



SOUNDOFF

July-August 2015

George P. Vanderveer
Post 129 American Legion
(Established 1919)
2025 Church Road
Toms River, NJ 08753

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Well, here we are back from the Legion Convention in Wildwood. A great time was had by all and we picked up some great awards. PC Rich Godfrey needed a wheelbarrow to carry away all of the Membership Awards. Our Post was well represented with 15 Delegates being present on the floor both Thursday and Friday. There was an impressive array of speakers and the keynote speaker, was Lt. Governor Kim Guadano. Thursday night's entertainment was provided by our own Dee Cee's and Friday nights entertainment was provided by the Country Band 40 North at poolside. Saturday's parade consisted of a contingent made up of Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders as well as the 1953 Shore Patrol Jeep and the restored 1918 Cannon "Phenia". It should be noted that the two-mile parade was held on the *hottest* day of the year. The marcher's quickly returned to the hotel's pool and hospitality room. A special thank you to Frank McArdle for his expertise in organizing all of the hotel accommodations. Franks attention to detail with many last minute changes is excellent.

As indicated in the last newsletter, we attended all of the events mentioned, including the dedication of the Veteran's Ball field on Bay Avenue, the re-dedication of the Veteran's Monument at Ocean County College. During that presentation (in the pouring rain, I might add), I explained that among other things, our Post provides a sanctuary for

our Veterans from all wars and conflicts where they can enjoy the camaraderie and support that they so richly deserve. We also attended the service at Ocean County Park and of course the town parade. After the parade, we returned to our Post for a brief service followed by food and entertainment by the Oceannaires in the canteen. Our Memorial Day picnic held in the Grove was a huge success with an attendance of over 300 people. Entertainment by Jeff Lakata, the Boogie Woogie Girls and a guest appearance by the Shamrock and Thistle Pipe Band provided the backdrop for a wonderful afternoon.

Our next picnic will be on July 4th in the Grove. The cost will be \$15.pp. The time will be 1to5 PM. Music will be provided by the Dee Cee's. Tickets are available at the Canteen. The Rain Date will be July 5th.

I would also like to recognize our Color Guard, Phil Jones, Ralph Moranz, Steven Moranz and Ron Mills. These four dedicated individuals were present at all of the Memorial Day events, some in the pouring rain and represented our Post in fine fashion. We are always looking for individuals for the color guard.

If you are a regular at the Post, you will have noticed some major changes as well as a few subtle ones. As I have mentioned in the past this Post is a million dollar operation. It is constantly a "work in progress". We are always seeking ways to improve our operation. As always, feel free to bring your ideas forward. A survey is being

distributed to all Bingo Players. We are constantly looking for ways to enhance our Bingo Operation.

Apparently the "Famous" Bunker Bar has garnered national attention. The National Commander, Mike Helm and his entourage made a surprise visit to our Post and were fascinated by the Bunker Bar. I spoke with Mike at the Convention and he was still talking about it.

The new Officers will assume command at the July 6th meeting. Feel free to convey any questions or concerns or ideas to any of them. The list of incoming officers was printed on page one of the previous SOUNDOFF issue.

Our Post is always looking for volunteers. If you have some time to spare, please give me a call and I will direct you to a chairperson who can properly utilize your expertise. You do not have to be a member to volunteer. We welcome all from our community. Be careful out there and have a safe summer.

Rich Gato
Commander
732-330-2430

P.T.S.D.

Not all wounds are visible



AUXILIARY MESSAGE

Welcome to the 95th year of service to Americanism, veterans, children & youth and community by Unit 129.

It is my pleasure to introduce the newly elected 2015-2016 unit officers:

President- Patricia Corbin
1st. Vice Pres. - Pamela Bowen
2nd Vice Pres. - Paula Harpe
Secretary - Joyce Hedges
Treasurer - Carol Rutzler
Chaplain - Jane Keeley
Historian - Lisa Meyers
Sgt-At-Arms - Dotty Abercombie

As the newly elected president, I look forward to your fellowship. Your commitment to observing the American Legion Auxiliary preamble, and having a little fun as we carry out our obligation, to our community, state and nation.

Everyone has something to contribute. Come to a meeting or contact a chairperson with a committee of interest to you. Your contribution can impact the committee in a positive way. (For example: clipping unit newspaper releases of coming events for the unit historian. Mailing or delivering that in-

formation to her). Teamwork is successful!

Receiving unit minutes via e-mail is now available to unit members. Contact jakapp631@gmail.com

Next unit meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 15th at 7 PM. No meeting in July. We begin again August 3rd and every 1st Monday of the month going forward.

For God and Country
Patricia Corbin, Unit President
(Adventure Is The Spice Of Life)



CHAPLAINS MESSAGE

Michael Schaffer

Freedom:

the state of being free or at liberty rather than in confinement or under physical restraint. Freedom is an American ideal. Our entire country has been conceived from the quest for independence from Great Britain.

We wanted to make our own government, a "government of the people, for the people, by the people," Abraham Lincoln would later go on to say in his Gettysburg Address.

With freedom, come inevitable rights: freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the freedoms to take your life in whatever direction you feel fit.

Freedom is full of choices, choices every individual can make themselves. Freedom builds an educated country when everyone can learn lessons from their own mistakes and the mistakes of others.

There must be rules to conform to, but there must be enough freedom to leave room for mistakes. If everyone were perfect, no one could learn anything new

Freedom should not be a privilege; it should be a natural part of every human's life. Yet, today in this day and age, freedom is a privilege.

As Americans, we are lucky to be able to begin every day in a country that so strongly believes in freedom.

Freedom is a natural part of every American's life often taken for granted, but still freedom remains as much of a challenge as it was 200 years ago.

In the American Revolution, we fought Great Britain for Independence. With the country's Declaration of Independence, we declared, "All men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

We spent eight years slaving away in war simply to be able to be free, to have freedom. The American Revolution was a great challenge, but it was worth the sacrifice to gain freedom.

The years after the war were

(continued >)

Memorial Day 2015 Toms River (photo jayscape photography- James Castaneda)



as hard as any country's start. We worked through the challenges.

Freedom of the press in the Vietnam War and freedom of speech in different presidential elections were all sources of corruption. The press doesn't always adequately display both sides of a cause nor does a presidential election.

These are simply challenges led by freedom, but all challenges Americans felt worthy of the price of freedom.

Today freedom continues to lead its own challenge. Freedom calls us to take care of governments and run them as democratically as possible.

Freedom challenges the world to rethink its thoughts.

To let every individual have the right to anything they desire as long as they can obtain it without harming or harassing any other individual's rights.

Freedom's challenge; a challenge for our country and all of the countries of the world, to live their own life, to be their own person, to seize the opportunity set before them and live, laugh and love life.

RIDERS MESSAGE

This month's SOUNDOFF for the Riders is probably our most newsworthy. Our group had a large turnout for the Memorial Day parade to compliment the American Legion family. As many of you know I passed out after the parade while we were dedicating a wreath by the O.C. Prosecutors Office. I would like to thank all my brothers and sisters that rendered first aid to me. Luckily I was discharged from the hospital the next day after being diagnosed with low blood pressure and heat exhaustion. I keep telling my members that I don't like parades.

On June 7th the Riders held their one major fundraiser of the

year. We had a truly perfect weather day for a Poker Run and Family BBQ. Temperature was in the mid 70's and sunny all day long. We had a great turnout of motorcycle riders and passengers. We had just over 200 motorcycles at the event and over 400 people attending overall. As of the time of my report to SOUNDOFF we did not have the total accounting for the event, but we should do OK. I must say that we had great food by our cooking staff. The boys, Willy and his son, Dan., Ralph, and Panama make our events special. They cooked a pig on our new pig roaster, chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs. The new grills in the picnic grove worked to perfection. No one waited for food as these guys kept the ovens going from noon until closing at 5:00 PM. Mike from Ryan's catering ordered all our food and pre heated the chicken for our BBQ crew. Thanks Mike. The event went through all of the

pig, 500 pieces of chicken, 400 hamburgers and over 600 hot dogs. This is not including potato and macaroni salads as well as baked beans. When we have a BBQ our goal is to have the best food for our guests. I believe that we do that and more. We had a large showing of our membership working the event. We get great participation from our members to make this event successful.

Our fun riding season is now upon us and many of our members will be taking off for places such as New York, Tennessee, and South Dakota, as well as many long day trips.

For God and Country,
Art Brown



American Legion Post 129



Seattle Mariners at New York Yankees

Sunday, July 19th 1:00 PM Game

\$100.00 per person

(includes bus, ticket, drinks, snacks and food)

Call: John Dowling 732-221-5410

Ralph Muranz 908-278-3568

(bus will leave from Home Depot, Route 70 parking lot—Lakewood)

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Public speaking is said to be one of the most feared actions anyone can partake in;

"According to most studies, people's number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Death is number two. Does that sound right? This means to the average person, if you go to a funeral, you're better off in the casket than doing the eulogy."

— Jerry Seinfeld

Yet every year brave high school students participate in the American Legion Oratorical Competition. Not only did American Legion Post 129 host the County competition, we also hosted the District competition. But what is an Oratorical Contest?

"A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST"

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former president candidate Alan Keyes and CNN anchor Lou Dobbs.

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$138,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000, and third gets \$14,000. Each department (state) winner who is cer-

tified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds. The contest caps off with a final round that decides the three top finishers.

(<http://www.legion.org/oratorical/about>)

The Contest is executed in two parts:

THE PREPARED ORATION

The prepared oration must be on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The same subject and oration used in

the department contest must be used in the national contest.

The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take up less than eight (8) minutes or more than ten (10) minutes for delivery. It must be delivered in the English language.

Contestants may have in their possession a copy of their prepared oration in the first holding room. They may consult the copy of their prepared oration, until they exit the holding room in order to begin the contest, at which time the copy of the prepared oration will be surrendered to the contest official who is monitoring the first holding room.

In the prepared oration, as well as in the assigned topic discourse, quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than ten words in length, the author's name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally. The singing of a song(s) is not permitted and will result in the immediate disqualification of the contestant. The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song provid-



Vice Commander Nat Amadeo and Post Commander Rich Gato.
County winners 1st, 2nd, 3rd place (L to R)

ed proper attribution is made.
ASSIGNED TOPIC DISCOURSE

The assigned topic discourse must not consume less than three (3) minutes or more than five (5) minutes for delivery. The purpose of the assigned topic discourse is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.

The assigned topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his/her prepared oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five (5) minutes prior to the time of delivery.

This year's County and District results are as follows :

District results:

- 1st Place Andrew Bambrick
 Post 38 Camden County
 2nd Place Gillian Nutter
 Post 129 Ocean County

County results:

- 1st Place Jordan Feigin
 Post 129 Ocean County
 2nd Place Gillian Nutter
 Post 129 Ocean County
 3rd Place Taylor Pistone
 Post 129 Ocean County

We are very proud and continue to be amazed at the skill and dedication these young people present every year for this contest. It has continued to grow and we expect even bigger things next year. Look for information about the contest after Thanksgiving and if you can fit it in your schedule, be sure to stop in and witness the competition. The coffee and cake are free and you are sure to be impressed with how well our talented young high school students perform.

Nat Amadeo
 Vice Commander
 District #4 Oratorical Chairman

Kentucky Derby Day at Post 129



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PUBLISHED...

...6 times per year and mailed to 2300 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.

CALENDAR...

...send your events for the calendar to Bob Scheiderman at:
knottoday@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>

WEB:

<http://americanlegionpost129.webs.com/>

FACEBOOK:

American Legion Post 129 Toms River NJ

LEGION MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP – MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP

I would like to say Thank You to all our Legion Members that sent in their dues for 2015.

I am proud to report that we have exceeded last year's membership of 1595. Our Membership is now at 1658, 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.

As June comes to a close and we start another legion year please be an Early Bird and send in your 2016 dues. We need all the help that we can get to 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 paid to join. It's the price you paid to be eligible" 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. PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, CO-WORKERS 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! WE ARE LOOSING 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. ANY MEMBERS THAT ARE STRUGGLING WITH MONTH TO MONTH BILLS AND NEED SOME ASSISTANCE WITH PAYING YOUR MEMBERSHIP, I CAN HELP. CALL ME AT 732-604-8326 OR EMAIL ME AT rjg548@comcast.net

FOR GOD AN COUNTRY
Rich Godfrey
Ocean County
Membership Chairman

John Fisher III receiving his 60 year
membership certificate



Lou Cassella receiving his 50 year
membership certificate



SAL MESSAGE

Well we just got back from Convention. We had a great time and the SAL did very good with rewards this year. I am very proud of what our membership numbers ended up with this year. Thank you Rocky and Duke for what you did to keep pushing us this year. I would also like to thank Rich Godfrey because when we had a problem he has always been there for us. Now I would like to thank Mel, Richie C and Rocky for stepping up at the convention as they asked for SAL members to be parade marshals, as well as Dan Curran for carrying the SAL flag. Post 129 came through. We are also posting a picture of Bob Scheiderman, Jr. who is a past SAL Commander at the age of 15 and was commended. It was so nice to have this pic taken of the past and present.



Membership for 2016 will be coming out and we will be getting our new cards in July so we will be asking everyone to renew and we would like to see our membership go over 500 this year from a record breaking 467. So let's all work together and try to bring in 1 new member this year. That's all it would take to hit our mark.

I am very proud to be your commander and very proud of all our members of Squadron 129. That's if for now.

For God and Country
Bob Joerg



SAL MEMBERSHIP

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

S.A.L. Squadron 129 made the Detachment of New Jersey and Toms Rivers Legion Family very proud. And this is why they put us on the map.

First they were presented a plaque by National Vice Commander, Gregg (Doc) Gibbs, and myself that read the largest membership in the history of New Jersey with 474 SAL'S with the names Robert Joerg and Rocky Lucia on it.

Second, at the American Legion National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, SAL Squadron 129 Commander Robert Joerg, and Vice Commander/Membership Chairman Rocky Lucia of Squadron 129, were also invited by the Detachment of N.J. to be there. They were presented their BLUE BRIGADE jackets by our National Commander for their accomplishment in recruiting 30 or more new SAL members each in one year. I know of no other Squadron in N.J. that ever accomplished that; and there is more. I also learned at Convention, from our Department SAL Committee Asst. Chairman, Andy Jackson, get this, Squadron 129 is the largest SAL membership in the NATION. How about THAT! Squadron 129 would like to thank Mr. Rich-

ard Godfrey, Post 129 Membership Chairman for the great work he has done, with the Legionnaire's membership, above and beyond, and pushing Duel membership to keep the SAL'S under that 25% mark. Great job Rich. Remember, membership is every ones job, keep sending in membership cards into Detachment. Focus on retention and signing up new members. Legionnaires, when you sign up a new member, get their children to sign up too. Membership is the life blood of our organization and that is where the strength lies. In elections and per-capita, which gives us monetarily, the opportunity to donate more to our veterans, and to many American Legion programs and charities AND MOST IMPORTANTLY TO OUR POST 129. AGAIN GREAT JOB!

THANK YOU, FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, S.A.L., DETACHMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, David (DUKE) Haring

PS: As the Detachment membership Chairman, my Theme this year was NEW YEAR, NEW TIER, MEANS, WE NEVER HIT THAT 10,000 MARK IN MEMBERSHIP, CLOSE BUT NO CIGAR, BUT BECAUSE OF SQUADRON 129's EFFORT, THINGS LOOK VERY PROMISING.

POST EVERLASTING

Bob Scheiderman, Ritual Chairman

Eugene J. Mendalski, 82, US Army, WWII
John C. Fawkes, 70, US Army, Vietnam War
Timothy P. Regan, 66, US Army, Vietnam War
Leo R. Cloutier, 90, US Navy, WWII, Vietnam
James E. Twaddle, 56, US Navy, Vietnam War
John Genna, 69, US Army, Vietnam War



JULY: From the Roman emperor, Julius Ceasar.

Birthstone

July 2015

Ruby

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something. Anon			1 Full Buck Moon	2 FIVE COUNT 'EM	3 Dog Days Begin	4 Independence Day
5	6 General Membership Meeting 7 PM No Auxiliary Meeting	7	8 SAL Mtg. 7:00PM Liberty Bell Cracks Day	9 B I	10	11  Burr/Hamilton Duel 1804
12	13	14 Bastille Day	15	16 N G	17	18
19 Yankees Bus Trip	20 Trustee/Board Mtg. 7:00PM	21	22	23 O S	24	25
26 Americans with Disabilities Act Signed 1990	27 Riders Mtg. 7:00PM Korean War Armistice signed, 1953	28	29 NASA's Birthday	30 FOLKS!	31 Full Thunder Moon (Blue Moon)	Never let your sense of morals get in the way of doing what's right.

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

JULY 2nd 1926: The United States Army Air Corps Is Created.

JULY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday July 3rd Glenn Lykes Band

Saturday July 4th The Dee Cee's



Performing Both At Our Independence Day BBQ
&
Later In The Evening In The Canteen

Friday July 10th Lou Abbato
Saturday July 11th Jersey Girls **Karoake**
Sunday July 12th Jeff Lakata - 1 to 5 PM at
The Bunker Bar

Friday July 17th The Dee Cee's
Saturday July 18th Jeff Lakata








Friday July 24th The Crosstones
Saturday July 25th Phil Cenicola From The
Streethearts

Friday July 31st The True Tones



AUGUST: From Julius Caesar's successor, Augustus Caesar.

Birthstone **August 2015** Sardonyx

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
'The Coast Guard has long been known as the service that gets more done with less'		19th Amendment ratified, giving women the right to vote. 18 August 1920		Airplanes are interesting toys, but of no military value. Ferdinand Foch		1 Air Force Day The first US census 1790
2	3 General & Legion Aux. Mtg. 7:00PM	4 Coast Guard 1790	5	6  Hiroshima, A-bomb 1945	7  Purple Heart Day	8
9 Nagasaki, A-bomb 1945	10	11	12 SAL Mtg. 7:00PM	13  "Lil' Abner" By Al Capp, 1934	14	15  VJ Day 1945
16	17 Trustee/Board Mtg. 7:00PM	18	19	20  21	21	22
23 30	24 Riders Mtg. 7:00PM 31 	25	26	27  28	28	29 Full Sturgeon Moon

Happy Birthday, US Coast Guard, 225 years, Semper Paratus, Guardians

AUGUST ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday August 1st TBD

Friday August 7th The Dee Cee's
Saturday August 8th Jersey Girls **Karaoke**

Friday August 14th The Smallwood Brothers
Saturday August 15th Lou Abbato

Sunday August 16 Jeff Lakata—1 to 5 PM at
The Bunker Bar

Friday August 21st The Crosstones
Saturday August 22nd TBD

Sunday August 23rd **Special Appearance**
"Chaz Depaolo" 1 to 5 PM
at **The Bunker Bar**

Friday August 28th The True Tones
Saturday August 29th Phil Cenecola Of The
Streethearts



CANTEEN NEWS

Eric Inauen

We've gone from the freezing cold weather of winter to the scorching heat of Summer in only a few days. Spring was definitely a No Show this year. This may have made it harder to get our Bunker Bar, Picnic Area, Horse Shoe Pits and Outdoor Grills ready for our outdoor activities. Harder? Yes, but our bartenders, bar staff and volunteers, under the leadership of Bar Chairman, Mike Kelly, were up to the task.

We have expanded our days and hours of operation at the Bunker Bar. The Bunker is now open Tuesday through Friday, from 4PM until close. On Saturday, we open at 3PM, and on Sunday, we open at 2PM. During the NFL Season, we open at noon on Sundays. The Bunker is closed on Mondays. Our Horse Shoe League plays every Wednesday Night. Trustee, Mike Dolan, got our league started last year, and it has gotten bigger and better. Joe (Sgt. Major) bartends Tuesday through Saturday, and Lisa is our Sunday Bartender. We have Bud, Coors Lite, Miller Lite and Yuengling on tap, along with Bud Lite and Micholob Ultra in cans.

Inside, in the air conditioning of the Canteen, our operation is running smoother than it ever has. Our rock bands on Friday Night have been drawing huge crowds. So much so that the Bar Committee and Commander Rich Gato, who doubles as our Entertainment Chairman, have decided to bring in rock bands on Saturday also. The 2nd Saturday of the Month will remain Karaoke with Jersey Girl.

SUMMER PICNICS: Our annual **Independence Day Picnic** will be held on Saturday, July 4th, from Noon to 5PM. The Dee Cee's will be performing at the Picnic



and in the Canteen later that evening. Tickets are \$15, and are on sale at the bar. If you purchase your tickets in advance at the bar, you will be given a coupon for a free draft beer or wine, when you present your ticket at the Picnic.



Our annual **Labor Day Picnic** will be held on Sunday, September 6th, from noon to 5PM. Tickets are \$15, and will be on sale at the bar. Like the July 4th Picnic, buy your tickets in advance and receive a coupon for a free beer or wine at the Bunker on the day of the Picnic.

WELCOME BACK: The Bar Committee would like to welcome Dave Kearns back from his sabbatical leave in Florida. Dave has been on the Bar Committee the longest of us all. His experience and counsel are always welcomed.

THE BAR COMMITTEE: I have never written about the Bar Committee in the past. I guess because it would seem like bragging. However, I think it is good for the Membership to understand what the Bar Committee actually does in managing a large operation such as ours.

The Committee acts as a command staff by making sure Member, Guests and Bartenders adhere to the Rules, Regulations and Policies of the Canteen. This makes it both pleasurable for the Members and profitable for the Post. The Committee manages 3 bars, the Canteen, the Hall and the Bunker Bar. They set the work schedule, which can have as many as 5 bartenders on duty, if all bars are being utilized at the same time.

The Committee handles all the logistics for the bars to operate efficiently. They stock all the bars. They order all the beer, wine, soda, mixers, cups, glasses, fruit, snacks, straws, stirrers, coasters, etc. They handle maintenance of the bar equipment, and have contingency plans for mechanical break downs. They make all the bank deposits, and make sure that the bartenders do not run out of change.

The Committee establishes a budget and set goals. They record all daily receipts and monthly expenses. A monthly report is submitted to the Post at every General Meeting. They are also involved with the planning of legion events, since these events usually involve one or more of our bars.

These are just some of the duties that the Bar Committee performs. It is definitely not a one man job. The Committee, along with the Bartenders, must work as a team to be successful.

Remember, our operation is 24 -7. Therefore, A Committee Member must be there every day of the year. The Committee Members take great pride in volunteering their time, to make Post 129's Canteen the best it can be.

OUR BARTENDERS: You can have a great Bar Committee, but if you don't have honest, quality Bartenders, your operation goes nowhere. Fortunately for the Post,

we have those kind of Bartenders. All of our bartenders provide our Members and their Guests with great service, and they know their craft. Bernice, Duke, Warren, Robin, Lisa, Lori, Joe, Dave and, our newest addition, Gabrielle, keep the Canteen operations running like a well-oiled machine. A Big Thank You goes out to all of them, for making this past year the best year ever.

We open our doors every morning at 11AM. Our kitchen, which is run by Ryan's Catering, serves hot food 7 days a week. There is a fixed menu with daily specials. They still offer their Saturday Night Special," where you get a choice of 2 soups or salads, 2 entrees and a shared dessert for \$20. You are allowed to mix and match. So come on down to the Canteen, and enjoy the food, the beverage and the entertainment with your friends.

REMEMBER: When you support Post 129, you support the best Post in the USA.



American Legion Post 129 Annual Mike J. Carlino Memorial Golf Tournament

**Bey Lea Golf Course
N.Bay Ave Toms River NJ**



Wednesday, September 9th, 2015

Rain Date Wednesday, September 16, 2015
Proceeds to benefit Veterans and Active Duty Military

*4 Man Teams - Shotgun Start - Best Ball Format
Buffet at American Legion Post 129 to Follow
Includes: Tap Beer & Soft Drinks - Cash Bar for Mixed Drinks
Door Prizes - 50/50 - Raffles
Awards For: Top Team - Longest Drive - Hole in One*



Please Make Checks Payable to:
American Legion Post 129
2025 Church Road, Toms River, NJ 08753
Info Contact John Loiacono 732-278-3933
\$90.00 pp Includes Golf Fees and Cart

12:00 Noon Sign Up - 1:00 PM Shotgun Start

Team Contact _____ Phone _____
Player 1 _____
Player 2 _____
Player 3 _____
Player 4 _____



MACYS DONATES TO POST 129

On June 17th Vice Commander Ralph Moranz went to MACYS at the Ocean County Mall to accept a donation collected by their Donation Committee. Our thank you to all the employees who generously donated. As their request this money will be used to help veterans in our community.



The following official POW BIO was submitted by Jim Cressen who was a friend and co-worker. John McGrath died in 2011 but his story should never be forgotten.

STALAG 9A, 9B, & 9C
 INDIVIDUAL BIOGRAPHIES, No. 48
 JOHN (Jack) EDWARD MCGRATH
 28 Infantry Division 110 Infantry Regiment, K Co
 905 Tudor Drive
 Tom River NJ 08753
 9B 9C
 German Serial Number XXXXXXXX

Captured Hosingen, Lux. Hosingen was over run during the Battle of the Bulge. After 4 day's holdout, ran out of ammo. 100 plus men and officers were taken.

Walked in snow (over) roads and field, then box-cars, crowded and unsanitary. Bombed on Christmas Eve by British, to Frankfurt am Main, walked to 9B. Arrived 9B last of December 1944 by box car and walked to camp.

Had frostbitten feet and dysentery, no treatment. Starvation treatment. Made to stand in snow and freezing weather while barracks were searched and threatened by Germans because of assault on German cook. He is said to have survived numerous blows to the head with a meat cleaver, flat side no doubt.

Segregation of Jewish American Soldiers, between 120 and 200. The Germans filled out a complement of about 300 by selecting non-Jewish soldiers. Some accounts report that the Germans chose soldiers they felt were "undesirables* or troublemakers. Think my barracks was selected as undesirable because our door could be opened after we were locked inside. Some men would sneak out and do some trading with other POWs (Russian or Polish). We're moved with the 'American Jewish Soldiers to 9C on February 8, 1945:

Moved to 9C (Berge am Elster) by box cars and walked. At Berga there were a lot of POWs, all nationalities but only a few could speak English. I remember a young doctor (Peter?) thought that the Germans had conquered England and had invaded New York where we were taken prisoner. They would not believe that the Allies were already into Germany.

Inhuman treatment and no treatment. Scant and poor food. Meals were a bowl of grass soup and sometimes a ball of sour bread once a day. Had meat only if a farmer came to the camp with a horse. Beatings by German civilians. Performed hard physical labor under slave conditions to drill into rock

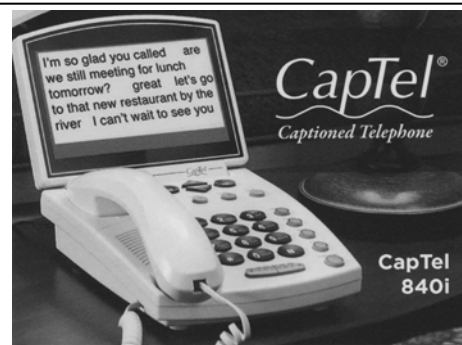
hillside for (we thought) underground power station. Risk life to move gas welding cylinders downhill. Disease, including dysentery, added to the prisoners' weakness. Recall w7ng up mornings to find that several of my buddies had died without a sound in the night. (10 men)

But there were fine times in Berga. Like 20 men to lift a section railing (railroad track). Six men to push a rail car into the Elster River, so that a German had to swim in the icy water to put a line on it.

Germans abandoned camp April 1, 1945, and led the prisoners on a wandering 'death march". Walked and slept in fields until April 21. Once on the road the guards halted us. All we could hear was a low growling murmuring, and over a hill came a large group of prisoners with their pajama like uniforms. Like molasses over pancakes. (At the time I probably had hunger pains.) They went ahead of us on the road and a shot was heard about every 30 seconds. When we caught up to where they joined the road, every so often (about 50 yards apart) there would be a body with a head shot. We're sleeping in a hayloft when the German guards disappeared.

Picked up on the road by 7th Armored (?) Division. Left Camp Lucky Strike May 15, 1945 on the "Leaping" Levi Woodbury. Arrived in New Jersey June 4, 1945.

None of them weighed more than 90 pounds. Lost an average of 100 pounds in 100 days. An estimated 62 of the original survived.



At the General Membership Meeting of June 1st Kelly Molnar of Outreach Experts, Inc. spoke to the group about the CapTel telephone.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION CENTENNIAL POST LEGACY PROJECT

Your adjutant, Bob Scheiderman, has created a George P. Vanderveer Post 129 Legacy site at the national Centennial site with a time-line and some pictures. We are still in the learning process with the site but we will get more up for your perusal. Please check it out and submit suggestions, if anyone would like to share memorabilia to share please contact Bob at: knottoday@verizon.net
To view our site.

Open: www.legion.org/centennial and follow the directions located in the menu on the left side of page.

AND, Did You Know?

That the American legion was chartered by Congress in 1919, this means we will be a century old in 2019. A group of war weary WWI vets, The war to End all Wars, that didn't seem to work out, met in Paris France and laid the groundwork for the American Legion. And That: In 1935 saw the first Boys State graduation. Many famous folks and legislatures attended and completed Boys State programs, all over the country, for instance: Jon Bon Jovi, Ex-Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, Cory Booker, Neil Armstrong, Tom Brokaw and Jane Pauley attended Girls State.

Over the years, YOUR legion, has affected major changes and created benefits for all veterans. For instance, in 1944 National Commander Harry W. Colmery sat down in his Washington DC hotel room and wrote the GI Bill, in pencil on hotel stationery, and the next day, presented it to congress, the bill was adopted almost verbatim by the legislatures.

AND, at the time, the VFW went against the legion and rejected the GI Bill?

AND, in 2012 the VA had guaranteed its 20 Millionth home loan?
AND, the number of college degrees provided is un-determined.

AND, Our own member William H. Huber returned to Toms River after WWII and used his GI Bill to become a lawyer. Bill Huber rose through the ranks and retired from the Superior Court Bench here in Ocean County,

AND, Judge Huber is a 60 year member of American Legion Post 129.

TODAY we are the largest veterans organization in the USA, maybe the world with 2.4 million members. We know we're the largest in the state of New Jersey!! Pat yourself on the back!!
AND sign up a new member.

Thank you to the American Legion History pages & internet.

Bob Scheiderman

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