



SOUNDOFF

May-June 2016



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

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Well, the time has come. This will be my last Commanders Message as I pass the gavel. I must admit, it is a bittersweet moment. Finishing my fourth year as Commander has brought much change. With change, comes controversy as expected. It is important to stay focused on the end result which I think all will agree has been positive. I have been very fortunate to have a hard working, dedicated executive board who consistently saw the "light at the end of the tunnel". This has never been a one-man operation. The old analogy of just a bunch of old guys hanging out at the bar couldn't be further from the truth. As I reflect back on the accomplishments of this executive board and its members, there are many.

Maintaining the Post and its grounds is a monumental task. We have replaced the carpet in the banquet hall, the tile in the kitchen, the floor in the canteen and the tile in all the bathrooms as well as the service bar. The banquet hall has been repainted. We have also renovated the downstairs, so that it can be used as an additional meeting room, office and storage. We have a new Internet Jukebox, ATM machine and a new Pull Tab machine as well. All of these machines generate revenue for our post.

The picnic grove has been upgraded. New natural gas BBQ's have been built and installed.

Walkways were put in place so that our handicapped folks could get down to the bunker bar. Speaking of the bunker bar, it too was updated. We have Direct TV and Sirius Radio (Yes, you will be able to watch the Yankee games). We have a new soda system which we acquired at no cost to us from Coca-Cola at our Bunker Bar, Canteen Bar as well as our Service Bar. We've added a stage this year. Two Boy Scouts completed their Eagle Scout projects by designing, purchasing and building new picnic tables, including some that are wheelchair accessible. A new project is in the works and will make its debut for Memorial Day weekend. I also want to thank the Department of Corrections for providing manpower for our many projects.

We have a pool league, shuffleboard, darts, horseshoes and bocce as well as a children's playground. We have acquired the 1953 Shore Patrol jeep from the Tin Can Sailors and have restored a 1918 Cannon named Phenix. Both of these nostalgic pieces are utilized in the various

parades. Our live entertainment continues to be a big draw in the canteen every Friday and Saturday night. Be sure to check the entertainment schedule either in the lobby, on our webpage or Facebook page. Speaking of the lobby, please continue to bring non-perishable food into the post and place it in the box located in the lobby. This food is being distributed to both Vetnetwork and the food pantry here in Toms River. Watch for the grand opening of the new pantry located on Hooper Avenue this summer. "Remember -Life is a balance".

Thank you to Frank McArdle for his dedicated help in arranging the hotels for the Wildwood Convention. This is a thankless job that requires being very detail oriented. I should note that once again we are sold out. Feel free to come down for the day and join us in the parade on Saturday.

We have hired a part time bookkeeper and our entire system has been updated and computerized. We now have a

(continued page 4)



In support of the Post, Rich Gato accepts a check from Auxiliary Unit President Pat Corbin. Other Auxiliary Officers in attendance (l-r) in back Carol Rutzler, Paula Harpe and Jane Keely.

SAL MESSAGE

Here we are rolling through Spring and the SAL Squadron has been very busy getting the Post ready to rock n roll for the upcoming summer events as well as trying to get the Bunker Bar ready for a great upcoming summer season. Speaking of rock n roll, anyone who was not at the Post on Saturday April 9th missed the debut of the Brother SAL Band. A rock band made up of our own SAL members! The night was phenomenal and the turnout was outstanding. A great time was had by all. Thank you to the band mates Dan Curran, Rocky Lucia, Tommy Lucia and Rob Riehl. We ran a 50/50 and the winner took home \$210 which was our brother Commander from Post 166.

The Auxiliary is also having a gift auction and we are expecting a great crowd for that. We have also picked the winners of our Samsung Galaxy tablet raffle and the 2 lucky winners were a person from Post 166 who bought a ticket at the April 9th event and the other winner was a legionnaire from our Post.

The SAL is now getting ready for convention and I would like to thank my past members on the executive board, Duke Haring and Steve Moranz for the great job they have done supporting me over the last few years. I would also like to congratulate Steve Moranz as the new SAL County Vice Commander. Good luck Steve!

I would like to announce my new executive board which consists of myself as Commander, Rocky Lucia as Vice Commander and Adjutant, Mel Aballo as Vice Commander, Pete Coleman as Finance Officer, Glen Blue as Chaplain and Dennis Chafatelli as Historian. Thank you gentlemen for stepping up and I hope you know what you're getting into!

Also, membership, membership, membership! We are getting VERY close to last years' numbers and we need this final push to hit the numbers. If you have not paid your 2016 dues yet, please do so ASAP.

I would like to wish Mike Schaffer the best of luck as the new Post Commander and would like to thank Rich Gato for all his hard work and support over the years. I also like to wish Pat Corbin luck as Auxiliary President for all her support as well. And last but not least, Art Brown, the President of the Legion Riders. I want to wish Art and all the Legion Riders a very safe riding season and may you have great weather all season long!

For God & Country,
Bob Joerg - Commander
SAL Squadron 129



American Legion Post 129



Installation Ceremony



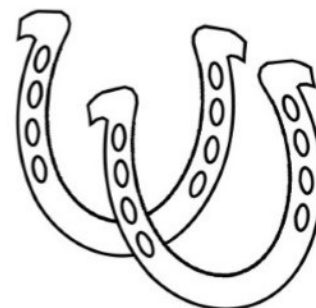
June 4th, 2016
1 PM



All are invited.
Come and meet
your new Officers.



**2016 Horse Shoe League
forming. First meeting May
18, 2016. Play will start after
Memorial Day. Call Michael
Dolan at 908-902-4117**



RIDERS MESSAGE

The new calendar year is starting, and for the first time in several years our executive board will be without Rich Gato as Vice President. Rich declined to run to put some more personal time to his work schedule. His assistance to our organization has been outstanding. He will be missed, but his replacement as Vice President, Rocky Lucia will bring the same work ethic and also bring the Riders on board with his ability to address our events through social media via internet. Joining our board for the first time will be Dan Heulitt for the position of Sergeant at Arms. Dan has been a road captain for the past few years and will be a welcome addition to the board.

Our summer riding season has begun with some midweek lunch rides to different locations on the "warmer" days. On April 17th we will be having our second "bike blessing" by our Chaplain, Mike Schaffer. This is our "kick off" event for what we believe to be a busy riding season. Starting on May 10th our group will be having bike night in the picnic grove on the second Tuesday of each month thru August. Although it is called bike night all American Legion family members are welcomed to come out enjoy the music of Brother S.A.L., members of our own SAL group. Hot dogs, chips, a can of soda for only \$5.00.

On June 5th our Riders will be having our annual fund raiser. This year we will be having a Country Western theme with a Texas style BBQ and the Band Tommy Baz and Bullzeye. Lots of food, water, soda, beer and great music. During this event we will have the ribbon cutting ceremony for our Heroes Monument. A project that has been two years in the making. Weather permitting this

will be the hottest ticket of the summer schedule. (In my humble opinion LOL). Hopefully the following weekend we will see a great turnout for our American Legion parade in Wildwood to represent our American Legion Post and family of Toms River.

For God & Country,
Art Brown



Notify your membership chair if you have a change off address or moved.

American Legion Riders Post 129 Country & Western Texas BBQ

Live Music ★ Dancing ★ BBQ
Sunday, June 5, 2016 ★ 12pm - 5pm

Music By
Tommy Baz and Bullzeye



Proceeds To Benefit Vetwork of Ocean County
Meeting the Immediate and Long-Term Needs of Veterans

\$25.00 Per Person Includes ★ Pulled Pork & Slaw ★ Chili ★ Chicken
Hot Dogs ★ Hamburgers ★ Baked Beans ★ Beer ★ Soda ★ Water

American Legion Post 129

Picnic Grove

2025 Church Road

Toms River, New Jersey

For More Info, Please Call 732-674-5169

Or Visit www.alrpost129.com

Everyone
Welcome

50 / 50
Cash Bar

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

(from page 1)

balanced budget as well. Special thank you to the Budget Committee and the Trustee's. I have seen this Post grow in "Leaps and Bounds". Membership stands at 1672, as of this writing. Thanks Rich Godfrey. We have developed a new "Vetting" system chaired by Mike Schaffer, our Chaplain, Vice Commander and soon to be Commander. This system allows us to check on the legitimacy of donation requests. I wanted to say thank you to Jimmy Smith for his assistance here at the Post. Jim is the owner of Ryan's catering which also handles the snow plowing at our property. His prompt response allowed us to remain open this past winter. Since my first year as Commander, we have seen many changes in the kitchen. As you all know, this is a tough crowd with high expectations. We have changed Chefs and Banquet Managers a few times, but it appears we have

finally found the right combination. Michael Speary, our Culinary Chef de jour has done a remarkable job in the kitchen catering to the whims of many. Kristy MacKown, our very experienced Banquet Manager has done a remarkable job of soliciting new business for our banquet hall. Her decorating talents are evident the second you walk into the room.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Riders. Naturally as a Rider, I have a personal attachment. The Riders under the direction of Art Brown have far exceeded their expectations. Besides the never ending "road trips", the Riders have helped put this Post on the map. They have participated in more charity events then I can think of including the Toms River Fire Department, the Blue Knights, Nam Knights, Marine Corp League, Toys for Tot's, Mission of Honor, Downs Fords Drive-a-thon, Run for the Fallen, Chili and Soup Cook-off, to name a few. Of course we continue to support all of the other Rider Posts, and have continued to raise money for our

Post as well. We will continue with our "Bike Nights" the second Tuesday of the month with live bands.

Don't forget the Rider's BBQ on June 5th. This is also the day of the unveiling of our Heroes Monument in the picnic grove. This project was paid for by selling engraved pavers of veterans at no cost to the Post. Music is being provided by Tommy Baz and Bullzeye, a well known country band. Don't miss this event.

The SAL continues to host various fund raising events at our Post including the Valentines Day Dance and the Army-Navy game. Don't forget Watchfire and the POW/MIA Christmas Tree lighting. They also have a new band made up of SAL members called Brother SAL. Their debut packed the banquet hall and the reviews were staggering. Look for them to perform again on Bike night outside at the Bunker Bar on May 10th at 5pm.

The Auxiliary continues to sponsor events at the Post, including The Victorian Tea, Flea Market, Gift Auctions as well as participating along with other factions of the Post in all of our endeavors, including the POW/MIA tree lighting.

Our Post hosted the State Medal Presentation and the first ever "Hiring our Heroes" in conjunction with the National Chamber of Commerce. We had 62 Veterans offered jobs that day, proving that these events work.

Let us not forget Memorial Day weekend. Saturday, May 28th will be our picnic with music provided by the Fredstones. See the Bar Committee report in this newsletter for details. On Sunday, May 29th we will be honoring our Veterans at the Green Island Clubhouse, specifically Sgt. James



Bernie Crogan is recognized for his 50 years of continuous membership in The American Legion. Commander Rich Gato presents Bernie's certificate at the General Membership meeting of Post 129 on April 4, 2016. Congratulations also to Eugene A. Enfield 50 years; George F. Golden 60 years; Bartley A. Hill 60 years; George W. Carty 70 years; Phylliss Reid 70 years; Arthur L. Wells, Jr. 70 years.



Harvey II. This event will be at 10:00 AM. We will then travel to Ocean County Memorial Park for a service there. Upon completion, all are invited back to our Post for refreshments. On Memorial Day, Monday May 30th, all are asked to march in the parade downtown. The parade kicks off at 9:30 by the Office Lounge. Once again, all are invited back to the Post for lunch.

I wanted to take this opportunity to offer a very special "Atta boy" to my Adjutant Bob Scheiderman. Bob has decided to take a well deserved retirement from his position as Adjutant. He will continue as the Ritual leader. Bob is being replaced (that hardly seems like the right adjective) since we all know Bob can't be replaced. Al Gashler will assume the Adjutants position under the new Commander Mike Schaffer. Al is also the Secretary for the Riders. Bob and Al will work together during this transition period.

I want to take this opportunity to say Congratulations to my friend and the new incoming Commander Michael Schaffer. I trust that you will give him the cooperation that he will need to continue the growth of this Post. The Com-

manders job is a full time job and it can't be done alone. Your Post home is a sanctuary for all Veterans. Many of us are fragile in some way or another. It is important to be nice to one another and work towards the final goal of helping our veterans.

Also Rest in Peace Mike Catalano -we are already missing your hot dogs and home made onions at the meetings.

It's been a great run. I will now assume the position of Head Trustee-Thanks everyone for your support.

Rich Gato
Commander
732-330-2430
P.T.S.D.-NOT ALL WOUNDS
ARE VISIBLE

VETERANS CRISIS HOT LINE

1-800-2 73-8255
Potential suicide and bodily harm
issues

N.J. Vet to Vet Counseling
1-866-838-7 654

CHARIOT RIDERS ACADEMY

...is a non-profit organization Premier accredited PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) International (formerly NARHA).

Therapeutic riding programs have been proven to improve the physical balance, gait and morale of both active military personnel and veterans who may have a variety of disabilities. The Chariot Riders program offers equine activities to military members with disabilities - active duty, reserve or veteran. The Chariot Rider Horses for Heroes program works with a wide range of special needs, including but not limited to, amputations (both upper and lower limbs), paraplegia, traumatic brain injury, visual impairments and post traumatic stress disorder. The Chariot Riders Horses for Heroes program offers mounted and non-mounted activities in either a group or private setting.

Program Requirements:

Applicant must be one of the following:

Military personnel on active duty

Military personnel in the reserves

Veteran of military service.

Applicants must have a documented disability

Applicants must be able to maintain sitting balance unaided.

There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.

Speak with your therapist or physician, or call Chariot Riders directly, 732 657 2710 Ocean County office; 732 938 2819 Monmouth County office



Legion Riders visit a horse farm in Manchester where the Chariot Riders Academy provides an alternative to traditional physical, mental, and emotional healing.



MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP

I would like to say Thank You to all our Legion Members that sent in their dues for 2016.

I am proud to report that we have exceeded last year's membership of 1665. Our Membership is now at 1679, 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 2017 dues. We need all the help that we can get to help support all the great programs that the American Legion does for its Veterans, their Family Members and the Community, and remember.

"Membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion"

Without members there would be no Legion programs and 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. 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.

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 2016-2017. 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

Ocean County

Membership Chairman

POST EVERLASTING



Carl Bodin

John Fawkes

Timothy Regan

Leo cloutier

James Twaddle

James Mendalski

Bill Lauer

John Genna

Carl Hiller Barbara 'Bobbi' Lyons

John Trapanese

Bert Yeareance

Robert Vogel

Daniel Cassidy

Joseph Kaleda

Ronald Cerrachio

Henry Hofstetter Alexander Rossetti, Sr.

Mike Catalano

Deceased Members 2015-2016

Bob Scheiderman, Ritual Chairman

1919 2019



THE AMERICAN LEGION Centennial Celebration

Bob Scheiderman, Adjutant, PPC

I have opened a Post 129 history page at the American Legion National Centennial site. I have posted several pictures from our archives with more to come, the images date to the early formative days of post 129. We will be posting more pictures and time line events as time permits. Please check out our site, it is there for all to see and hopefully admire. Dave Corbin, Past Post Commander, has stepped up to chair our post 'Centennial Celebration Committee', please, anyone interested in helping to plan our One Hundred Year Observance and Celebration contact me at:

knottoday@verizon.net or Dave Corbin at corbin48@verizon.net We will be scheduling an organizational meeting in the near future. We are particularly interested in information from our older members, often they are a gold mine of information.

Visit Our Site At

American Legion National Centennial Website:

centennial.legion.org

1919 2019



American legion national has charged all American Legion posts to celebrate the One-Hundredth anniversary of the American Legion. The 100th national convention, in August 2018 will kick-off a 15 month commemoration to honor the legion's first century of service to our veterans and head us into the second century. The 100th convention will be held in Minneapolis MN, site of the first National convention in November 1919. Activities will be

held at national, department and post levels through the National Convention in 2019, the celebrations will culminate on Veterans' Day 2019.

Post 129 is looking forward to this centennial celebration, we will be 100 years old in October 2019. Past Commander Dave Corbin has volunteered to chair the committee and we are in need of volunteers to help plan our centennial activities. Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American legion and Riders Chapter 129 are invited to a meeting to be announced soon. Ideas may be addressed to Dave Corbin, Bob & Darlene Scheiderman and Al Kopec, we need more members and ideas. All members wishing to help out and serve on the committee will be welcome.

Dave Corbin, Chairman

ATTENTION LEGIONNAIRES

Al Gashler is in the process of collecting e-mail addresses to be used in the future for the dissemination of information pertaining to Post business via e-mail. If you are interested send an e-mail to Al at:

algashler@verizon.net



PATRIOTIC QUIZ NO. 2

1. What American commander-in-chief wore the uniform of a private in his army when he accepted the surrender of an enemy general?
2. What American poet was forced to resign a government position because his writings were

regarded as obscene?

3. What is the largest State east of the Mississippi River?

4. What armed conflict did the United States wage without making a formal declaration of war or signing a treaty of peace?

5. What President was criticized for going fishing on Memorial Day?

Answers next issue

Answers to last issue quiz...

1. Robert E. Lee, superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point from 1852 to 1855 and commander-in-chief of the Confederate forces in the Civil War, became president of Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, shortly after the war and served until his death in 1870.

2. The purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000 in 1867 through a treaty negotiated by William H Seward, Secretary of State, was characterized at the time as "Seward's Folly."

3. The highest percentage of casualties ever sustained by American troops was in the Battle of Little Big Horn, in what is now the state of Montana, on June 25 1876, when General George A. Custer and a detachment consisting of a third of the Seventh United States Cavalry (265 in all) were wiped out by the Sioux Indians. Curley, a half-breed scout accompanying Custer, was the only survivor.

4. The Russo-Japanese War of 1904 was formally ended by the Treaty of Portsmouth, signed in the New Hampshire city. It was on the initiative of President Roosevelt that the two nations conducted the negotiations.

5. Horace Greeley, candidate for President on the Democratic and Independent Republican tickets in 1872, died on November 29th of that year, twenty-four days after his defeat at the polls.

Quizzes are reprinted from the American Legion Magazine circa 1920.

BobS











MAY: From the Roman goddess of growth, Maia.

Birthstone

May 2016

Emerald

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---------|--|--|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 General Mtg. 7:00PM  | 3 | 4 | 5 BINGO  | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Happy Mother's Day Ladies VE Day 1945 | 9 Legion Aux. Mtg. 7:00PM  | 10 | 11  SAL Mtg. 7:00PM | 12 BINGO  | 13 Navy Nurse Corp. 1908 | 14 |
| 15 Peace Officers Memorial Day | 16 Board/Trustee Mtg. 7:00PM | 17 | 18 Mt. Saint Helens Erupts 1980 | 19 BINGO  | 20 | 21 Armed Forces Day Full Flower Moon |
| 22 | 23  Riders Mtg. 7:00PM | 24 | 25 | 26 BINGO  | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 1st National Memorial Day 1868 | 31 | Over all our happy country - over all our Nation spread, Is a band of noble heroes - is our Army of the Dead. <i>Will Carleton</i> | | | |

Memorial Day Parade, May 30th: The 82nd Memorial Day Parade, steps off from Highland Parkway at 09:30. Come-on Out!

MAY ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY MAY 6TH THE TRUE TONES
SATURDAY MAY 7TH JEFF LAKATA

FRIDAY MAY 13TH THE DEE CEE'S
SATURDAY MAY 14TH JERSEY GIRLS

FRIDAY MAY 20TH THE CROSSTONES
SATURDAY MAY 21ST BRIAN SMALLWOOD

FRIDAY MAY 27TH
WHO ARE YOU GUYS?

SATURDAY MAY 28TH

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC
FEATURING THE FREDSTONES
IN THE PICNIC GROVE



SATURDAY MAY 28TH PHIL CENICOLA
FROM THE STREETHEARTS
IN THE CANTEEN






JUNE: From the goddess of women, marriages and childbirth and wife of Jupiter, Juno.

Birthstone



June 2016

Pearl Moonstone

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|----------|---|---|
| | "If God had meant for us to be in the Army, we would have been born with green baggy skin" | | 1 | 2 B | 3 | 4 Installation Ceremony 1 PM All Invited |
| 5 Riders Texas BBQ  | 6 General Mtg. 7:00PM D-Day 1944 | 7  | 8 SAL Mtg. 7:00PM  | 9 I | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 Legion Aux. Mtg. 7:00PM  | 14 US ARMY 1775 Flag Day | 15 | 16 N | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Happy Father's Day Full Strawberry Moon | 20 Board/Trustee Mtg. 7:00PM Summer Begins | 21 | 22 | 23 G | 24 | 25 Korean War Begins 1950 "Custer's last stand" 1876 |
| 26 | 27 Riders Mtg. 7:00PM  | 28 | 29 | 30 O | They've got us surrounded again, the poor bastards. Gen. Creighton W. Abrams | |

The US ARMY was founded on 14 June 1775, the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of riflemen to serve the United Colonies, "for one year".

JUNE ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY JUNE 3RD THE TRUE TONES

SATURDAY JUNE 4TH THE KOKOMO'S
INDOOR BEACH PARTY
PRIZES FOR THE BEST
HAWAIIAN SHIRT

FRIDAY JUNE 10TH "THE HAPPENINGS"
APPEARING AT THE GONDOLIER HOTEL
FOR THE CONVENTION IN WILDWOOD

FRIDAY JUNE 10TH "HE SAID, SHE SAID"
IN THE CANTEEN

SATURDAY JUNE 11TH JERSEY GIRLS

FRIDAY JUNE 17TH THE DEE CEE'S

SATURDAY JUNE 18TH THE MANGO'S

FRIDAY JUNE 24TH THE HAPPENINGS

SATURDAY JUNE 25TH PHIL CENICOLA
OF STREETHEARTS FAME



CANTEEN NEWS

Eric Inauen

Spring has sprung! How do we know? The Bunker is OPEN. At the Canteen, when the Bunker is closed, it is winter. When it is open, it is spring, summer and fall. Even if there are icicles hanging off their noses, to the Bunker Faithful, winter is only a memory.

Last year we made so many improvements to our Bunker Bar and Picnic Area, they are too numerous to list. With that being said, some may say that there is nothing more to improve. Push the "wrong buzzer" and say wrong again.

The inside of the Bar has been painted. We have added a Coca-Cola soda system and soda gun. No more cases of soda cans all over the place. A platform has been built for our outside entertainment. Eagle Scouts have built over ten more picnic tables for our picnics and outside events. We plan on replacing the chairs at the Bunker. Joe, Sgt. Major, also has installed a foot rail, and security cameras are in the plans.

The Riders have expanded their Tuesday Bike Nights to include May, June, July and August. That's right, Bike and Antique Car Night will be held on the 1st Tuesday of the month. Members of our SAL, Rocky and Tommy Lucia, Dan Curran and Rob Riehl have formed a new band called "BROTHER S.A.L." These guys are unbelievable, and we are extremely proud of them. The Brother S.A.L. will be performing live at all of our Bike Nights. So stop by and check them out.

Wednesday Night is Horse Shoe Night. For information about our horse shoe league, contact Trustee Mike "the painter" Dolan.

Indoors, in the Canteen, more and

more Members and their Guests have been flocking daily. Our weekend entertainment is second to none in Ocean County. As a matter of fact, it is not even close. Commander Rich Gato, has said, that along with the great entertainment already performing at the Canteen, Bands and DJ's are calling to play here. Why? It is because of you, our Members, who appreciate great music, great food and great beverages and unbelievable prices. Rich continues to book the True Tones, Dee Cee's Cross Tones, the Mangos, Jersey Girl, Phil Cencola, and Jeff Lakata. Bob Kulik from the "Happenings" played to a packed house twice on Saturday Nights. New entertainment being booked by Rich includes The Fredstones, Remember When, Chris Daniels and the Proof and the DJ Lou Light Show.



LADIES NIGHT! Not to be out done by the Bunker, the Canteen has instituted every Thursday Night as Ladies Night. All drinks for the ladies will be ½ (half) price. As usual, guys dressed in drag will still pay full price.

MOTHERS' DAY BRUNCH. On Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 8th, between 11 AM and 3 PM, Ryan's Catering will be serving its Mothers' Day Brunch in the Hall. Call the Canteen for Reservations.

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC. Our Annual Memorial Day Picnic will be held on Saturday, May 28th, from Noon to 5 PM. Our rain date will be Sunday. Tickets are \$15. If you buy your tickets 5 days in ad-

vance, you will get a one (1) free beverage ticket to be used at the Bunker. Members buying their tickets in advance help us when estimating how much food we need to order, and we thank you. Entertainment will be provided by the Fredstones from 1PM to 5 PM.

Our American Legion Riders will be hosting a Country & Western Texas BBQ, on Sunday, June 5th, from Noon to 5 PM. Music will be provided by TOMMY BAZ and BULLZEYE. Proceeds will benefit Vetwork of Ocean County, who meet the long term needs of our Veterans. Tickets are \$25 per person, and includes pulled pork and slaw, chili, chicken, hot dogs, burgers, baked beans, draft beer, soda and water. If you need more information, call 732-674-5169, or visit www.alrpost129.com.

The Canteen opens at 11 AM, seven days a week. Ryan's Catering also offers a hot and cold menu, along with food specials seven days a week. Our Bartenders, Bernice, Duke, Warren, Robin, Lori, Joe (Sgt. Major), Gabriella, Nikki, Danielle and Joe Kelly are always happy to serve you. Closing times may vary depending on the amount of Members in the Bar, bad weather, etc. On Friday and Saturday Nights, last call is at midnight. Closing time is at 12:30 AM.

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

BINGO

.....every Thursday. Doors open at 5 PM—play starts at 7 PM.

**Progressive
Refreshments served**

50/50 - Mystery Prizes

AUXILIARY MESSAGE

Spring greetings to all. At the April Unit meeting, the following officers were elected as written in the Unit By-Laws.

President: Patricia Corbin
 1 Vice President: Pamela Bowen
 2 Vice President: Paula Harpe
 Treasurer: Carol Rutzler
 Historian: Patricia Terrell
 Sgt. at Arms: Dotty Abercombie
 Chaplain: Jane Keeley

The appointed position of Unit Secretary is now open. Any member with interest in the position should contact the Unit President by May 31. Details and obligations will be provided when interviewed. President's phone number is 732-349-9241.

The Unit has 100%+ membership has of April 12, 2016. Congratulations to our members. A special thank you to membership chairman Laurinda Miller.

Kudos to Ways-n-Means (Gift Auction) chairman Bernice Cloos, for a successful fundraiser.

Donations from Unit members throughout the year, donations gathered from community vendors and the effort put forth by so many volunteers made the event outstanding. (Dotty you can rest now).

We encourage all members to join us on this wonderful adventure. We look forward to your input. Your involvement is needed to continue with the ALA programs. Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 7PM in the main hall.

Upcoming events:
 Ocean County Convention
 May 7, 2016
 11:00am Registration
 Post 129

Department of New Jersey Convention

(continued page 12)

POST EVERLASTING



Henry Hofstetter, 91, US Navy, WWII
 Alexander Rossetti, Sr., 90, US Navy, WWII
 Gene Muller, 76, US Coast Guard Retired
 Allen Detwiler, 82, US Coast Guard Retired
 Jim Duckworth, PPC, 68, US Navy, Vietnam
 Mike Catalano, 73, US Army

Bob Scheiderman, Ritual Chairman

This is a second bus and the dates are different than the first bus.

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22 - 26, 2016

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

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

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

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

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

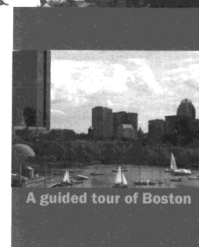
Day 5: Today, after enjoying Continental Breakfast, you depart for home... a perfect time to chat with your friends about all the fun things you have done, the great sights you have seen, and where your next group trip will take you!

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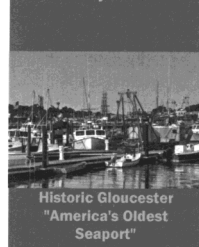
Darlene Scheiderman @ (732) 341-7462



A guided tour of Boston



JFK Library & Museum

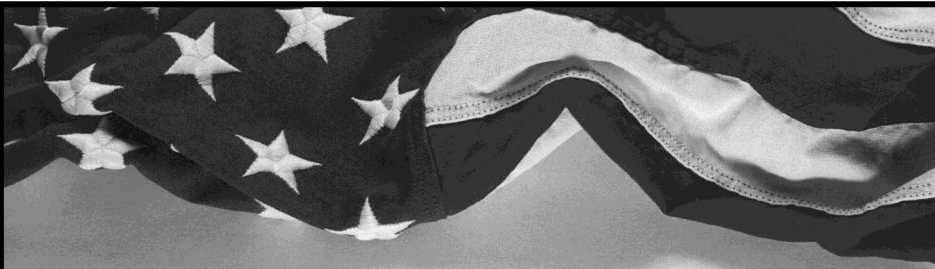



Historic Gloucester
 "America's Oldest Seaport"



Faneuil Hall Marketplace

The Blessing of the Bikes at Post 129 officiated by Chaplain Michael Schaffer on April 17, 2016. A total of 167 Riders were welcome to the Post coming from American Legion Posts through out the state.



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AMERICAN LEGION
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MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

MONDAY, MAY 30TH, 2016

The George P. Vanderveer Post 129 of the American Legion
 will observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 30th with our

82ND ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

IN TOMS RIVER

Parade Assembly begins at 9:00 a.m. | Parade Step-Off at 9:30 a.m.

Parade route begins at Highland Parkway at Main Street
 and proceeds south to Toms River Town Hall for Ceremonies

*The Officers and Members of Post 129 invite all patriotic, civic and service organizations,
 Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies and Cub Scouts,
 church groups and citizens of Ocean County to join them in this tribute
 to our departed comrades and those who serve around the world today.*

Email knottoday@verizon.net for more information

AUXILIARY MESSAGE

(from page 11)

June 9, 10, 2016
 Wildwood, New Jersey

It has been a pleasure interacting with the members of Unit 129 for this fiscal year 2015-2016. Our second year together should be just as pleasurable.

For God and Country
 Unit President, Patricia Corbin
 (Adventure is the Spice of Life)

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

Membership has been a huge success for 2016. I want to thank all Auxiliary members for making this happen. Our goal was reached for the 5th year in a row making Unit # 129 over the top once again.

We still have many unpaid dues to fulfill so please submit as soon as possible. If you have not received a renewal notice, contact me at 732-272-7552. Many Auxiliary members have brought this to my attention when I have called them. Thank you, once again, for ALL your support. You are **"Keeping Us Strong"**.

Laurinda Miller
Membership Chairman



SOUNDOFF

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

PUBLISHED...

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

DEADLINE...

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

soundoff.al.post129@outlook.com

or via U.S. mail to:

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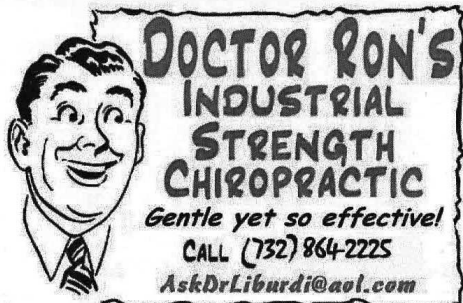


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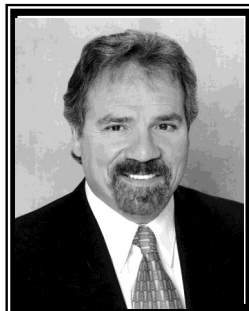
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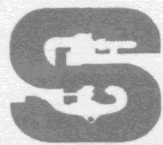
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