



# “The Pride”

Volume 2009 Issue 4

Spring Issue April 11, 2010

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

## COMMANDER’S CORNER

BY MARK GILBERT



My travels continue around this great state. From Gold Star Post #191 for our Detachment meeting, Guy C. Parlett Post #7 hosting the Legion Family Plungers, Dundalk Post #38 NCD Membership Rally, Perryville Post #135 Fisher House Fundraiser, to Washington DC for wreath laying ceremonies, to name a few.

The Sons took the lead in the Special Olympics Plunge. While running into freezing water on a bitter January day doesn't seem logical to me, it was for a great cause. Special thanks go out to Chairman JR Hall and 2nd Vice Buddy Mastin, who got his head shaved

for donations. The Legion Family was number one in donations for our group size collecting over \$19,000. After the plunge, we were welcomed to Post #7 where we got warm and enjoyed good food and comradeship. While the plunge is over we are still collecting donations.

We had another good turnout at our winter meeting held at Post #191. We were honored to have Detachment of Pennsylvania Commander

Ken Warner and Detachment of Virginia Adjutant Scott Williams join us. We were also honored to have a young girl from Casey Cares with us. Taylor is a brave 12 year old who is fighting leukemia. Taylor's mother, Carrie, told us how Casey Cares has treated their family to events that enable them to get away from everyday worries. Our support of this program makes a

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## ADJUTANT’S CORNER

BY BILL MATOSKA

**D.E.C.:** The next and final meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee for this administrative year is scheduled for April 11, 2010 hosted by Jeff Davis Squadron No. 18 at the Legion's post home. The meeting will convene at 1:00 P.M. preceded by Commission and Committee meetings

beginning at 12:00 P.M. The post address is 2629 Centreville Road, Centreville, Md. 21617 and the post phone number is 410-758-3584. To access the post from the western shore make your way to the Bay Bride and once across stay on US-301N when US-50E splits towards

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY TOM DEAL

Here are the totals; we are at 85.6%, well ahead of the 80% goal for March 10. The next goal is 90% by April 14 and we are well on our way to surpass that goal. Bad news is we are continuing to fall farther behind last years' numbers by 432 members. South Eastern Shore and Mountain districts are exceeding last year totals. Northern Central, Southern Maryland, North Eastern Shore, Baltimore and Western Maryland Districts need to step it up. All Squadrons just need to get a few more to get us back above last year's totals. A postcard mailing went out in mid January. I am asking all Squadrons to send a letter or call any member who has not renewed at this time. Let's let our members know their cards are expired and they need to renew now. Make sure you put how much the dues are and where to send it to. The National mailing doesn't tell you the amount or where to send dues to.

Congratulations to the 4 star squadrons: Rosedale 180, Parkton 256, Jackson & Johnson, 263, Clopper-Michael 10, Gold Star 191, Hampstead 200, Gray-Ray 220, Barton 189, Grantsville 214, Stanley Cochran 16, Wicomico 64, Corporal Herman Hughes 87, Dor Wic 218, C Henry Price 246 and Kent Island 278. Congratulations to the 3 star squadrons: Walter Green 14, Northeastern 285, Overlea-Perry Hall 130, Antietam 236, Spring Hill 237, Hurlock 243 and Frank M. Jarman 36.

National Totals have us in 24<sup>th</sup> place 83.402% as of March 10. We are fourth in the East Region. Again keep working and let's get all members renewed.

Membership Theme for 2009-2010 is Vineyards of

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

*(Continued from page 1)*

difference in the lives of local families. At Casey Cares 10th Anniversary Gala, The Sons of The American Legion received "The Champion of Child Award". I commend the members and Squadrons that have been committed to Casey Cares and the families they help. Especially Past Detachment Commander Bear Weinzirl, whose dedication is unwavering.

The Fisher House Fundraiser at Perryville Post #135 brought in over \$15,000 to help our Veterans families be with their loved one in a time of need. Thanks go out to 1st Vice Commander Tom Deal and everyone at Post #135 who made this a successful and fun night. We still have a long way to go to reach our goal and time is running out. I am asking each Squadron and District to be there for our Veterans families by making a donation



Maryland.

All district Commanders have been working their Vineyards. I congratulate you on your hard work.

The Race: Now for the totals, on the February 26<sup>th</sup> report 1<sup>st</sup> place and 7 points goes to SESD, 2nd place and 6 points goes to NCD, 3<sup>rd</sup> place and 5 points goes to WMD, 4<sup>th</sup> place and 4 points goes to BD, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> places NESD, MD and SMD get 3 points each. So the totals now are NCD with 47 points, SESD with 44, NESD with 32, BD with 26, SMD with 25 and WMD & MD both at 23 points. It's now a two District race. NCD and SESD you better get pressing and turn those grapes into wine. If

SESD gets the bonus points, it could come down to the May report. Will Commander Saunders receives another bottle of my finest wine for 1<sup>st</sup> place? The other 5 districts can change the outcome by getting both NCD and SESD out of the top 2 spots.

National recruiter pins are available also for anyone who recruits 5 new members; forms are on the back table and on the National web site. Don't forget In addition any member who recruits 6 new members will receive a Top Harvester Shirt. Forms are available and can be requested by e-mail or picked up at a DEC meeting and after submitting I will have the shirts at the next DEC.

Tom Deal  
Membership Chairman  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander  
tom.deal@verizon.net

to the Fisher House.

I also want to thank Tom Deal for joining me in DC. We were part of the National Sons guests who placed wreaths at various Memorials including The Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. Tom and I were honored to place a wreath from the Detachment of Maryland at the Korean War Memorial. It was special to me because it honored my father's service during this war, which made me eligible to be a member of this great organization. It is moments like this that will last a lifetime (and freezing in the bay).

Membership is on target, exceeding all goals set by National. Tom Deal has a bottle of his finest wine ready for the first District to reach 100% of their goal. Who will step up?

*(Continued on page 3)*

## CHILDREN & YOUTH CHATTER BY KEN JENKINS

The American Legion will observe Children & Youth Month during April. The observance will be one of many throughout the nation, as some 14,000 Legion posts and over 11,000 Auxiliary units plan special events to emphasize the Legion's continuing concern for the well-being of the country's children and youth.

For more than 80 years, The American Legion and its affiliated organizations have donated countless hours of volunteer effort and millions of dollars in support of programs and activities for the benefit of children and youth. Since the beginning of these programs in 1926, The American Legion and its

affiliates have reported expenditures of over one-half billion dollars.

The national theme of The American Legion's Children & Youth Month is "Children...Our Most Precious Natural Resource." Over the years, the Legion has developed many programs to serve the youth of this nation. By providing a solid foundation and adequate opportunities for children to realize their future, we are helping to ensure our own.

The American Legion is focusing its attention on a national basis: child health, family support, and child safety.

Locally, The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have

made meaningful contributions to the well-being of the children and youth through such programs and endeavors as ...

Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge ( \$19,000+ to date), Children's Miracle Network, Casey Cares ( Detachment of Md..a Champion of Children Award Winner), Child Welfare Foundation (2010 Foundation Coins now available for \$10), and Toys for Tots.

Maryland Commitment,  
Ken Jenkins  
Detachment Children and Youth  
Chairman  
e-mail - [kenjen07@yahoo.com](mailto:kenjen07@yahoo.com)  
phone - 443-226-2770

## TOYS FOR TOTS BY ED STEININGER

As we take that wait and see stance, I can only say that from the word that I have received, we had another successful year. I did hear that the monetary donations went down in several areas, however the toy donations excelled. In a letter dated Feb. 25, 2010, Toys for Tots was able to deliver 16.4 million toys to 7.4 million children. Of Course that was nationwide.

To continue to quote from that letter, "You see, with each toy you help to provide, you not only remind a child- and his or her parents-that someone cares, but you also give them hope for the future". The sad

news is that we are only half way there. There are over 14 million children in our country suffering from poverty. This is why the United States Marine Corps accepts donations all year long. This money is then sent to the area that most needs it, as the time of year rolls around. As our year comes to an end, do not forget this program and make that small donation if you find that you have money left, or it just slipped your mind during our holiday campaign.

Thanks again for making this another banner year in our history, but as the time grows near, do not for-

get to get all of the time and money included into our end of year reports. If you are, or were the chairman, see that this is included. If you need help or have questions, do not hesitate to contact me, because if I cannot answer it, I will put you in contact with someone from our committee that can. Keep up the good work, and think about how we can be even better next Christmas.

Yours In Service To Our Children  
Ed Steinger Sr.  
Toys for Tots Chairman  
[steininger\\_7@msn.com](mailto:steininger_7@msn.com)

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

*(Continued from page 2)*

The final Detachment meeting before Convention will be held April 11, 1:00 PM at Jeff Davis Post #18. The Squadron will be serving breakfast prior to the meeting from 8 AM till 11 AM. Come out early and support your fellow Sons. As the final months' wind down, it's time to compile your dollars of donations and hours of service and complete the consolidated report form. I know all Squadrons have done something worth reporting. Also,

make sure everything all your donations and hours of service are given to your Post to be added into their reports before sending it to the District and Detachment Adjutants.

Yours in Legion Service,  
Mark Gilbert  
Detachment Commander  
[markgilbert08@comcast.net](mailto:markgilbert08@comcast.net)

## AMERICANISM REPORT

The Americanism Commission continues to rally support for all of our programs. You can help by reaching out to a local organization and just ask what can we do to help, or by supporting a Scout troop, and even go out and donate blood. Supporting local blood drives is a big push throughout the American Legion right now as blood banks are low and the demand is still high, due to recent natural disasters. Along this same line is supporting the National Emergency Fund (NEF) program through your generous contributions.

We've always been a Detachment that shows its great support to all of the Americanism programs. Our success this year will be through the continued support we provide to our Community, State and Nation. Please make sure you have captured all of your support for this program and then brag about it on your consolidated report. Remember the report is the one opportunity to brag about what the "Blue Cap" members have done, and also allows us to show the entire Nation how great the Detachment of Maryland is, when it comes to supporting the programs of the entire American Legion Family

### Flag Replacement Program

Don't forget that Memorial Day and Flag Day are just around the corner, which traditionally means it's time to start showing our pride in the American flag. Reach out to your community and help them display the flag of our country proudly. If they need some flags, provide them, if they

need to understand how to properly display them, and then show them.

The



bottom line is lending a hand in showing support for the U.S. flag. While doing all of this, also remember to keep track of what you've done, because the Detachment continues to sponsor an award to the top Squadron for Flag replacement. Make sure to track your efforts, and keep a record of the replaced flag as indicated on the replacement form, (3x5 flags will count as 5 points and smaller flags will count as 1 point). If you are also looking for a Flag Retirement program/ceremony, please contact the committee chair.

Chairman Jim Alexander

### What the Flag means to me!! - Convention - Youth Contest

At the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Detachment convention the Americanism Committee will host a youth contest on What the Flag means to me. The age brackets and what they are asked to do are: 0-8 will draw pictures of the U.S. Flag in any form of display they desire. From 9-13, will write a short essay on why we have a flag and why it looks the way it does.

Ages 14 and over will write a short essay on what the flag means to them. Entries will be submitted during the junior breakout session of the convention. If the contestants would like to submit their entries early they may do so on the first day of the convention.

Chairman Fred Bennett

### Community Affairs

We continue to support the many undertakings of this program, by asking for your continued support throughout the remainder of this administrative year. This program is very broad in range, and is one of the best ways to reach out to your local area and show them the many benefits the American Legion provides. So remember that even the things your squadron does, which may seem little or of no real significance other than to your group should be on the consolidated form. Keep in mind if your squadron helps clean up a local park, adopt-a-highway, participates in a church fund raiser, or sponsors a local scout troop, it is considered supporting your community and is part of this committee.

Chairman Past Detachment Commander & Alternate NEC Bob Trueblood

Email: [SantasToyShop@AOL.Com](mailto:SantasToyShop@AOL.Com)

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,  
Bill Hill  
Americanism Chairman  
[Hill1062@MSN.COM](mailto:Hill1062@MSN.COM)

## WESTERN MARYLAND TRIBUNE

We have 3 Four Star squadrons: 10, 191, 200. JOB WELL DONE!!!! If any member still hasn't paid their dues yet, give them a call or drop them a note to remind them to get it turned in. Also you should be keeping track of donations and volunteer hours. At

your squadron meeting, you should ask some of your members what they did? Did you know if you donate blood you can put that on your report? If you coach little league, coach a local sports team or donate money to local sports teams, you can

put that on your report. Now, remember every time you donate money whether it's to a local sports team or to Fisher house make sure you send a copy of that check to Bill Matoska, Detachment Adjutant, so

*(Continued on page 5)*

# COMMANDER'S PROJECT

BY PDC ANDY DADDS

On March 6, 2010 Susquehanna Squadron #135 hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Detachment Commander's Project fundraiser. Many thanks go out to Tom Deal and his team of SAL, Auxiliary, Legion members and other volunteers. They orchestrated a fabulous night at the races and draw down for the Fisher House Foundation. It was a "Sell Out" event and a great night for showing Detachment Commander Mark Gilbert your support for his project.

PDC Bob Trueblood has planned a community affairs project on April 17, 2010 starting around 11 am. The event includes fixing a grand picnic for the families staying in the Fisher House at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. If anyone is interested in

donating food items or attending please contact Bob ASAP.

For



more

information check the Fisher House Web site, [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org)

Yours In Service  
 Andy Dadds, PDC  
 Commanders Project Chairman  
[bdadds@baybroadband.net](mailto:bdadds@baybroadband.net)

# COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

BY BOB TRUEBLOOD

Once again, on Saturday, April 17, 2010, we will be heading to the Fisher House at Bethesda Naval Hospital to provide a cook-out for the residence. We are going to



provide a taste of Maryland for those staying at the Fisher House so that they may remember the hospitality

that the Sons of The American Legion extended to them while trying to make the best of a difficult time. Help is needed in preparation of the food, cooking of the food, and the purchase of the items and food that will be needed to perform this task. If you can help, please contact Bob Trueblood at 301-831-7281 with the names of those attending the cook-out and the complete name which appears on your driver's license. There will be a flyer handout at the D.E.C. meeting with directions and information on April 11, 2010 at Jeff Davis Post #18 in Centreville, MD.

In Service to Our Veterans and Community  
 Bob Trueblood  
[santastoyshop@aol.com](mailto:santastoyshop@aol.com)

# WESTERN MARYLAND TRIBUNE

*(Continued from page 4)*

you can get credit for it. Please join us for our next district meeting at

Francis X. Elder #121 at 1:00 PM.  
 Their phone is 301-447-2274.  
 Yours in Service,

# NORTHEASTERN SHORE GAZETTE

Let me start out with a big Thank You to Tom Deal and Squadron 135 for hosting another successful Draw Down. It was a lot of work and I am sure that everyone who attended had a great time and donated to a good cause, Fisher House.

IF you enjoy poker, try your luck at Post 135 on March 20. \$50 buy-in with sandwiches and light fare will be available. Squadron 29 will work with the Sonic in Easton with "Stuff a Bus for Soldiers" on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 5pm until 9pm. Anyone attending are asked to bring toiletries, books, phone cards, etc. to help fill it. Squadron #194 in Rising Sun is having a shrimp dinner on March 28 from 2-6 PM. Shrimp, crab cakes, fries, crab soup, hush puppies are available. Squadron #29 will hold their annual all you can eat Fish Fry on Friday, April 2, from 5 - 7:30pm.

The North Eastern Shore District Reception will be held at Benedict A. Andrew, Post #296 on April 25, 2010. Our next district meeting will be at Queenstown #296 at 10:30. If you cannot attend, please see if someone in your squadron can make it.

With the consolidated report forms coming due, let's all take the time to fill them out. If you need any help, call me at 410-829-9974.

Yours in Service,  
 Ken Jones  
 NESD Commander  
[jkj44@aol.com](mailto:jkj44@aol.com)

Michael B. Thomas  
 (H) 410-374-2147  
 (C) 443-744-3222  
[michaelh951@aol.com](mailto:michaelh951@aol.com)

## ADJUTANT'S CORNER

BY BILL MATOSKA

*(Continued from page 1)*

Easton. From US-301N merge onto MD-213N/ Centerville Road-Exit 25 toward Centerville. Once on MD-213 the post is approximately 1.9 miles on the left. Please be advised that Post #18 is having an **All-U-Can Eat** breakfast buffet for \$7.00 per person between 8-11 A.M. on the morning of the DEC and Post #18 wants to invite everyone to enjoy breakfast before the meeting.

**Convention Package:** Every squadron has now received their convention registration and information forms, the official 2010 Consolidated Report Form, and a package of administrative forms for your convenience. Complete information regarding the various venues associated with the Detachment Convention is finalized and listed in this Convention Package. I want to thank Time & Place Chairman, Bill Stem, for his tireless efforts locating a new host location for our Detachment Convention along with all of the venue locations. Remember, ALL members of the Legion Family are eligible to participate in ALL of the events the Detachment is sponsoring during the convention. The due date to return all forms with appropriate monies and information is May 28, 2010. This includes your Consolidated Report Form, Convention Forms, Flag Replacement Forms, and any Squadron History Books or Scrapbooks that want to be judged before submitting to National. May 28, 2010 is the cut-off date for all Detachment Awards which will be given out during the Convention session.

**Administrative Check List:** This is a busy time of year as we quickly approach the conclusion of this administrative year and I want to identify some actions that are time sensitive. As this D.E.C. meeting is the last it is also the last chance to present your squadron/district donations in an official forum with photo opportunities for you scrapbooks. If you have a candidate for Detachment office get those endorsement letters completed at the appropriate levels and mailed in. As squadron elections take place, squadron certification forms need to be updated and sent in and don't forget to give your district commander a list of names of those that plan to attend the National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Remember, two actions must be completed before you can pick up your 2011 squadron membership cards at this Detachment Convention. First, your squadron delegate fees must be paid in

accordance with the criteria listed in your Convention Package and second, your Squadron 2011-2012 Certification Form must be completed and received. District Commanders; don't forget to submit a certification form for your newly elected officers and a list of Detachment Executive Committeemen for the 2011-2012 administrative year. These need to be ratified at the Detachment Post Convention D.E.C. meeting. If I can be of any assistance to anyone regarding any of these items touch base with me via e-mail at [bill.matoska@comcast.net](mailto:bill.matoska@comcast.net).

**Campaign Central:** Our candidate for National Vice Commander East, Joe Gladden, has been extremely busy with his travels campaigning the Detachments of the Eastern Region and has been the Detachment of Maryland's official representative at the Washington Conference, the National S.A.L. Commander's Homecoming in Georgia, the National Vice Commander East's Homecoming in New Hampshire, and now prepares for the National Executive Committee Meeting in Indianapolis. Indiana this coming May. I share this because you need to know that your candidate is worthy of your endorsement and is working hard with the campaign, and also to remind everyone that Joe needs our continued support financially to be the representative we of the Detachment of Maryland both expect and demand. Currently, there is a six month calendar for a nominal fee of \$20.00 which begins April 1, 2010, but can be purchased at anytime during the six month event and is still worth the cost to participate at anytime. PDC Bear Weinzirl is chairing this event and if interested contact Bear through the Detachment web page. Many squadrons and districts have made donations to the Campaign Fund which is greatly appreciated but your support is still needed to ensure our candidate's campaign remains strong and financially viable. I would be remiss if I didn't thank the many members of the Legion Family, too numerous to identify individually, that have traveled with Joe to these many events at their expense and volunteering their time to ensure Maryland's success presenting our candidate.

Yours In Service,  
Bill Matoska  
[Bill.matoska@comcast.net](mailto:Bill.matoska@comcast.net)

## SOUTHERN MARYLAND TIMES

I would like to congratulate everyone who participated in the Polar Bear plunge in January. It was a great success with a great turn out and a lot of money was raised for Maryland Special Olympics. Soon all squadron commanders will receive their convention packets, which will include the yearend reporting form, so now is the time for all squadrons to start getting your donations and time served together to put on the report. In the past, the Detachment has placed in the top ten percent in reporting with only about 45% reporting. If we can get that number to 50% or 60%, we could be walking away with all the top awards. So please send in your report. Membership is going badly. We are 350 members behind from last year and it shows. The district is in last place and we didn't make 80%

target by the March 10 deadline. The next deadline is April 14<sup>th</sup> which we need to be at 90%. I know we can get there. It is just a matter of making contact with members to get those renewals in. In the past, my Squadron sent out personalized letters to members to remind them and we have had some success. Phone calls also are a good way to get them to send in membership. The district is having an "All You Can Eat Shrimp Feast on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Sq 136 from 3-7. So come out and enjoy good food and friendship. Look for a flyer coming your way. Please keep our troops and their families in your prayers.

Serving Those Who Served  
Tommy Bryant  
Commander  
TOMMILESGLASS@aol.com

## NORTHERN CENTRAL NEWS

NCD had stayed in first place in membership for several months, but we are now fighting to stay in second.

Renewals have slowed down for one reason or another, so this means that all of us need to recruit new members more than ever. However never give up on collecting your existing members. Give them a call and see if they just forgot or thought they were paid. Whether we are in first or second place in membership, the Northern Central District will always be number one. So get to work. The deadline is approaching.

We have been very successful so far this year with all of our commitments and events and there should be no reason why we don't complete our year the same way. We are having a bus trip to Atlantic City on April 17<sup>th</sup> and the proceeds will benefit The Ronald McDonald House. In May, we will be going to the BREC Center to

have a cook out for the patients and we are excepting donations for this event, as well as our Annual NCD picnic which will be held on April 25, 2010 at Reisterstown Post 116 following our meeting. The Meeting will start at 1:00 pm and I look forward to seeing everyone there. On June 6, 2010 we will be holding the District Rally at Overlea-Perry Hall Post 130. It will start promptly @ 4:00pm. Make sure you get your tickets.

It's been an Honor to be your District Commander and working with so many of you this year. When I leave office in June, I will still be here working with or for you. The new officers coming in for 2010-2011 will continue to make Northern Central District strong and proud.

Yours in Service;  
NCD Commander  
Jerry Saunders  
[saljerry@verizon.net](mailto:saljerry@verizon.net)

## TIME AND PLACE REPORT BY BILL STEM

No changes in the Convention Info. It is still at the Hunt Valley Marriott Hotel on June 25 -27, 2010. Convention packets should be going out with the consolidated report forms at any time.

Rooms can be reserved at the hotel for the cost of \$89.00 plus 14% tax a night. Any District wanting to have a Hospitality Room should send \$89.00 plus tax for two nights to the Detachment. Make checks for the Hospitality Rooms only to the Detachment, guest room checks should be made out to the Hotel. The phone number of the hotel is [410] 785-7000.

Your in Service  
Bill Stem  
Chairman  
Email: [wstem84809@aol.com](mailto:wstem84809@aol.com)  
Cell: 410 598-9355  
Home: 410 526-6559  
Home: 410 526-6559

## SOUTH EASTERN SHORE DIGEST

*(Continued from page 9)*

Squadron commanders by MARCH 31, 2010. Also don't forget to register for our upcoming Convention in Hunt Valley, Md. Baltimore County on June 25-27, 2010 at the Hunt Valley Marriott Hotel. Rooms are \$102.00 per night. I am looking forward to a great convention. Keep that membership coming in.

Yours in Service for God and Country,

SESD COMMANDER: JOHN E. JONES JR. #145

133 B Mitchell Road, Salisbury, Md.  
21801-1492

410-603-2853 or 410-202-8787

# VAVS VARIETY BY BUDDY MASTIN

Spring is in the air and all the snow is finally gone. Now is the time for all our members to roll up their sleeves and get back out there supporting the Veterans programs of the American Legion Family. Once again, I would like to remind you that every squadron should be supporting at least one program helping our veterans. Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is still looking for donations to buy digital TV's for each veteran's room. We also have many programs including Fisher House, our VA Centers, McVet's, etc. that your Squadron can support. Check our Detachment website for more information.

Now is also the time to make sure your Squadron is keeping track of your volunteer hours and donations. Every Squadron needs to take the time to fill out their yearend report form. We need to let The American Legion and congress know what we are doing as an organization.

I would like to see every Squadron in our Detachment become involved with National Veterans Assistance

Day this year on May 15, 2010. Posters can be downloaded from our national website. We all know a veteran at our Post or in our community that could use our support. The main point is to just get started supporting one of our many VA&R programs, and you just may be surprised how many other members of your Squadron will want to help out. If you need any help or suggestions, please contact me at 443-370-7870 or [buddymastin@hotmail.com](mailto:buddymastin@hotmail.com)

Yours In Service,  
Buddy Mastin  
Detachment VAVS Chairman  
[buddymastin@hotmail.com](mailto:buddymastin@hotmail.com)

### Loch Raven VA Community Living Center

The Grand Opening of the Veterans Canteen Service Coffee Shop was held on March 16, 2010. The canteen will be open from 7 am to 2 pm M-F. Food items will include Starbucks coffee, pastries, hot and

cold sandwiches, salads and other hot dishes. Retail items will include electronics, snacks, military accessories, clothing, etc.

The Blanket Warmer has been ordered but is not yet on site. The VA hopes to have it soon.

Construction is well underway for the new Robotics Research and Rehabilitation building adjacent to the Outpatient center. During this time there is no parking onsite to Outpatients. Free valet parking is being offered during this time. Just pull in to the outpatient area and VA staff will park your car for you.

A Car Show is being planned with more information to follow. Tentative date is May 29, 2010. If you're in the area stop by and see the cars and visit with the patients.

Bob Filippi  
VA Representative  
Loch Raven, CLC  
[kassbob@aol.com](mailto:kassbob@aol.com)

# CASEY CARES BY DAVE HULLIHEN

In getting up to date, I am here to remind everyone about a very special project that the Detachment has committed to for a while now, which is The Casey Cares Foundation. We had a Casey Cares child and her family at the Detachment meeting at Goldstar Post 191. They spoke on behalf of the foundation, as to what they did and are still doing for their family.

After listening to them, it really opens up your heart and soul to what this family must be going through. It seems like they wouldn't be very normal with-

out Casey Cares.

We did receive some donations



The Detachment of MD was recognized for Years of service to the Casey Cares Foundation at the 10th Annual Casey Cares Gala. accepting the award were Past National Commander Bill Sparwasser and Past Detachment Commander Bear Weinzirl.

after the meeting, but are still way behind last year, so I am hoping that not only did she open up your heart, mind and soul, but helped you realize that they could not do much without the help of The Casey Cares Foundation. Well maybe we can all open up our check-books and or wallets and make your donation.

Thank you in advance and hopefully we can get many more donations at the next DEC Meeting.

Chairman of Casey Cares Foundation Committee



## MARYLAND SPECIAL OLYMPICS BY JR HALL

Hello to All Legion Family Members, Let me start by saying Thank You to everyone that took part in the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge. I don't just mean those who were crazy enough to jump in the water, but all of those that sponsored all of our American Legion Family Team members and those who showed up for support. It is because of all of us together, that our team has raised over \$19,000.00 this year. Also, I would like to Thank everyone from the Legion Family that took the ride up to WISP for the Maryland Special Olympics Winter Games. We had a lot of volunteers

from the Legion, Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. Everyone pitched in and helped to make another successful Winter Games for all the great athletes of MD Special Olympics.

Summer Games will be the weekend of June 12th at Towson University. If you are interested in helping, please contact me and I will get you all the information you need.

Yours In Service  
Don JR Hall Jr  
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## SOUTH EASTERN SHORE DIGEST

Hello everyone. Spring is here, so let's spring into moving farther to the top in membership. First I would like to thank everyone who made it possible for us to be in first place in membership. We need to go ahead and finish this year in first place for membership. I know we all can do it. Our next SESD meeting will be in Ocean City, MD on April 18, 2010 at Synepuxent Post #166 at 12:30 PM, sharp.

I am asking all of the Squadron Commanders be present at this meeting in order to get a picture taken of all the SESD squadron commanders. Also a group picture to be taken of as many members of SESD SAL we can get. The SESD Reception Banquet will be held on April 24, 2010 at Hurlock Post # 243 at 6 PM. The cost is \$25.00 per ticket. Convention packages will be mailed to all SESD

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## NATIONAL EMERGENCY FOUNDATION BY KEN JONES

For many years, the NEF has helped Legion Family members struck by storms, earthquakes, fire and other natural distress. The effects of these disasters can be felt in our own neighborhoods at anytime. That is why I encourage each squadron to contribute generously to the NEF. If possible, try to raise and donate \$1 for each member. Not everyone can do that, but some can give more. Hold special bingo nights, golf outings and other fundraisers. Helping others to rebuild, benefits us all. America is watching the Sons of

The American Legion. I hope everyone who has not contributed to this fund will do so in the near future. If you have any questions on where to send donations, or how to apply for these funds, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me. My phone number and email address is in the Blue Book.

Yours in Service,  
Ken Jones  
[jkj44@aol.com](mailto:jkj44@aol.com)

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT BY BILL STEM

On Tuesday February 2<sup>nd</sup> members of the Detachment of Maryland attended the Senate hearings on SB-1 (Exemption of Military Retirement benefits from Taxation) and SB-4 (Allowing slots in War Veteran Organizations west of the Bay). Past Detachment Commander Bob Trueblood, Past NCD/SAL Commander Ed Steininger, and DEC/SAL Legislative Commission Chairman Bill Stem attended.

On Thursday, March 18th, members of the Detachment of Maryland traveled to Annapolis to support House Bill #633. This bill would allow slots to be placed in War Veteran Organizations west of the Chesapeake Bay. As it now stands only counties on the east side of the Bay can have these machines.

This Bill sponsored by Delegate Dan Riley would extend that privilege to all counties. Members of the Department of Maryland spoke on the measure and Gary Tennis, SAL Commander from Squadron #95 offered testimony on the benefits that have been accrued from his Post having the machines.

Aside from Commander Tennis, Past Detachment Commander Bob Trueblood, Past NCD/SAL Commander Ed Steininger, present NCD SAL First Vice Al Walls, and DEC/SAL Legislative Commission Chairman Bill Stem also attended the hearings.

As of this writing, neither bill has come before the Legislature.

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## “Maryland Commitment”

### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND

3115 Orchard Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21234



## NEC NEWS BY ANDY DADDS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

I bring you greetings from National Commander Mark Arneson. Commander Arneson has called for the spring NEC meeting in Indianapolis on May 1-2, 2010.

The Detachment officers attending will be taking the National Management Institute classes I, II and III. These classes help our officers to prepare themselves for the task of running the Detachment when they become our Commander. The classes take 3yrs to complete and they are well worth taking. Many of our Past Detachment Commanders have graduated from NMI.

The Eastern Region membership for March 1, 2010 has moved out of last place to 4<sup>th</sup> place with a percentage rate of 77.770% which is short of the March 10<sup>th</sup> goal of 80%. The Detachment stands at 79.871% on March 1<sup>st</sup> and our renewal rate of 72.77%.

Here are some frequently asked

questions:

I am a member of The American Legion. Can I also belong to the Sons?

Yes! Many veterans who are eligible for membership in The American Legion are also eligible to join the Sons. They are very much welcome to belong to both organizations. We call these individuals dual members. They are quite often an important link between the Sons and The American Legion Post in their home towns.

I am moving to a new town and want to transfer my membership there. How do I get a new card?

Be sure to report your new address. You can do that in person through your new Squadron Adjutant, or you can do it electronically by going to [The Legion's Web site](http://The Legion's Web site) and filling out an electronic form.

The American Legion offers programs for honorary memberships

and "Paid Up For Life" (PUFL). Does the S.A.L. offer these same membership programs?

Not really. Squadrons that want to honor an individual with an honorary membership must take care of renewing that individual's membership annually. There is no way to pre-pay for future years memberships. Also, there is no program for an individual to make a lump-sum payment that will cover his membership for the rest of his life. In these respects, the Sons are quite different from its parent organization.

More questions and information can be found on the S.A.L. web site, [www.sal.legion.org](http://www.sal.legion.org).

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