



SOUNDOFF

November-December 2018



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

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

I would like to start by thanking everyone who came out and helped with our Labor Day Picnic. I was unable to attend the Run for the Fallen as I had a prior family commitment and would like to thank Ralph Moranz for stepping up to fill in for me and all those who came out to show support for the runners and the gold star families.

Other events that I am proud to say our American Legion Family attended and showed their support for were the S.A.L. 28th annual POW/MIA Watchfire Ceremony in Seaside Heights and the POW/MIA Ceremony held in Nep-

tune. I understand Lisa Mayer, our own 1st Vice President of the Auxiliary, did a great job. Thank you, Lisa. Our Auxiliary held their first fish fry out back in the picnic grove, if you were unable to attend this year, I would recommend you don't miss it next year.

We have some events coming up that I am sure you will not want to miss. Friday, November 9th, there will be a ceremony at Ocean County College at noon and on Sunday, November 11th, there will be an Armistice Day Ceremony downtown in front of the court house at 11:00 am.

The Toms River Veterans Day Parade will be Monday, November 12th. We will be meeting at the Office Lounge at 8:30 AM with the parade stepping off at 9:00.

Also, our annual POW/MIA Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, December 1st. The auxiliary will be having their annual children's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 16th. You will read more about these events under messages from the Auxiliary President and the S.A.L. Commander.

Tickets for our New Year's Eve party will go on sale November 1st. Tickets are \$85 and are on a first come, first serve basis. So, get your tickets early as this event does sell out every year.

For God and Country
Ed Rutzler, Commander



Pam Bowen , Auxiliary President Unit 129 (r) and Lisa Mayer, First Vice President, present a check to Commander Rutzler at the October General Member ship Meeting in support of the Post.

Post 129 members take part in ceremonies at Island Heights Sailfest on Saturday, September 8, 2018.



Photo-Dave Corbin

LEGION MEMBERSHIP—TEAM 100

It's that time of the year again and 2019 membership dues are due by the end of December. Please send in your dues, we need your support. Our dues help us maintain the Post and help fund all the programs of The American Legion as well as all the good things that we do for our Veterans, their Families and the Community.

We need your help with membership, please reach out to your friends, neighbors, co-workers and family members. Encourage them to join this great veteran's organization. As we enter our 100 year of service to the community, state and nation Team 100 is a movement, a legacy, it's a reflection of our past, a look into the future. It represents the best of us, 100 years of service to Communities, State and Nation. Let's build a new legacy together, to build the new legacy we must Recruit, Retain and Revitalize.

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. If you have already paid your dues for 2019 please disregard any notices sent out by National to pay again as they tend to be a little behind on their posting of paid members. Anyone that needs any information or questions about membership you can contact me at riq548@comcast.net or Cell # 732-604-8326

For God and Country

Rich Godfrey

Department of New Jersey

Membership Chairman

TEAM 100



**ASK NOT WHAT THE
LEGION CAN DO FOR
YOU.**

**ASK WHAT CAN I DO
FOR THE LEGION,
MY COMRADES & MY
COMMUNITY**

If you joined the American Legion to reap the benefits that the Post can provide, then perhaps you are looking at this the wrong way. Maybe it's not what the Post can do for you but what you can

do for the Post, your community and your fellow members.

I joined not for what I can get out of it, but to help the quickly aging veterans in my local community. I joined to help mentor the youth of the community which in turn will strengthen and enhance the community that I live and work in. I joined to advocate for patriotism and honor and to promote Americanism. I joined to promote strong national security and help to bring home our POW's.

The American Legion was charted as a patriotic veteran's organization that is devoted to mutual helpfulness. Our post serves as a service organization to the community. We look for those who have served in our military and want to contribute back to the community in which they live. We encourage our members to attend meeting and functions, and participate in our community events. It makes your membership a rewarding experience beyond the bennies of the Post.

Hundreds of American Legion programs and activities strengthen the nation one community at a time. Your Post is involved in many veteran and community programs like:

Run for the Fallen, Vietnam Museum and Memorial, Grace Alexander Memorial, Gold Star Memorial, Purple Heart Memorial, War Dog Memorial, Funeral Escorts, Mission of Honor, Watch Fires Ceremony, Vet Works, Hiring our Hero's, Veterans Town Hall Meeting, Boots to Reboots, Vet Haven, Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Summer Picnic, C.O.T.A., Legion Baseball, Boy's State, Girls State, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Temporary Financial Aid, Food Bank, Emergency Family Aid, Peoples Pantry, Caregiver Volunteers, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Ocean County Military Support Committee and the list goes on and on.

Our Posts success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. Volunteering is the spark that makes our society of Veterans work. This Post belongs to the people it serves and the community in which it thrives. In order to support not only the ongoing projects listed above but the continued up-keep of the Post itself, volunteers are needed. You are needed.

(continued ➔)

So I encourage each of you not ask what can the Post do for me, but to ask yourself how can you help the post. In doing so, your rewards will be priceless.

FINANCIALS

Our 2018/2019 budget has been approved. Anyone wanting to know more about the budget can email me your questions at ralphwolff@jerseycoastappliance.com

We are working on a plan to pay down the mortgage so that our future veterans will always have a secure place to gather.

We have instituted a 3 layer program for oversight protection and transparency.

Our insurance has been reviewed and our financials have been audited and approved.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Ralph Wolff
Post 129 - Finance Officer

SAL MESSAGE

As we head into the fall and winter seasons, another year comes to an end. Our squadron has been busy. We've had some successful events this year and as a result, we've been able to contribute back to the post, which in turn takes care of our veterans, which is our main objective!

2019 membership is in and the push is on to get new members as well as renew and retain our current members. Membership is vital to our existence and everyone is working hard to keep the membership rolling in. As you know, you can renew or join at the post, mail in dues or go to our website

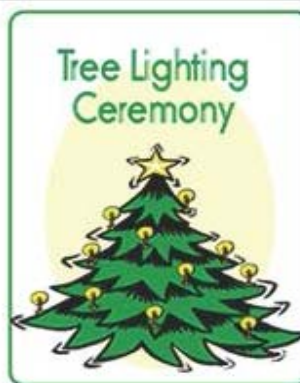
www.salpost129.com and renew.

We also have a couple big annual events coming up. On Saturday, December 1st is our annual POW/MIA tree lighting ceremony. This is a solemn ceremony and for those who have not attended, you are missing out on a great night. We would love to see you there. The following week, Saturday, December 8th is the SAL Army Navy game party. The game kicks off at 3pm in the canteen and it's always a great time. Wear your favorite shirt or jersey and come out and have a great time

with us. We are raffling off gifts, we will have a 50/50 and a super 50/50. This is always a fun day so please come out and support our Squadron and post and root for your favorite team.

Finally, going into the holiday season, I would like to wish everyone and their families a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

For God & Country,
Rocky Lucia
Commander
Squadron 129



American Legion Post 129 Family Presents the Annual POW/MIA Christmas Tree Lighting

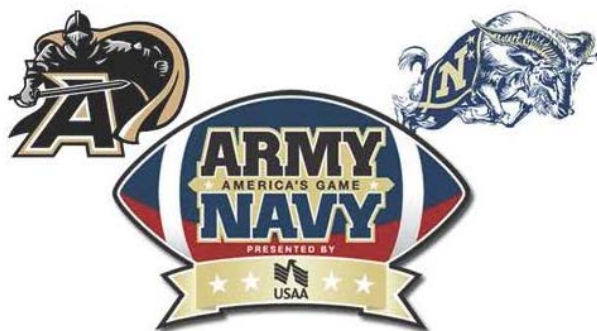
A Solemn Ceremony

**Saturday, December 1st, 2018
7pm - 11pm**

**American Legion Post 129
2025 Church Road, Toms River, NJ 08753**

For More Information, contact:
Bob Joerg at bobjoerg@gmail.com or 908.403.0816
Or
Rocky Lucia at rlucia@verizon.net or 917.417.4818





**S.A.L Squadron 129 Presents - Army Navy Football Game
"Who's Side Are You On??"**

Saturday, December 8, 2018

3PM Kickoff

*** NO CHARGE ***

The Game will be viewed in the Canteen

Gift Raffles

50/50 and Super 50/50 Raffles

For more information, contact:

Rocky Lucia - rplucia@verizon.net - 917.417.4818

Army Navy after party 7PM-11PM - Live Entertainment in the canteen

**AUXILIARY
PRESIDENTS
MESSAGE**

With the leaves changing and the weather becoming a bit cooler we are working towards many fun-filled events in the fall.

We are starting to prepare for the upcoming events like our Veterans Turkey Dinner and the POW/MIA Tree Lighting Ceremony and our Children's Christmas party. Look for the flyers and come on down to our meetings and hear about all our events. On September 28th we had our first fish fry down at the Bunker Bar. You were served a fresh piece of

fried fish, French fries, cole slaw, a drink and dessert. Pat Corbin and Carol Rutzler did a fantastic job with the frying of the fish and fries. Jean Robbins provided her delicious Cole slaw which everybody enjoyed. The fish fry was a success and will have more in the future.

The RUN FOR THE FALLEN was on September 29th and the Auxiliary with a Jr. and a SAL member welcomed the runners with the banner that will be used every year we have them at our Post.

On October 7th, I, and 6 members of the Auxiliary attended the Dept. POW/MIA Ceremony in

Neptune. Our own Lisa Mayer is the Department POW/MIA Chairperson and she did a FANTASTIC JOB with a somber remembrance. Many compliments were made by Lisa's job with the POW/MIA ceremony.

The fund raiser for C.O.T.A. was a great time by all who attended. By the time of this reading we will have had our County Meeting where our Dept. President Fran Derin and her Officers came to our Post for her visit. We had a nice meal and enjoyed our visit. We also had a Meet & Greet at Post 348 on October 27th with Denise Rohan, Past National Commander, and Ann Mills-Griffiths, Executive Director-Chairman of the Board National League of POW/MIA Families. This was a very exciting evening.

So, as you can see we have a lot of things happening here with the Auxiliary and the Post. Again, I ask you to come down to our meetings and get involved with a committee. You will see it is a lot of work but the end result is the reason we are here. So, remember to always say THANK YOU to a Veteran for without them we would not be able to enjoy our freedom today and always.

For God & Country
Pam Bowen
Unit President



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



NOTICE TO ALL OF YOU WHO LOVE OUR BUS TRIPS

Unfortunately, our last bus trip to myrtle beach had to be cancelled due to hurricane Florence. However, we are not discouraged, and have obtained information on two possible trips you may enjoy. I am just making inquiry as to your interest in either one (or both if we have enough interested). Dates are yet to be determined but would occur after convention in June 2019.

One trip is to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, & New Brunswick with Acadia National Park. Trip is 9 days & 8 nights, and cost is approximately \$1,100 p/p-dbl. Guided tour of Acadia National Park, tours of Halifax, Peggy's Cove & Lunenburg, admission to King's Landing Historical settlement. Prince Edward Island & "Hopewell Rocks" and the town of Saint John and more! Note: passport is required!

The second is in the United States at colonial Michilimackinac & Mackinac Island and the beauty of northern Michigan. Trip is 7 days and 6 nights and cost are approximately \$675.00 p/p-dbl. Passport not required. Includes the Mackinac island ferry boat ride to peaceful Mackinac island where the only mode of transportation is by horse & carriage. Visit the 1892 Mackinac point lighthouse & colonial Michilimackinac, a 1700's era village & boat ride through the Soo locks & free time at Sault St. Marie, and a horse & carriage tour and gaming at Kewadin Sault Casino & more.

Call me at 732 341-7462 if you're interested in either of these trips, and we'll try to make one (or both) happen.

Come Shop with Us!!!

VARITY OF VENDORS/CRAFTERS!!!!



NOVEMBER 24, 2018

Time: 10 AM - 3 PM

Location: American Legion

2025 Church Rd., Toms River, NJ

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POST EVERLASTING



Edward Besko, 90, USMC, Korean War

Aldo Grandinetti, 89, USN, WWII

Sal Cornacchio, 90, USN, WWII

William Ihrig, 84, USN, Korean War

"Rest In Peace"

Bob Scheiderman, Ritual Chairman

CANTEEN NEWS

Eric Inauen

As with every year, the colder temperatures have arrived. The good news is that they have not slowed the activities at the Canteen one bit. There is always something going on every day of the week.

Our entertainment chairman, Rich Gato, continues to book bands for every Friday and Saturday Night. They start at 7PM and end at 11PM.

On Mondays it is Pool Night. Tuesday Night, starting in November, is Shuffle Board night. If you are interested in signing up, contact Commander Ed Rutzler, at the Post. Wednesday Nights are Corn Hole (bean bag toss) nights. Again, see Trustee Mike "the painter" Dolan at bar. Thursday Night is Progressive Bingo Night. On Sunday, it is NFL Football. So, as you can see, there is something going on every day of the week, and if you have any questions, our bartenders are always ready to help you.

On Sunday during the NFL games, Coors Lite, Miller Lite, Bud, Michelob Ultra and Yuengling drafts will be \$1.50. Ryan's Catering will be offering a discounted football menu. Wings are 50 cents for orders of 6 and 10. A half-pound cheeseburger with fries will be \$7.00. We will also have our end of each quarter giveaways.

NEW, NEW, NEW: All the beer lines in the Canteen have been replaced. Members are raving about the better taste and the colder temperatures. The new lines are insulated and have the new FOB technology.

Serving you those nine (9) different draft beers from our new system are our outstanding bar-

tenders Warren, Robin, Lisa, Lori, Danielle, Joe, Shea, Nancy and Chuck.

VETERANS DAYS: This year, the same as last year, we will be celebrating 2 Veterans' Days. On Sunday, November 11th, there will be a free lunch time buffet in the Canteen. On Monday, November 12th, Post 129 will be marching in the Veterans' Day Parade down Main Street, in Toms River. Participants will be assembling at the Office Lounge at 8:30AM. Step off time is 10AM.

ARMY-NAVY FOOTBALL GAME: The Army-Navy Game will be held on Saturday, December 8th, 3PM. Food and beverage prices will be the same as NFL Sundays. Domestic Drafts will be \$1.50, and the discounted NFL Football menu will be in effect, along with 50 cent Wings. will go all day and night. Our gift and raffle auction will be expanded this year. So, come in check it out, and root for your favorite team. After the game, appearing the first time ever, Barbara Petrizzo and Bill Kelly will be performing for your entertainment pleasure.



NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION: This year's New Year's Eve Gala should be our best. Why? The band "Nfinity," who everyone loves, will be performing for the first time. As usual there will be a hot and cold hors d'oeuvres along with a hot served buffet. There will also be an Open Bar stocked with our premium beers and liquor. New for this year—there will be 3 different pasta stations.

The Gala will be held on Monday, December 31, from 8PM to 1AM. Tickets are \$85 each, and will go on sale November 1, in the Canteen. For information contact Ed at 732-978-0826 or Carol at 732-978-0716. Remember, this event sells out fast, so call as soon as you can.

Down at the Bunker. The Bunker is closed for the season, however, enemy varmint activity (EVA) has continued to plague us. After one of our Bike Nights some food was left by the Bunker Bar door in a sealed container. The following morning as Dale Harpe approached the container, a legion chipmunk jumped out of the container and went into a karate ninja stance. He snarled at Dale, as if to say, "back off." Dale chased him as far as the tree line. He was alone, so he did not pursue, since it could have been an ambush.

During the same week, Bob Joerg and Ace Cannon were monitoring the surveillance bunker cameras and observed Legion Airborne Squirrels conducting training as they jumped from table to table. This indicates that they are planning another attack.

Action Taken. We have reached out for Bill Murray, who played Carl Spackler, in Caddyshack to advise us on how to mine the area. We, also, have attempted to contact the former Secretary of State to start the peace negotiating process like he did with Iran. Additional reports to follow.

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





NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Monday, December 31, 2018
8:00 pm until 1:00 am
2025 Church Road, Toms River, NJ 0873

Tickets go on sale November 1st and sell out fast
Ticket price is \$85.00
Entertainment by Nfinity

For more information contact Ed at 732-978-0826
Or Carol at 732-978-0716

Hors D'oeuvres

Two Carving Stations

Bread and Salad

Pastries on The tables

Pasta Station Assorted Pastas





Bosco's crew during the Friends Helping Friends October 16, 2018



RIDERS MESSAGE

Well the bike night events for 2018 have concluded. We had great success with this event with the exception of September. We scheduled and rescheduled but the rains forced us to cancel. All in all we had good times with good friends.

On our August bike night we were able to, with the assistance of the Post 129 "families", raise over \$10,000 for Run for the Fallen. This is an event that our Riders take part in every year and are proud to do so.

We had probably our last group ride of the season with a Poker Run for the Silverton Fire Department with about 15 members participating. We like to support the fire department for all the things that they do for our Post when asked.

With fall weather upon us we will be able to ride as a group for a while longer and hope to get out and about for "lunch" runs and weekend rides

Looking forward to riding with my brothers and sisters for as long as the weather allows. Hopefully we will have a mild winter and get back to what we do best, Ride.

For God & Country
Art Brown
President



NOVEMBER: From the latin word for "ninth," since it was the ninth month of the Roman year.

Birthstone

November 2018

Citrine

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"GOOD NIGHT CHESTY WHEREVER YOU ARE" Unknown				1 !BINGO!	2	3
4  Reset Your Clocks	5 General Mtg. 7:00PM	6 Election Day Vote! Early/Often!	7 ● New Moon	8 !BINGO!	9	10 US MARINE CORP 1775
11 VETERANS DAY!	12 Legion Aux. Mtg. 7:00PM	13 	14 SAL Mtg. 7:00PM	15 !BINGO!	16	17 
18 VETERANS THANKSGIVING DINNER NOON—UNTIL?	19 Board/Trustee Mtg. 7:00PM	20	21 	22 TURKEY DAY! NO BINGO!	23 ○ Full Beaver	24 Auxiliary Craft Fair 10 AM—3 PM
25	26 Riders Mtg. 7:00PM	27 	28 Blood Drive 1400-1900 AT THE POST	29 !OGNIB!	30	

November 10, 1775, the continental congress commissioned Samuel Nicholas to raise two battalions of Marines he set up shop at the Tun Tavern Philadelphia and appointed Robert Mullan, tavern proprietor, as chief Marine recruiter.

NOVEMBER ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2ND **THE SURE CATS**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3RD
CHRIS DANIELS & THE PROOF

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9TH **SUMMER PROJECT**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10TH
GEORGE RIZZI & THE JERSEY HORNS

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 16TH **"NFINITY"**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17TH **BOB KULIK**

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23RD **WILD ROSE**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24TH **STEP ASIDE**

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30TH
THE LENNY DAVIS BAND
NEW BAND



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

DECEMBER: From the latin word for "tenth," since it was the tenth month of the Roman year.

Birthstone

December 2018

Turquoise

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
There has been only one Christmas—the rest are Anniversaries.			When you stop believing in Santa you get underwear.			1 POW/MIA Tree Lightng 5-11
2	3 General Mtg. 7:00PM	4 	5 	6 	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ● New Moon	8 Army vs Navy
9 	10 Legion Aux. Mtg. 7:00PM	11 	12 National Guard SAL Mtg. 7:00PM	13 	14	15 
16 Childrens Christmas Party Noon to 4 PM	17 Trustee/Board Mtg. 7:00PM	18	19	20 	21	22 O Full Cold Moon
23 ----- 30	24 Riders Mtg. 7:00PM ----- 31 New Years Eve	25 Merry Christmas	26	27 	28	29

The National Guard, the oldest of the Armed Forces of the United States and one of the nation's longest enduring institutions, celebrates its 382nd birthday. The guard traces its history back to the earliest English colonies.

DECEMBER ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY DECEMBER 1ST
THE STREETHEARTS

FRIDAY DECEMBER 7TH **THE SURE CATS**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8TH
"NEW DUO" BILL KELLY "MR. JUKEBOX"
BARBARA PETRIZZO
aka "BRANDY ALEXANDER"

FRIDAY DECEMBER 14TH
"THE POWERTONES"

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15TH.
"THE CROSSTONES"

FRIDAY. DECEMBER 21ST **WILD ROSE**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 22ND **BOB KULIK**

FRIDAY DECEMBER 28TH **THE MANGO'S**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 29TH **STRICTLY 60'S**

NEW YEARS EVE
SEE THE FLYER-MUSIC BY "NFINITY"

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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



Henry stared out his kitchen window as the snow fell. He had just poured himself a cup of coffee and wondered what the day would bring. His family would be coming back home for the holidays but that was a few weeks off. The day already seemed so long as it wasn't even 9am yet. He opened the door and picked up his newspaper. The street was quiet and all of the neighboring homes were locked up tight. Henry read the paper and did the crossword puzzle but now what to do...the phone laid in the cradle. The silence was deafening.

This is how so many of our senior Veterans start their days. As the seasons change, the weather gets colder and the hours of darkness increase. This is the time of year that many of us stay inside. Unfortunately for those Veterans who are living alone it can be a time of great loneliness. A friendly visitor or a caring phone call can make all of the difference.

Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey offers these life enrichment programs to ease the loneliness and isolation. If you know someone who could benefit from our services or if you'd like to be a "buddy" or friendly phone caller to someone just call your Service Officer Michael Schaffer (732) 685-7768, Post Commander (732)255-9250 or Ann at Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey (732) 505-2273 ext.210



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American Red Cross

Heroes Saving Lives

Join Us. Save Lives.
Be Proud.



American Red Cross Blood Drive
Sponsored by

American Legion Post 129

2025 Church Road

Toms River, NJ

Wednesday, November 28th

2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Appointments are preferred please call

Gerd (908) 910-1858

or log onto www.redcrossblood.org

The Executive Board and the Trustees of American Legion Post 129 wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year. Thank you for being a member of The American Legion.

Commander
Ed Rutzler

Vice Commander
Sam McNeil
Ralph Moranz
Gerd Trommer
Pete Chafatelli
Phil Jones, EVC

Adjutant
Bob Scheiderman

Finance Officer
Ralph Wolff

Sgt. At Arms
Stan Bilicki

Chaplain
Tom Kraszewski

Judge Advocate
Dave Corbin

Historian
Al Harbord

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Frank DelNero
Mike Dolan
Rich Gato
John Hammack
Eric Inauen

SOUNDOFF Editor
Al Harbord



SOUNDOFF

September-October 2018



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

PUBLISHED DEADLINE

6 times per year
for the next issue (January-February 2019) is December 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: **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>

Letter from The ^{real} Editor...

As I ponder the past 6 years as editor I realize it has been a satisfying and fulfilling time. We have won the Department of New Jersey award for the SOUNDOFF 3 times. The reason for this award is due to the contributions from all the Post committees, Auxiliary Unit 129, SAL Squadron 129, the Post 129 Riders and individual contributions. It is these contributors that make the SOUNDOFF a newsletter.

For the efforts of Al Harbord, pseudo Editor, I want to thank the Post for honoring him with the award of Legionnaire of the Year.



So, as I sit here at my desk, a sincere thank you to all members at the best Post in the USA. Let's keep up the great work we do here.





Photo by Lucas Carter/The American Legion

American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation launched

Oct 17, 2018

Described as “a renewed commitment to the future,” the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation was established Wednesday to advance the organization’s continuous efforts to assist disabled veterans and military parents in need for decades to come.

The American Legion’s National Executive Committee approved a move to have the 1925-established American Legion Endowment Fund do business under a name that more accurately reflects its mission and kicked off an immediate drive to refuel its coffers with a \$25 million fundraising goal. Tax-deductible contributions to The American Legion Veterans & Children’s Foundation can be made by visiting www.legion.org/donate.

“Consider it as Endowment Fund 2.0 – but with a much more descriptive name,” American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad said in his opening remarks

Wednesday. “It will renew our commitment to children by delivering Temporary Financial Assistance to those in need. It will provide expert assistance for service officers to help veterans and their families.”

American Legion Charities, a non-profit trust fund that directs donations to programs and services of the organization, presented a \$500,000 check to the Veterans & Children Foundation Wednesday to get the campaign underway. Following that, hats and helmets were passed across the NEC room, generating another \$2,415. The Department of Massachusetts added to the campaign with a \$5,000 donation.

All contributions to The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation flow directly to the organization’s Temporary Financial Assistance program and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation efforts, primarily training for American Legion service officers who work tirelessly to help veterans and families understand their health-care benefits, education and employment opportunities.

Between 2012 and 2016, the Temporary Financial Assistance program awarded \$4.2 million in cash grants – an average of over

\$842,000 per year – to military and veteran families with minor children at home that have encountered unexpected financial crises. Families facing homelessness, hunger or loss of utilities in their homes have been assisted by the fund. In 2017, 933 minor children of 443 veterans received \$588,434 in cash grants, including 68 children of 31 veterans whose lives were rocked by hurricanes and floods.

And across the country, more than 3,000 accredited American Legion service officers are continuously working on behalf of some 700,000 veterans and their families at any one time. Service officers provide expert, free-of-charge assistance through the VA benefits process, including appeals, and connect veterans with other benefits and opportunities due to them as veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

In recent years, the American Legion Endowment Fund has only been able to cover portions of Temporary Financial Assistance and disabled veterans support needs as the global war on terrorism continues to add years to the longest armed conflict in U.S. history.

The American Legion Endowment Fund was built from a \$5 million fundraising campaign in 1924 – \$71 million in today’s dollars – conducted by National Commander James A. Drain at a time when American Legion membership was less than half of what is today. The purpose of the fund was twofold, as it will continue to be: to help military and veteran families in need and to provide needed assistance to former servicemembers navigating the complexities of government benefits and opportunities.

(From - www.legion.org)



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



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