

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

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Construction in the hall is completed. The wall is secured, and the hall is renovated, we have received many compliments on the newly decorated hall.

September was a busy month. We had Sail Fest in Island Heights, followed by our own 9-11. The ceremony was well attended in spite of the weather. My thanks to the Silverton Fire Department for attending and raising the American Flag off their ladder truck. We acknowledge and appreciate all those who spoke of their experiences on that Day. We thank Thunder 106 for their support. After the Honor Guard fired, we presented the empty shells to all presenters as well as the Thunder 106 crew.

We attended the SAL Watch

Fire in Seaside for the remembrance of our POW/MIA. (Lest we forget)

Saturday, September 23 was the Run for the Fallen, stormy weather, drenching rain, and cold, in true military tradition the runners persevered. When the runners stopped at the Post for their Salute for our Fallen Heroes, we had a number of members taking part in the Salute. Finished for the day, the runners came into the Post to dry off and have a hot meal.

On Friday evening September 29 we dedicated the hall. In attendance were the crew from IS Construction, Ocean County Officers, 2 NEC's with their wives, Auxiliary Officers, SAL Officers, Post Officers, members and guests.

October 7, we had a book signing, Author John A Siegried, wrote A Wolf Remembered, The New Agent Orange, and No Greater Love. No Greater Love is a book about Micharl Crescenz for who we have a memorial wall in the Canteen.

The Post is always looking for new members and members to volunteer. Bingo, house, general cleaning, legal, grant writing, making phone calls, etc.

Only you can make this Post the envy of Ocean County. If you have the time keep your Post in mind.

Ralph Moranz Commander





September 5, 2023 General Meeting, Tammy E. Gericke, from Joint Base MDL, representing the 108th Wing, is awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for the donation the 108th Wing made to Post 129 in memory of Patrick Leogrande.

FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/groups/post129/

WEBSITE: https://alpost129.org/

I hope that this issue of our SOUNDOFF finds our Legion Family in good Spirit and Health. The leaves are changing and before we know it the holidays are right around the corner. As you know our 2024 membership year started on July 1st, and our goal for this year is 1485. As of October 10th, we are at 893 paid to date and 60.1% of our goal. We are in sixth place in the Department of New Jersey and need 652 more members to help make our 100% goal this year. Thank you to all the Early Birds that have sent in their dues so far. We will be having our drawing for the three lucky *Early Birds* that will win a free Membership for next vear, 2025, at our December meeting. Good Luck to all that participated.

As the holidays get closer our membership slows down, I am asking all our Legionnaires to please send in their dues. We need all the help that we can get to continue to make our goals and to help support all the great programs that the American Legion does for its Veterans, their family members, and the community where we live.

I am asking our Legion Family to continue to reach out to our fellow legionnaires to see if they are okay and if they need any help or just to give words of encouragement during these trying times. It is called Buddy Check, and it is what we do. Veterans taking care of Veterans and their Families.

As Past National Commander Vincent "Jim" Troiola stated, as the military issues change, so does THE AMERICAN LEGION. While the Legion continues to celebrate its past, it does so by also marching toward an evolving future. Discovering ways to stay relevant and add even greater value to the lives of younger Veterans. One thing that has not changed is the Legion's dedication to addressing the toughest challenges facing veterans and their families. Veteran suicide may be the biggest challenge yet, but anyone can "Be the One" to help save just one Veteran.

Let us all pledge to "**BE THE ONE**"!

Stay Safe, be Well and as a Legion Family we can accomplish important things remember Membership is the Lifeblood of The American Legion.

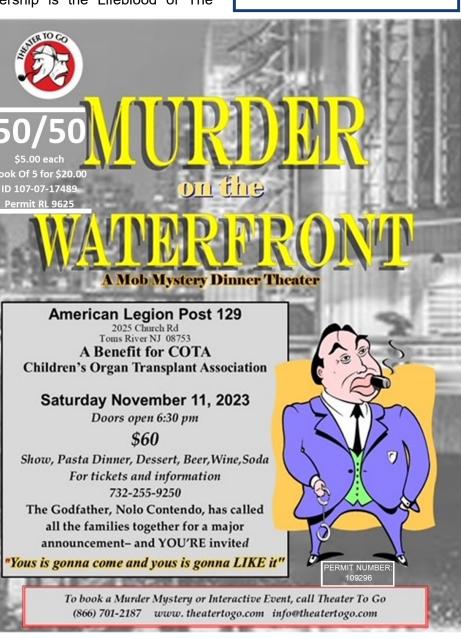
In closing I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. God Bless America

MERICAN

EGION

LET'S ALL BE THE ONE

For God and Country Rich Godfrey Department of New Jersey Membership Chair PDVC



American Legion Post 129

AUXILIARY MESSAGE

I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather and looking forward to the pumpkin spice season. As we are getting ready for the fall and the upcoming events at the Post, I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

We have our Craft & Vendor Fair coming up in November and our chairperson Laurinda Miller is off to a great start with many vendors coming back for another successful year. Laurinda is also selling Lawn signs. If you are interested reach out to Laurinda for more information.

Ladies, I am addressing this matter to you as it is very important for our membership. Our membership Chairperson is Mary Lindsey, and her address is 288 Barbados Dr. No. Toms River, NJ 08757 you can send your membership directly to her and she will take care of your new card. Make checks or money orders out to ALA Unit 129. Please do not mail CASH.

The week of October 16th through October 21st is BUDDY CHECK week. Please check on any veterans you may know and see how they are doing. Just hearing a friendly voice on the phone or at their door can make a world of difference to them. This also goes out to a friend or neighbor or even family. Just a phone call, like I said, can make a huge difference.

For some of our Auxiliary members who are having difficulties getting to our meetings I will be looking to start up a zoom meeting so that you can be able to attend our monthly meetings and hear all that is going on and know what will be coming up. You may even have ideas that you would be able to share with the **SOUNDOFF**



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Junior Member Brooke Brotherston, along with her Soccer Team, Lacey Wildcats, collected 82 pounds of can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Awesome job Wildcats! – *Laurinda Miller*

unit. Every little bit helps. I will have the zoom information shared out by our email correspondent ahead of our monthly meeting so you will be able to attend the meeting. One way or another we will try to share with you what we are doing for our veterans, our community, and our youth.

For God & Country Pam Bowen Unit President





RIDERS MESSAGE

Greetings Post 129 Family

The Riders have had a Great time joining the Corn Hole games on Tuesday Nights by the Bunker Bar. A huge thank you to Dale for leading the Corn Hole games. We enjoyed everyone's friendship. Also, a super shoutout to Joe in The Bunker Bar for all his kindness in serving our beverages. Joe, you are AWESOME! Thank you!

Attendance is always increasing during weekly rides thru the Pines for breakfast. What a Great time!

The Sock Hop is the Riders next Fundraising Opportunity for the Post. See your Friendly Bartender in the Canteen for your ticket purchase or tickets are also available at alrpost129.com on PayPal.

Riders..... Remember to renew your membership dues for your Legion, Sons, or Auxiliary Membership. Also, please reach out to your Rider Membership Chairman Mike Dorick for your Rider Membership 2024 renewal. Enjoy your Holidays!

For God & Country God Bless

Cliff Johnson Director American Legion Riders Post 129



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





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





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SAL MESSAGE

Hello everyone!

Where did the summer go?! Now that the fall and holiday season is upon us, we will be keeping busy in our SAL Squadron. Once we receive our permit, we will be raffling off a 65" Smart TV. Tickets will be on sale starting within a couple weeks. We usually have a good response to TV sales and it's nice calling the winner and the excitement that goes with it. We will be pulling the winning ticket on December 9th during the Army/ Navy game party.

Speaking of upcoming events, we will be running our annual POW/MIA Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 2nd at 7:00 pm. This is a nice solemn ceremony remembering our POW/ MIA's.

Also, on Saturday, December 9th, we will be running our annual Army/Navy game party in the canteen. We will be running 50/50 and a gift auction with some good stuff to raffle off. The game starts at 3 pm. This is always a fun day!



As a side note, the Brother SAL band will be playing the closing of the Bunker Bar party. This will be on Sunday, October 29th. Let's close up the Bunker with a good fun time!

Looking ahead, we will be running our annual Valentine's Comedy Show in February. More about this event as well as date and time will be in the next SOUNDOFF.

SOUNDOFF

2024 membership cards are moving. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so. Retention of our members and membership in general, is very important to our Squadron. You can pay your dues at the Post, mail in a check to the Post or pay online at <u>http://</u><u>www.salpost129.com</u>. NOTE: this website is for SAL renewals ON-LY. Not Legion, Auxiliary or Riders. If you know anyone eligible to join our great Squadron, please let us know and we'll be happy to sign them up.

Finally, I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

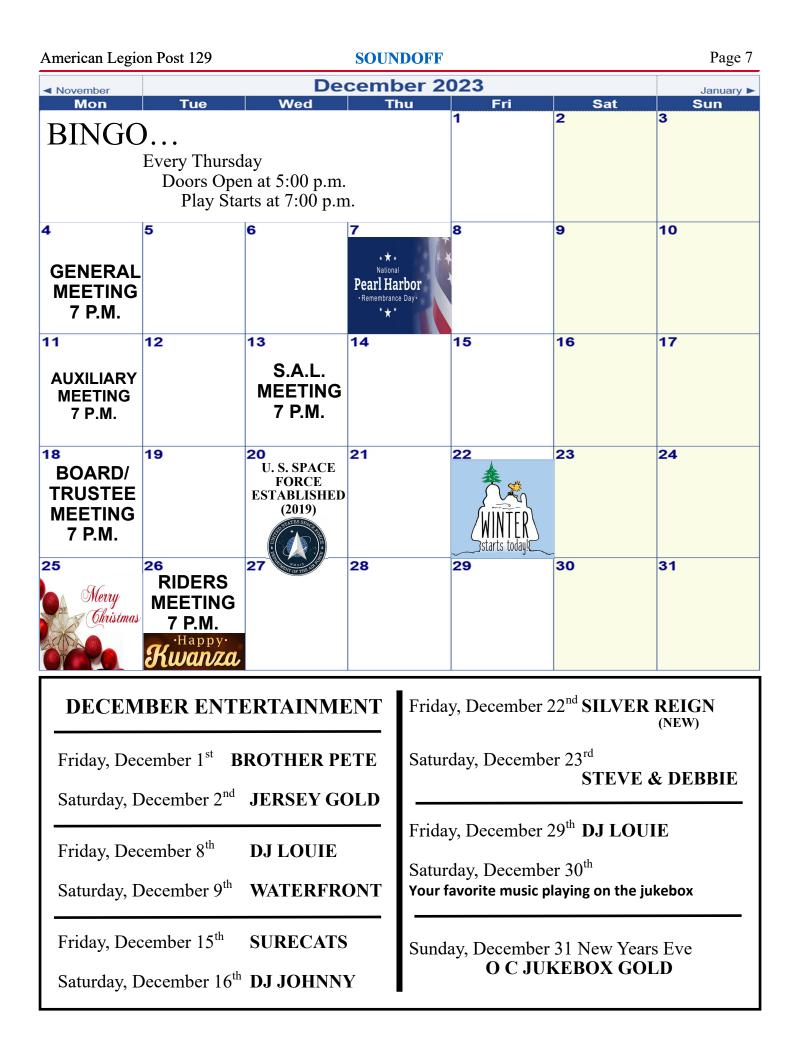
For God & Country,

Joe Rutzler Commander, SAL Squadron 129





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| Friday, November 10 th DJ JOHNNY BE SURE TO CHECK FOR LAST MINUTE CHANGES AND/OR CANCELLATIONS. UPDATED FLYERS ARE POSTED IN THE CANTEEN | Saturday, November 4 th JERSEY GOLD Friday, November 24 th LENNY DAVIS | | | | | | | | |
| Entertainment is scheduled from 7 to 10 p.m. Time. Venue, and band subject to change. | | | | | | BE SURE TO CHECK FOR LAST MINUTE CHANGES AND/OR CANCELLATIONS. UPDATED FLYERS ARE POSTED IN THE CANTEEN | | | |



CANTEEN NEWS Ed Rutzler-Eric Inauen

As the days get shorter and the nights get chillier, we know we are heavy into Fall and preparing for Winter. Another telltale sign are the acorns raining down on the Bunker Bar roof. All outdoor activities have stopped or relocated inside.

The Canteen and our newly renovated Hall is scheduled for a lot of great events. Chef Mike Speary, of Ryan's Catering, has updated the Canteen Menu and continues to post different daily specials.

CORN HOLE: will be played Wednesday Nights in the Hall. Dale Hugo is always looking for players. So, stop by and talk to Dale or Shea, our Wednesday Night Bartender, for more information.



SOCK-HOP: On Friday, November 10th, from 7 to 10PM, the Riders will be hosting their first Sock Hop in the Hall. The entertainment will be by DJ Louie. You can leave your shoes on. Tickets are \$25 and include Burgers, Hot Dogs, Fries and "Ice Cream Floats." There will be trophies for the Twist and Jitter Bug contests and best 50's Look. This event is open to the public.

VETERANS' DAY: This year Veterans' Day, November 11th, is on a Saturday. Parade Participants will be meeting behind the Office Lounge (Rte. 37 and Main Street). Step off time is 9:45AM. The DAV Trailer will be there if you cannot march and still want to participate. We will be celebrating in the Canteen after the parade. Everyone is welcome.

MURDER MYSTERY: Post 129 will be having a Murder Mystery, entitled MURDER on the WA-TERFRONT, on November 11th, at 6:30PM, in the Hall. Tickets are \$60 and include the Show, Pasta Dinner, Dessert, Beer, Wine & Soda. Tickets can be purchased at the Canteen. This event is open to the public,

All proceeds from the Murder Mystery will go to COTA (Children's Organ Transplant Association). Your donation goes toward our local children and is tax deductible.

<u>CRAFT FAIR</u>: The Auxiliary will be holding its Holiday Vendor Craft Fair on Saturday, November 25th, from 10AM to 3PM, in the Hall.

POW-MIA TREE LIGHTING: Our POW-MIA Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, December 2nd, at 7PM, in the Hall. Admission is free and there will be food and refreshments. This is the day that we honor and remember our POW-MIA's.



ARMY-NAVY GAME: This year's ARMY-NAVY Game will take place on Saturday, December 9th, at 2PM, in the Canteen. If you attended last year, you witnessed the first double overtime in the

game's history. Every year, this event is sponsored by the SAL (Sons of the American Legion) and is always a lot of fun. A Smart TV will be raffled off, along with NFL Game Jerseys and other prizes. Lori, Danielle and Shea will be your bartenders. So, come on out and support the SAL and root for your favorite team.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY: This year's New Year's Eve Party will be held in the Hall. Jukebox Gold will be providing the entertainment. The festivities start at 8PM and end at 1AM. Tickets are \$85 and there will be a cash bar. There will be a dinner buffet and tons of hor d'oeuvres Coffee and dessert will be served at the end of the night, along with a pork roll egg and cheese sandwich to take home. This is a semi-formal event. Sorry guys, no shorts, or flip flops.

Tickets will go on sale after November 12th. Carol Rutzler will be at the Post every Tuesday and Thursday Nights for you to purchase tickets. You can call her at 732-978-0716.

Our bartenders will be serving Post 129's own drink specials during the Holidays. Our Pumpkin Potion and Candy Cane Martini's, along with our Mistletoe Margaritas are on the menu. There may be more since our bartenders are very creative. Thank you, Robin, Lori, Danielle, Shea, Rocky, Carol Ann, Donna, Joe and Eric for being the best in the State.

NOTICE: THE POST WILL BE CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS DAY.

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



American Legion Post 129

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER Tom, Kraszewski

We all have days where we feel down for any number of reasons and just seem to get quiet or want to be alone because no one understands our situation!

It is not always good to be alone at times like that unless you are trying to reflect on how you can better address this situation. even then someone to listen is always a great way to have an opinion that might just be what you or I need to hear to better address our present dilemma.



None of us have all the answers for our lives and the situations that tend to present themselves at the most "oh no" times. Just try not to say what could be worse! I have done that and lo and behold I have found out just what could be worse!

This is where we really need to reach out to someone we trust to hear us out and just be there. Not to even give us any feedback at all but just to listen. Do you have a friend like that?

This is not a plug for the VA. however there are psychologists who we can see and voice our displeasure and get positive feedback on same! **SOUNDOFF**



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

| PUBLISHED | 6 times per year for the next issue (January-February 2024) | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| SUBMISSIONS | is December 15. can be emailed to: | | | | | |
| | Soundoff.al.post129@outlook.com or via U.S. mail to: Al Harbord, 1038 Audubon Drive, Toms River, NJ 08753. | | | | | |
| ON LINE AT | https://alpost129.org/soundoff-newsletter/ | | | | | |
| ERRORS AND OMMISSIONS | My dog did it. | | | | | |
| NEW SOUNDOFF ADVERTISING PRICE SCHEDULE: | | | | | | |

These are for 6 months only starting in Jan. 2024:

FOR INSIDE LAST PAGE ONLY: Premium Single Card \$125.00 Premium Double Card \$162.50 Premium Half Page \$300.00

FOR ALL OTHER ADS: Value Single Card \$87.50 Value Double Card \$125.00 Value Half Page \$200.00

All advertising inquires should be addressed to: Gerd Trommer, Advertising Manager at gtrommer@msn.com

Maybe go to breakfast or lunch with a buddy and when he or she says, "so how are you really doing," let um have it! Only joking but I may have done that in the past myself but at least I paid for breakfast! Did I make you laugh! Good! If I did not, you may really need to go out with a friend!

Scripture tells us that we all have a cross to bear! Not one of us is exempt from hard times! The good news is that God is always there for you and me! The one thing he cannot do is fail us! I can fail you and vice versa but not the one who created us! He gave his life for all of us! No one took his life! He freely laid it down for us.

Just a reminder that I know that I do not have all the answers and I realize that more and more each new day. However, I am always available to pray with you for guidance and help. If I do not answer, please leave me a message with your phone number and I will get back to you as you are my brothers and sisters, and I am blessed to be your chaplain. I do not know why my thoughts landed this way today, however thanks once again for taking the time to read this section and go in peace.



LEGION BETTEONE

HELP US STOP VETERAN SUICIDE

FINANCE OFFICER MESSAGE

At the Height of the Pandemic, more than Half of People aged 16 and Over Helped Neighbors, 23% Formally Volunteered.

Nearly 51% of the U.S. population aged 16 and over, or 124.7 million people, informally helped their neighbors between September 2020 and 2021 at the height of the pandemic, according to the latest Volunteering and Civic Life in American research released in January.

Danielle DiBenedetto

In response to a separate question, more than 23% of people in that age group, or 60.7 million, said they formally volunteered through an organization during the same we period.

Conducted by the U.S. and AmeriCorps, the 2021 data show trends in formal volunteering, informal helping, and other civic behaviors nationally, at the state level, and within the 12 largest metro areas.

The research reveals that despite the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. population continues to serve each other and their communities- giving



their time and talent to help others at a time of unprecedented need.

I tell you the above so that we will all understand that volunteers offer crucial support during times of crisis and times of peace. Volunteerism is also a benefit to the volunteers themselves as it improves their mental and physical health.

People the world over engage in volunteerism for a great variety of reasons: But with one goal, to help their fellow man. Volunteerism also forms the backbone of many national and international organizations and other civil society organizations like our American Legion Post 129.

When it comes down to it, the big question is why we are always in need of folks to help out. At a meeting the other night I watched one of our vice-commanders ask (practically beg) for volunteers to do a simple task, watch the front door. He was asking for only 2 hours of their time and no one stepped up. The shame is that everyone missed their opportunity to do something good because that opportunity was dressed in coveralls, and it looked like work. Next time. I hope you feel that tapping and be one of those 51%.

POST 129 FINANCIALS

The hall is finished and what a fabulous place it is. One of the best things from a finance officer's perspective is that it was completed under budget. Thanks to Paul and the construction committee.

We received two grants. One from Carol Forke, who to date has donated north of sixty thousand dollars, and another grant from the state via the American Rescue Plan granted our Post \$10,000 to help with the renovation and other updates.

Respectfully Submitted Ralph Wolff Finance Officer



The American Legion, Post 129, 2025 Church Road, Toms River, New Jersey 08753

Volunteers are always welcome. It takes many people to keep this Post open and as great as it is. Contact **Commander Ralph Moranz** and become part of the team and the many Committees.



iliary can all help by volunteering. FAMILY

EGIO

MERICAN

YOUR POST NEEDS YOU!



AMERICAN LEGION POST 129

T-SHIRT \$25.00 LEGION **LEGION**

Buy one, wear it proudly, and get ONE FREE DRAFT BEER, (Coors Light, Miller Light, Bud, Bud Lite, or Pabst), in the Canteen every Monday from July 2023 to July 2024!



Ask any bartender to get your shirt from the Canteen.









SOUNDOFF GEORGE P. VANDERVEER AMERICAN LEGION POST 129 (Established 1919) 2025 CHURCH ROAD TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08753 732-255-9250 NON-PROFIT U.S.POSTAGE PAID TOMS RIVER, NJ 08754 PERMIT NO. 71





