



SOUND OFF

January-February 2024

ESTABLISHED
AMERICAN
LEGION
1919

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

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

November was a very busy month. On Thursday, November 9th the Post participated in the Ocean County Veterans Day Ceremony.

The next day, November 10th, the Riders held their first Sock Hop. Those who attended had ice cream floats, hamburgers, hot dogs and French fries. Competitions were held for the best dressed 50's attire, hula hoops, and dancing just to name a few while a photographer caught the fun moments. The dance was a huge success. Great Job.

Veterans Day, November 11, was another action-packed day. The Post marched in the Ocean County Veterans Day parade in Toms River. The crowd this year was larger than past years as were the participants. Town Hall had the usual speakers but this year the crowd was treated to a fly over.

After the parade the Post held a Veterans Day Ceremony at our flagpole. Ocean County Commissioner Joe Vacari and Toms River Mayor Mo Hill placed the wreath by the flagpole whilst dignitaries from JBMDL were in attendance.

That evening we had a Murder Mystery Dinner in the Post Hall which was a fund raiser for COTA. U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., the Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs attended

along with Phil Zimmerman, Veterans Service Officer. All enjoyed the show but if you missed it, we are planning another. Stay tuned.

We were invited to attend a Veterans Day breakfast at the Indian School in Holmdel. Each Veteran went to a classroom to talk about their military service.

The Auxiliary held their Thanksgiving Day Dinner for the Paramus, Edison, and Vineland Veterans Home. One thing they were not lacking in was help. The Riders were on board. During the Veterans from the various homes stay they were entertained by both groups, the Auxiliary, and the Riders. There was a performance by a group of Auxiliary members

singing CCR Rolling Down the River and a solo by one of the Riders. Goodie bags were handed to the Veterans when they returned to their buses as they all left with a smile on their faces.

December was another busy month. I was invited to speak at the Ocean County Commissioners meeting. Also in attendance was First Vice Commander Gerd Trommer, Bill Schmit and Ralph Wolff. I spoke to the Commissioners of the importance the Cathedral of the Air is to The American Legion and fellow Veterans. We believe it should be a National Historical Site. I also spoke about Pearl Harbor being forgotten in the schools. Soon the younger generation will

(continued page 2)



Vetnetwork presents a plaque to Commander Ralph Moranz for Post 129's support of their organization. Picture via Gerd Trommer

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

not know that was the start of WWII. Along the same line I spoke about the USS Pueblo, a navy boat seized by North Korea, and still being held today. My fellow legion members gave their support on our stand.

The SAL held the annual POW/MIA Christmas Tree lighting. It was attended by Ocean County Commissioner Joe Vicari and his wife along with Captain Howell and his wife from JBMDL.

The SAL also hosted the Army/Navy Game. They raffled off a 65 inch TV.

During the month of December there were many Christmas Parties booked. The Bule Knights made a much-appreciated donation to the Post.

Gold Star Mothers and the Auxiliary held their annual Childrens Christmas Party. Shea and Danielle along with other members of their committee worked hard at making it a success.

We were also busy making improvements to your Post. Solar lights were installed on the outside of the Canteen building. We had an electrician in to replace the bulbs in the parking lot with LED.

The sidewalk in front of the building was repaired. The rear will be done in the spring. I want to thank Past Commander Pete Chafatelli for heading this project. To accomplish these upgrades takes a lot of man hours and money.

In order to make this Post the envy of Ocean County we need you. It takes members to volunteer their spare time. There is a lot one can volunteer for. Ranging

from making phone calls to members, house cleaning, house maintenance, setting up the hall for events, accounting skills, grant writing, electrical, general maintenance, just to list a few. If

you can spare the time, keep your Post in mind.

I wish you all a Happy, Healthy, New Year.

Ralph Moranz – Commander
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Post 129



December 7, Remembering Pearl Harbor at Post 129 ceremony.
(pictures via Gerd Trommer)



MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

As we start another year, I hope everyone had a joyous and blessed holiday season and that this new year will be a safe and healthy new year for all.

As of December 13, 2023, we have 1175 paid members at 79.01%. We have 311 more to go to hit our goal of 1485 so please send in your dues. There are a few ways to do this. If you go to mylegion.org you can pay your dues online and receive your membership card within a few days, or by mail to the Post.

I wanted to thank all the members that have sent in their 2024 dues so far. Your support helps keep us a strong voice on capitol hill to address veteran's issues and to keep the VA doing the right things for our veterans. Just a reminder our membership year starts on July 1st and all members should have their dues paid by February 1st.

Congratulations to the three winners of the early bird contest. We had 610 early birds that went into a drawing for a free membership for 2025 year. Who paid their dues from July 1st through October 1st, 2023. The three winners were: Kenneth Ernst, Dennis Haemmerle, and George Kondik

It pays to be an early bird. Next year you could be a winner for free membership for 2026. You got to be in it to win it.

ARTICLE X, SECTION 7 OF OUR BYLAW'S STATES

A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid on or before January 1st shall be classed as delinquent. If his or her dues are paid on or before Febru-

ary 1st they will be automatically reinstated. If any member is still delinquent after February 1st, membership shall be suspended from all privileges. If a member is still under such suspension on June 30th of such year, their membership in the American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Post and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs. Provided, however, that the National Department may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs. With reference to former members who have been prevented from payment of dues by reason of active military service.

So please send in your dues to support this great organization. Remember, we are "veterans strengthening America". We cannot do this alone. We need your help to help support all the great programs that the American Legion run to support our veterans, their families, and the community in which we live.

 **AMERICAN
LEGION
BE THE ONE**

**HELP US STOP
VETERAN SUICIDE**

By keeping our membership numbers up we will continue to have a strong voice in Washington and on capitol hill to address the needs of our veterans. As you know membership is the life blood of this great organization. As we enter another year of service to our communities, the state & nation let us keep our legacy moving forward. This year National is pushing **(be the one)** focusing on breaking the chain on veterans' suicide. If we all try one of these three things, we can make that difference:

To **ask** veterans in your life how they are doing.

To **listen** when a veteran needs to talk.

To **reach out** when a veteran is struggling.

It just takes one to help save a **veteran's life**, you can be that **one**. To learn more, go to betheone.org

This year please remember buddy check and reach out to our members that we have not seen in a while and give them a call to see if they are okay or if they might need anything or just to offer words of encouragement during these trying times. This ties in with **(be the one)** this is what we do, veterans taking care of veterans. Please stay safe and be well.

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



AUXILIARY MESSAGE

As of this writing we are getting ready to celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. New year is around the corner, and I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and very Happy HEALTHY New year. I would like to congratulate Laurinda Miller on another successful year with the Craft & Vendor Fair! A huge success! Another big shout out is to our Membership Chairperson Mary Lindsey for getting us closer to our 75% goal for our Unit. CONGRATULATIONS MARY! Our children's Christmas party was also a success. Congratulations Danielle for your magic of Christmas for the kids! Santa was at the Post to hand out toys to the children who had a good time!

If you need assistance with membership, please contact Mary, she will be very glad to help you. Ladies, please keep in mind that the holidays are a difficult time for some of our auxiliary

members, please reach out to them and help them. A phone call can make a HUGE difference for them. I want to thank Patricia Corbin and Bernice Cloos for helping some of our community members who have been struggling with simple necessities.

With the help of some of our unit members we were able to provide them with items to help make it a bit easier. Thank you again. If you know a Unit member who would like to attend our monthly meetings but has difficulty attending, please reach out and offer assistance. You never know what they can offer. Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting which is January 8th at 7pm.

For God & Country
Pam Bowen
Unit 129 President



COTA FUND RAISER

Our Murder Mystery Dinner was a tremendous success on Saturday, Veterans Day, November 11th.

Our Post raised \$5,000 for the Ward family's daughter who needs a liver transplant. Josef Ward is an active-duty Airman's family who is stationed at MDL.

What an honor it was for our Post to help an active-duty Airman on such a sacred holiday.

Carl Brignola
Vice-Commander
Service Officer

The American Legion, through resolution, has adopted the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) as an official program. The resolution authorizes the Legion to work directly with COTA to promote the mutual aims and purposes of ensuring that children receive life-saving transplants.

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CANTEEN NEWS

Ed Rutzler

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our POST 129 MEMBERS. We had another great turnout for the Army-Navy Game on Saturday, December 9th. Army won an unbelievable great game 17 to 11. Both teams played their hearts out. They are our Military and they performed above and beyond. They made everyone at Post 129 extremely proud.

Our bartenders, who worked double shifts that day, were Lori, Danielle, and Shea. Like always, they make it look easy, even when serving Post 129's specialty drinks like Candy Cane Martini's and Mistletoe Margaritas. Add our other Bartenders, Robin, Rocky, Carol Ann, Donna, Joe, and Eric. With these great Bartenders you can understand why we have the best Canteen in the State.

You can check them out in the picture taken with Santa by our POW Christmas Tree in the Hall. A special thank you to our Bar Manager, Bob Joerg, for playing Santa for the Gold Star Families Christmas Party and the Auxiliary Children's Christmas Party.

UPCOMING EVENTS: The SAL's will be hosting its Annual Comedy Show on Saturday, February 10th. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. They will go on sale January 1, 2024, in the Canteen or you can contact Rocky Lucia at 917-417-4818 or Commander Joe Rutzler at 732-648-9500. Doors open at 6PM and the Show starts at 7PM. There will be a cash bar and \$2.00 Miller Lite and Coors Lite pint draft beer. There will also be snacks at all the tables and a 50/50 raffle.

Comedy is provided by "Ginger Ninja Productions." Ryan's Catering will be offering a regular menu in the Canteen, for those who

would like to dine before the Show.

This year **SUPERBOWL SUNDAY** will be held on February 11th. We will be offering discounted food specials. ALL DRAFT PINT BEER (foreign and domestic) will be \$2.00. There will be free giveaways at the end of each quarter.

As always, The Canteen opens at 11AM everyday of the week. Closing time is 10PM, Sunday through Thursday and Midnight on Friday and Saturday. Ryan's Catering offers lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday from Noon to 7PM. On Friday and Saturday, the kitchen closes at 8PM. Lunch is offered on Monday from 11AM to 5PM. Ryan's Catering's Saturday Night Specials offer 2 salads, 2 entrees (you can mix and match) and 1 shared dessert for \$25. Try to beat that at a restaurant.







Our Canteen offers 9 beers on tap: Coors Lite, Miller Lite, Bud, Bud Lite, Michelob Ultra, Stella, Pabst, Yuengling and Shock Top. In bottles, we also offer Corona & Corona Lite, Heineken & Heineken Lite, Coors Lite, Miller Lite, Bud, Bud Lite, Mlch Ultra and Guinness in cans. Our non-alcoholic beer is Coors Cutters Edge.

Remember, a Legionnaire in good standing can invite and sign in 9 guests, who do not have to be veterans. Auxiliary and SAL Members may sign in 1 guest. We have live bands every Friday and Saturday Night starting at 7PM. So, stop by with your friends and enjoy the Food, the Music, the TVs, and most of all the FUN.

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

Certificate of appreciation presented to Post 129 for all our food donations to St. Andrew United Methodist Church. Ken Benner & Frank DelNero accepting for the Post.



January 2024						
◀ Dec 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day 	2 GENERAL MEETING 7 P.M.	3	4 	5	6
7	8 AUXILIARY MEETING 7 P.M.	9	10 S.A.L. MEETING 7 P.M.	11 	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 	16 BOARD/ TRUSTEE MEETING 7 P.M.	17	18 	19	20
21	22 RIDERS MEETING 7 P.M.	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, January 5th SURECATS

Saturday, January 6th SOUND MATTERS

Friday, January 12th LENNY DAVIS BAND

Saturday, January 13th WILD ROSE

Friday, January 19th A.K.A.

Saturday, January 20th POWERTONES



Friday, January 26th D J LOUIE


Saturday, January 27th HEADLINERS

Entertainment is scheduled from 7 to 10 p.m.
in the Canteen.

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



February 2024						
◀ Jan 2024						Mar 2024 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BINGO..... Every Thursday Doors Open 5 p.m. Play Starts 7 p.m.				1 National Freedom Day	2	3
4	5 GENERAL MEETING 7 P.M.	6	7	8	9	10 SAL Comedy Show 6:00 PM
11	12 AUXILIARY MEETING 7 P.M.	13	14 S.A.L. MEETING 7 P.M.	15	16	17
18	19 Presidents Day 	20 BOARD/ TRUSTEE MEETING 7 P.M.	21	22	23	24
25	26 RIDERS MEETING 7 P.M.	27	28	29		

FEBRUARY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, February 2 nd	SURECATS
Saturday, February 3 rd	DANCE BAND
Friday, February 9 th	D J LOUIE
Saturday, February 10 th	WILD ROSE
Friday, February 16 th	PEACE 3
Saturday, February 17 th	TERI CIERI BAND

Friday, February 23rd**PERFECT BLEND**Saturday, February 24th**HEADLINERS**

SAL Comedy Show
Saturday February 10 - 6 PM

SAL MESSAGE

Greetings everyone!

We hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season and we are looking forward to a Happy and Healthy New Year! How fast did 2023 go!? Now that we are going into 2024, we are pressing the reset button on a new calendar year and are looking forward to doing what we do all over again for yet another year.

We had a nice ending to the year assisting the Auxiliary in feeding the Veterans for Thanksgiving. We also had a very nice crowd for our POW/MIA Tree Lighting Ceremony. It was a very nice ceremony, and I would like to thank all that attended and especially those who participated in the program. It was a true legion family effort. A special shout out to the Auxiliary for decorating the tree as well as working the front table and lining up the ladies for positions in our program. You pull through every year, and it is very

appreciated. Another big thank you to Chuck Robbins who had family members in attendance of POW/MIA's. That was a great touch to the program!

Our next event coming up in 2024 is our annual Valentine's Comedy Show. We have Ginger Ninja Productions again, who always does a great job, providing the comics and running the show. We are so looking forward to this and it is always a great time and a sellout. We will provide full info and have tickets on sale very soon. This event will take place on Saturday, February 10th at 7pm.

We are looking forward to assisting the Legion, Auxiliary and Riders again to make 2024 another successful year in our great Post.

Finally, we need to keep membership rolling. As of December 31, 2023, your 2023 membership cards are expired and will not be honored at the Post. So, if you have not already, please renew

and get your 2024 cards asap. You can come in and leave your dues with one of our great bartenders, mail in a check to the post or, most conveniently, renew online at <http://www.salpost129.com>. NOTE: This website is renewal for SAL dues ONLY. Not Legion or Auxiliary dues. The renewal dues for SAL are \$25.00.

Thank you for another successful year and your continued support. Let us make 2024 our best year yet! Happy New Year to all!

For God & Country,
Joe Rutzler
Commander, SAL Squadron 129



 **AMERICAN
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HAPPY NEW YEAR



Ralph Wolff
Post 129
Finance Officer

Families are like fudge, mostly sweet but with a few nuts.

A wise man once said that no matter what you have done for yourself or for humanity, if you cannot look back on having given love and attention to your own family, then what have you really accomplished?

All families have a nucleus. That person or place that is steadfast in values and purpose. Your American Legion Post 129 is your extended family and the nucleus of your comradeship.

Families are the foundation of our society. People say that the typical American family is on the decline. Some even say that our Legion Family is on the decline, but I disagree. I believe that they are adjusting to the new family order. The old vision of a typical American family now only exists on the cover of a Norman Rockwell greeting card. Today's families are blended. They are integrating their lifestyles, work, church, community, kids, pets, and the Legion Brotherhood while maintaining the family values of love, loyalty, and comradeship.

Your Post is your extended family. In every conceivable manner, Post 129 is a bridge from your past to your future. Our Legion Family holds true to the values of Justice, Freedom, Democracy, Loyalty, Personal integrity, and family values of God, Love, Truth, and Patriotism.

Therefore, when someone says that the family unit is on the decline, let them know that there is a new order that has taken hold and will be embraced for many generations to come. The leader-

ship of your post has recognized this change and, on a mission, to bring our Legion Family closer and more inclusive in 2024. I am proud to be a member of a Post that reflects these values.

FINANCES

Our mission for 2024 is to help more Vets, reduce our mortgage, bring more families to the post, and support more organizations helping our vets and our community. Otherwise, all is well.

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



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



FARRO'S TEES

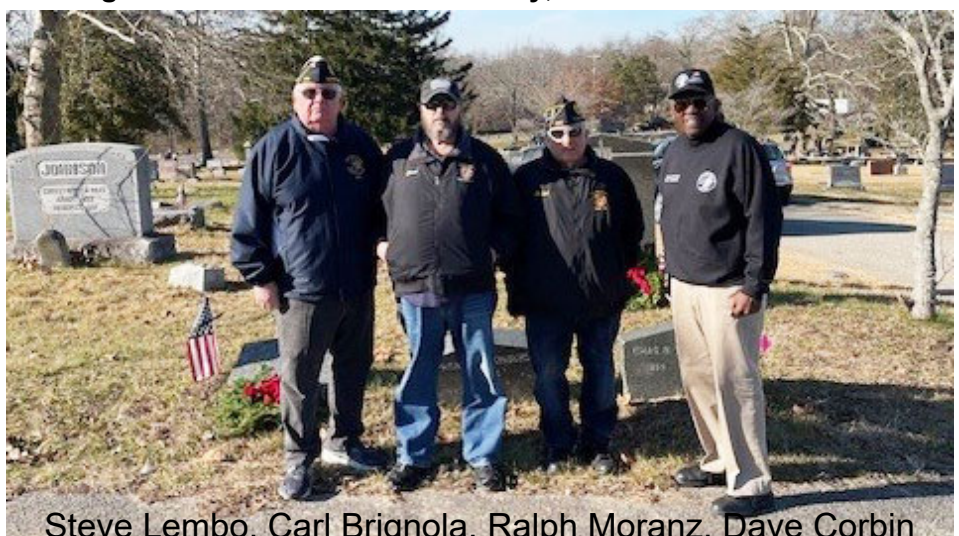


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Wreath laying at our Post 129 namesake, George P. Vanderveer, gravesite at Riverside Cemetery, Toms River. DAVE CORBIN



Steve Lembo, Carl Brignola, Ralph Moranz, Dave Corbin

RIDERS MESSAGE

I Hope Everyone had a Happy Holiday Season

Veterans Day was a great day of opportunity to honor our veterans with the Veterans Day Parade held in downtown Toms River. Riders participated with sixteen motorcycles joining the parade. We then returned for a service at Post 129 to honor our veterans. Next, we joined Post 348 Riders to wish Dan S. his 101st birthday of a WWII Battle of the Bulge veteran, a HAPPY BIRTHDAY! A wonderful day.

On November 19, the Riders had the honor of joining veterans from several nursing homes with a Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by our American Legion Auxiliary Unit 129. A special thank you to Jane Keely and staff for an awesome opportunity. Great Job.

The Riders want to thank everyone who came to the 50's Sock Hop. All had a great time.

Since then, we have had several inquiries as to when we were going to have another Dance Nite. So, happens, the Riders are planning to have a 70's Dance to be held on Friday, February 23, 2024, 06:00-10:00 PM. So, please mark your calendars. Flyers to be distributed shortly in the Canteen. Hope to see you there!

I want to take this opportunity to thank Post 129 for all they do to support the Rider Program. A special thank you to the Rider EBoard and the membership for everything you do to make the Riders successful throughout the year and I look forward to a Great New Year!

For God & Country
God Bless

Cliff Johnson Director
American Legion Riders Post 129



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Here it is, another year has flown by! They seem to go faster and faster the older I get! What about you? It is Christmas time also...buying for everyone on our lists sometimes seems like I will never finish in time! What about you?

Then the more sobering thoughts of who passed away this year and I will not be able to celebrate with! These are all part of our lives...losing the ones we love or even worse losing the one or ones we never said I love you to and yet we did!

As guys we especially have the problem with saying that (4) four letter word (love)...however as we age, we realize love takes many shapes and forms and as we open to others it makes it easier to love them and yes, hold on! It is coming! Even say it to them!

The bible says in John Chapter

3 Verse 16, the most repeated verse of scripture... "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life"

That my brothers and sisters are as good as it will ever get! He loved each one of us that much to come to earth and live for 33 years showing love and how to love and then allowing man to beat him, place a crown of thorns on his head and nailing him by his outstretched hands and then placing one foot on top of the other nailing them to a tree giving him nothing but vinegar to drink and then piercing his side! One man laying down his life for all!

Love, an antonym that I made for love is letting our voices echo or entwine...we can change our world by showing a little more love toward each other...

Let us all step up to the plate so to speak and grasp the good news that our God loves us and we as veterans and members of

the American Legion Post 129. The largest and best Post in New Jersey will reach out with outstretched arms to our brothers and sisters this year and make us stronger than ever...

Once again thanks to Commander Ralph and his staff for leading us forward into another year!

Take care and God bless us one and all!

Tom Kraszewski

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AMERICAN
LEGION
1919

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

PUBLISHED 6 times per year
DEADLINE for the next issue (March-April
2024) is February 15.

SUBMISSIONS should be emailed to:
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SOUNDOFF

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