Ceaser's successor, Augustus Ceasar.

Birthstone

August 2018

Sardonyx

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Those who say it can't be done are usually interrupted by others doing it.			1	FIVE	3	4 US Coast Guard, 1790
5	6 General Mtg. 7:00PM	7 Purple Heart Day	8 SAL Mtg. 7:00PM	9 BINGO'S	10	11 Dog Days End New Moon
12	13 Legion Auxiliary Mtg. 7:00PM	14 V-J Day 1945	15	16 THIS	17	18
19	20 Board/Trustee Mtg. 7:00PM	21	22	MONTH	24	25
O Full Sturgeon Moon	27 Riders Mtg. 7:00PM	28 MERICAN	29	30 <i>WHOOP!!!</i>	31	Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.

US Coast Guard began on 4 August 1790 when President George Washington signed the Tariff Act, authorizing construction of 10 "cutters," to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and prevent smuggling.

AUGUST ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY AUGUST 3RD **THE POWERTONES** SATURDAY AUGUST 4TH **STEP ASIDE**

FRIDAY AUGUST 10TH STRICTLY 60'S SATURDAY AUGUST 11TH BOB KULIK

FRIDAY AUGUST 17TH **JIM DELRE BAND** SATURDAY AUGUST 18TH **THE CROSSTONES**

FRIDAY AUGUST 24TH

THE SHARP TONES

NEW BAND

SATURDAY AUGUST 25TH
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND **KARAOKE**WITH BRANDI ALEXANDER
AKA BARBARA PETRIZZO





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

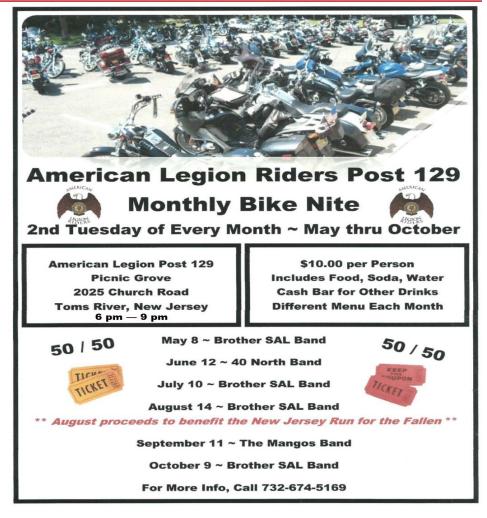
RIDERS MESSAGE

Dear Brothers & Sisters,



Another "Riding Season" is upon us and we truly enjoy this weather more than the cold winter we just had. We have already had our Country Western BBQ which was less successful than years past. The weather was not very nice and the crowd was down. That being said, we all had a good time with lots of food. great music and aood Bike nights started in friends. May and they have been very successful for both May and June. The second Tuesday of each month from May to October will always have live music and BBQ style choice meals for \$10.00.

In June our Riders participated in the Wildwood Parade, and I must say that I was disappointed with our 4th place finish. I believed that we looked rather sharp in our new shirts with ALR logo



on the breast. We received numerous compliments from our Post 129 brothers and sisters. The parade was not the greatest for motorcyclist with the continual stopping and as those that were in the parade the rains made it even more of a mess. Still all in all it is an honor to represent our Post for this event.

Commander Mike Schaffer, myself and a few other Riders took a motorcycle trip to Virginia in the month of May. If any member gets a chance to visit Bedford, Virginia you must stop and visit the D-Day memorial that is there. The temperature was in the 90's and the sun was hot. The tour took about an hour and it was well worth it. We all were impressed and wish all to put that on their list of things to

July 4th will be upon us and in the month of August our "Bike Night" proceeds will be again donated to the Run for the Fallen. A cause that is very dear to our Riders as well as our Post.

The Riders will be looking forward to a safe riding season with our brothers and sisters and we hope to see many of you at our upcoming bike nights.

For God & Country Art Brown







Join Gold Star Families and the Riders of Post 129

Bike Night Fundraiser

2017 New Jersey Run for the Fallen

August 14, 2018 6:00pm - 9:00pm

American Legion Post 129 2025 Church Road Toms River, New Jersey



\$10.00 per Person Includes Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Bag of Chips and Soda or Water Cash Bar for Beer and Other Drinks

50/50 and Raffle Prizes

Purchase your 2018 New Jersey Run for the Fallen T-Shirts

All Proceeds to Benefit the New Jersey Run for the Fallen

TECHVET PROJECT:

Technology Solutions for Veterans

Tuesday, July 24 Free Workshop 10:00am-11:00am

Technology demonstrations: 11:00am-3:00pm

Library (Building #3) • Rm. 016 Ocean County College, Toms River

> Veterans, military personnel, and their family members are invited.

Learn about technology devices designed to help with anxiety, vision loss, memory skills, organization, reading, computer access, and more!



Library, Room 124 • College Drive • Toms River, NJ 08754-2001 Phone: 732.255.0456 • Fax: 732.864.3860 www.ocean.edu

POST EVERLASTING



Andrew Cavanna, 86 US Army, Korean War

Dr. Gabriel Gregory, 95 WWII, The Bulge

Edward Hoffman, 70 US Army, Vietnam War

Lawrence DeRogatis, 90 US Navy, WWII

Robert Arnold, 82 USMC, WWII

"Rest In Peace"

Bob Scheiderman Ritual Chairman



July—August 2018



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

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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.

send your events for the calendar to Bob Scheiderman

EVENTS at: knottoday@verizon.net

ADVERTISING business card advertising accepted for 6 issue

(1year). Single card \$75.00. Double card \$140.00.

ON LINE AT http://soundoffalpost129.wix.com/soundoff

Labor Day September 3, 2018 Put a day aside for the Post 129 Labor Day BBQ. Date of BBO to be determined



THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

What it says...What it means

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TO-GETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES...This is the introduction. It declares that The American Legion recognizes the influence of Almighty God in all worthwhile endeavors-and declares the allegiance of Legionnaires to both God and Nation. First things have been put first. All that follows is in conformity.

TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIT-ED STATES OF AMERICA...The Constitution of the United States is the written bulwark of our free way of life and representative government. It is our guarantee of liberty, freedom, justice and democracy. Members of The American Legion bore arms-went to wars-to defend and uphold this document of freedom.

TO MAINTAIN LAW AND OR-DER...Without law and order, liberty would become license. Law and order protect our pursuit of happiness, one of our God-given rights. Members of The American Legion served in wars to uphold law and order among nations. It is just as important to maintain the due processes of law in our domestic affairs. It binds Legionnaires to obey the laws of the land and to support the constituted authorities in enforcing those laws. It means the citizen must never take the law into his own hands!

TO FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A 100 PERCENT AMERICAN-

ISM...Americanism is the gist of the American ideals of freedom, justice, individual rights and unfenced-in opportunities. It embraces all the freedoms we cherish and all the rights that are guaranteed to us. It is the very opposite of hatred, bigotry and intolerance. Americanism is the creed that has blazed the world-wide trail for justice, fair play, decency, belief in God, private enterprise, universal education, and progress in all human endeavors. It puts a premium on the virtues of loyalty, patriotism, hard work and thrift.

TO PRESERVE THE MEMORIES AND INCIDENTS OF OUR AS-SOCIATIONS IN THE GREAT WARS...Service in defense of Ameri-

ca is the greatest experience in the lifetimes of all veterans. Recalling the highlights of that service means more than flashbacks to tense moments of excitement and danger in battle, the grime of muddy trenches, the perils of sub-infested oceans, the combats in the wild blue yonder. It means also the un-erasable recollection of the comradeship, the bravery of pals, the teamwork, the sacrifices, the miseries and hardships of military campaigns shared in common. It means the bond that binds all ex-servicemen and women together in mutual affection. respect and gratitude. It also means keeping green forever the memories of the supreme sacrifices of gallant American patriots, sacrifices necessary to the winnings of wars. It means faithful annual observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

TO INCULCATE A SENSE OF INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION TO THE COMMUNITY, STATE AND

NATION...Always interested in building a better nation, the founders of The American Legion believed that such building must start first with the individual in his own community. So they made it one of the cardinal principles of The American legion to inculcate that sense of personal obligation to the community, state and nation into the individual citizen. That means educating the citizen-young, old and future-in his and her responsibility to be active in making the hometown a better place in which to live, in discharging the duty of voting in elections, in paying taxes promptly, in contributing to community chest funds and to blood banks. The word "inculcate" means "to impress by frequent admonitions" and "to enforce by frequent repetitions." Like the duties themselves, the reminders that they remain to be carried forward, are never finished.

TO COMBAT THE AUTOCRACY OF CLASSES AND MASS-

ES...This clause places the Legionnaire on the side of right in opposing autocracy by either class or mass when this threatens. In a democracy such as ours, composed as it is of all nationalities, races, creeds and economic groups, there are bound to both classes and masses. Indeed, the masses are composed of classes-but all groups within the mass must feel assured that in this nation, reason and fairness will prevail in all human activities and relations. There must be no hyphenated Americans-just Americans all.

TO MAKE RIGHT THE MASTER OF MIGHT...All wars from the veterans of which The American Legion draws its membership were started by dictators who wanted their might to be the right. If human freedom is not to perish from the earth, right must always be master of might. The rights of small nations must be protected against the tyranny that powerful neighbors may seek to impose on them-just as the rights of minorities in our society must be protected and respected. Our belief in enthroning right over might is the main essence of our ideological conflict with Communism today. Legionnaires are pledged by this clause always to stand with the right, protect the weak and preserve the liberties of the individual. This concept is the basis of The American Legion's continued advocacy of a strong national preparedness so as to achieve the ideal situation that right will be backed by adequate might.

TO PROMOTE PEACE AND GOOD WILL ON EARTH...Until all the world becomes good neighborhood, Legionnaires must continue the effort to promote peace and good will on earth. It is in pursuance of this founding ideal that The American Legion has supported from the beginning and seek to strengthen the United Nations organization. Obliquely, The American Legion also contributes to this ideal by firmly supporting a strong national defense to discourage breaking of the peace by aggressor.

TO SAFEGUARD AND TRANS-MIT TO POSTERITY THE PRIN-CIPLES OF JUSTICE, FREE-DOM AND DEMOCRACY...On this ideal of safeguarding and transmitting to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, all of the youth-training programs of The American Legion are built. All Americans can be proud that in our international relations we have tried to live by the golden rule, the mark of justice. We have granted to others, as we prize it ourselves, the great boon of freedom. Through the Monroe Doctrine, we call a halt to foreign

imperialism in the Western Hemisphere. We gave freedom to the Philippines. These principles are part of the American heritage. Legionnaires are pledged to protect and preserve that heritage.

TO CONSECRATE AND SANC-TIFY OUR COMRADESHIP BY OUR DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS...The last or 10th clause of our Preamble is the most important ideal expressed in our Preamble.

(submitted by Bob Schiederman)

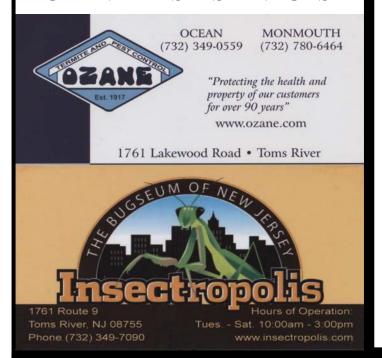
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