



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland



“The Pride”

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

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Commander's Corner

We're having a great year! The opportunity to be the ambassador for the Detachment is a source of great pride and enjoyment for me.

I've had the pleasure of visiting with four (4) of the seven (7) Districts, and have enjoyed speaking with them about how they support the SAL programs and sharing ideas from around the state and nation. My plans are to visit the rest of the Districts by the end of the year. I was able to tour the new Johns Hopkins Hospital with the Department Commander and Department President and saw a fantastic state-of-the-art facility and how much focus and support they provide to the Children's Miracle Network (CMN). I attended the SMD SAL Picnic, joint installations across the State – where I witnessed Honorary Life Memberships being awarded, and a dance at Glen Burnie Post 40, where Auxiliary Unit 40 so graciously gave a \$1,000 donation to the Heroes to Hometowns Project. I had the opportunity to share great stories of how well the Detachment of Maryland shines at the National Executive Committee meeting in Indianapolis. While there, we recruited over 50 members into the newly formed Ta-Ta Tribe in support of the First Lady's project. (I'll add some details later in the article.)

This time of year is one of our busiest as we're right in the peak of our support for Veterans, Children and our Community. Our support may include a Veterans' Day event/program honoring America's veterans, a Thanksgiving Dinner for those in need, a luncheon for homeless veterans, a children's Christmas party, or a New Year's Eve event with Legion Family. We're always finding ways to show our support and love of this great country, its veterans, and children.

Quick update on the impact of the merge with Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) and this year's Detachment Commander's Project -- Heroes to Hometowns (H2H). The merger on the National level has not changed the

funds raised for this project remaining here to help veterans within Maryland.

The consolidated OCW program will still work to give all of the aid it previously provided to wounded warriors – electronics, sweat suits, gift cards, exercise equipment and other popular items. Its services will be enhanced by what was previously provided under H2H – an outreach program that relies heavily on a national network of volunteers to assist service members and their families with the transition into civilian life. This included checking eligibility for temporary financial assistance, housing and family support. Whereas OCW previously focused on wounded warrior units, Heroes to Hometowns concentrated on helping individual troops with disabilities transition home.

The benefit of the consolidation is twofold. The Legion saves administrative costs from running two similar programs separately, and resources from both initiatives can serve one large pool of applicants. Giving H2H coordinators the power of OCW – a nationally renowned troop assistance program – can help to better assist veterans in their assimilation back into regular life.

Thanks to the consolidation, veterans and service members who previously would have applied only to H2H stand to benefit.

The Detachment Commander's project chairman is Jim Alexander of Glen Burnie Squadron 40. If you would like additional information, such as sponsoring a fundraiser, donations or T-shirts, please contact Jim. His information is listed under the Commander's Project section of the Detachment's web site.

The Detachment First Lady's project has taken off with a bang! As mentioned above, we started a Ta-Ta Tribe while attending the National Executive Committee meeting. It started with a simple idea over the summer of creating a tribe similar to the Legion's Black

Toe Tribe. We had no idea how successful it would be.

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Ta-Ta Tribe was formed in October in Indianapolis. For a donation of \$20 and a willingness to have one's right pinky fingernail painted pink, SAL officers from Maryland and other States became tribal chiefs and warriors. Upon request, we extended the Tribe to the Auxiliary and have squaws from around the nation also. Everyone who participated in the initial joining of the Tribe is considered a charter member and will have their name added to the Scroll of Honor, being created by PNC Cliff Smith of Massachusetts. The scroll will be available at the Spring NEC meeting. This was such a fun time and a great cause to support. By the end of the weekend, we had 56 new members join the Ta-Ta Tribe and raised \$1,120 for Breast Cancer research.

With our efforts this year in full swing, we have great updates in this Pride from the Chairmen and new outlines of their plans and goals for the year in their articles. We will continue to provide updates through our various social media outlets, outlined below.

Our next DEC will include free training on SAL programs and leadership, which focuses on awareness of what the SAL offers and how to prepare you to be successful. This training will be held in Ocean City at the Grand Hotel on Saturday, December 8th prior to our DEC meeting on Sunday, December 9th. Lunch will be provided for attendees. The training will be conducted by two Past National Commanders, so don't miss this special opportunity.

You will see this note in each of my articles, so please remember, as we continue to support our many functions and programs throughout the year, to have fun while doing so. We often forget that 100% of support comes from “volunteers” and we need to occasionally remind ourselves of that. Let's

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not drive our comrades away by being bullish on our expectations of them, but remember to say THANK YOU and take the time to recognize what they are offering; which is their time and support and that is priceless!

As always, my thanks go out to the Detachment Officers, Commission and Committee Chairmen and members, District Commanders and DEC men. And, most importantly, thank you to the "Blue Cap Members" of the Detachment! You're what continue to make us a great Detachment!

I also encourage all SAL members within Maryland to please come out to a Detachment Executive Committee (DEC) meeting and get some additional details on the various programs we support and spend some time with other members of the Detachment.

If you would like to follow my travels throughout the state of Maryland, then check out Twitter – MDSALCMDR. You will also find information on the Detachment's web site, in the Pride, via email distribution, and on Facebook (Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland).

My best wishes go out to all for safe travels and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

"Serving America's Heroes"

Bill Hill
Commander
Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion

Membership Report

The troops are mobilized, the Commanders are inspired, and the time is now! We have been in a rut the Detachment is

Going To War For Membership!

The troops are mobilized, the Commanders are inspired, and the time is now! We have been in a rut the last few years hovering in the mid-15,000 in membership. Our objectives are clear...Reach the 16,000 plateau, hit the 100% mark long before the National Convention, and 90%+ retention. The Commanders need to earn their promotions. The District Commander that stays in first the longest will get the bulk of the promotions. Showing he can lead and lead often.

Word from the Front is, as of this dispatch we have 3 Squadrons that have fought to the 4-Star position...#87 Corporal Herman Hughes, #227 Brandywine, #263 Jackson

and Johnson.

Also as of this dispatch the Detachment is ahead of the 35%, November 15th goal and closing in on the December 12th goal of 45%

Let's Win This War!
Bill Stem
1st Vice Commander
410-598-9355
Wstem84809@aol.com

Chaplin's Corner

Sick Call and Relief: The following members have experienced a set back or illness.
SESD - David Adkins (SQD 218), NESD - Charles Smothers (SQD 77), SMD - James "Tommy" Rutherford (SQD 86), Detachment of Georgia (Adjutant) John R. Hill, PNC (AL) (Maine) Anthony "Tony" Jordan

Post / Squadron Everlasting

Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow;
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain;
I am the gentle autumn's rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush,
of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft star that shines at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there; I did not die.
NESD - Charlie Smith (Post 135),
NCD - Joseph W. Weir Jr. (SQD 31)

Please free to contact me or keep me informed as to all members who are ill or who have passed.
Thank you and God Bless.
Ray Edwards
Detachment of Maryland Chaplin
rayjred@verizon.net
(410) 215-9354 Cell

Americanism Report

We've always been and will continue to be a Detachment that shows its great support to all the Americanism programs. Our success this year will be through the continued support we provide to our *Community, State, and Nation*. You can reach out to a local organization and just ask what we can do to help. Supporting Local blood drives where the blood banks are low due to the natural disasters we are having, or by supporting a scout troop. Flag Replacement Program, We have Veteran's Day right around the corner so please plan on attending or having a Veteran's Day program in your area, check to see if any flags have fallen at the cemeteries or are in need of replacement. 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. (3 x 5 flags will count as 5 points and small flags will count as 1 point) If you are looking for a Flag retirement program/ceremony, please contact committee Chairman Chris Dadds Community Affairs. On October 20th we made a difference at Andrews Air Force Base by serving the wounded warriors and residences of Fisher House a wonderful afternoon lunch of New York strip steaks and BBQ chicken. It was quite a rewarding experience. You all do not know what you are missing when we visit these Fisher Houses and provide fellowship to the veterans and their families. Fisher House as you know is very important to the families and military by giving them a place to stay in their time of need. It is truly a home away from home. It's a warm setting for them while their love one is being treated in one of the VA hospitals. Boys State... This legion program is very rewarding for those young men who are chosen to participate. We are encouraging each squadron to support your home post by providing any level of support necessary. This is the time that Guidance Counselors at schools need to be contacted with the appropriate information. Chairman Jerry Saunders Sr. National Emergency Fund... The National Emergency Fund continues to need our help. With the continued economic challenges we face as a world, the support this program provides to so many, is greatly appreciated. Please continue your aid or our Legion family. We are asking each squadron to donate at least \$1.00 per member. I believe this is a very obtainable goal. We need to help in this time of needs where there are so many natural disasters especially with the last Franken storm, Sandy, that we just had and the possibility of another nor-easter in the north east. Thank you again for your continued support. Chairman Larry Griffin. Thank You to every member of the Detachment and all or our Legion Family members for supporting the programs, which fall under Americanism.

Yours in Service to Legion Programs
Jeffrey Seiler
Americanism Chairman

Flag Replacement/ Placement Program

Hope everyone's ok from the big storm; rain fell, wind blew water came up high, and now our work begins helping people clean up. Let's offer help to elderly, neighbors and veterans'. Many flags didn't get put away with Veterans Day close try to look around your town for damaged flags. And get new ones up as soon as we can. Note November 16th was the battle of the Bulge.

Chris Dadds
Flag Replacement Chairman

(Americanism continued)

Boys State Report

As I mentioned at the last DEC Meeting, Boys State is one of The American Legion programs that was started in 1935, but Maryland didn't get involved until 1947. Remember that this long week is a week of political knowledge that some of our High School Graduates will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

At our meeting in December, I hope to have copies of the registration forms and more brochures on Boys State. Boys State is held at the Washington College in Chestertown starting the week before our convention and ending the Saturday of our convention.

The cost to send students, getting ready to enter their senior year, to this camp is \$300.00 per boy. I encourage every squadron and/or outside business to try to sponsor a boy.

SAL members can volunteer to help out by becoming a counselor. Contact any Boys State staff member if you wish to volunteer.

Jerry Saunders
Committee Chairman
saljerry@verizon.net

VAVS Variety

With the Holidays just around the corner, The Department of Maryland Auxiliary has announced their "Christmas Gift Shop" project. Perry Point will be held on November, 27th & 28th. Charlotte Hall will be held on Dec. 1, 2012. Loch Raven will be held on December 6th, Baltimore VA will be held on December 15th. The Christmas Party for Perry Point will be held on December 2, 2012 at 1:30pm. There will be a Christmas Party on December 12, 2012 at the Washington DC VA Medical Center, start time 11am. Help is needed and all are welcomed. There is a need for Christmas Gift bags, donations and all gifts welcomed.

We can make a difference. Please consider donating now to the Veterans Centers, Hospitals, Homes and Veteran programs. Together, We can make a difference. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ray Edwards
VAVS Chairman

Loch Raven VA CLC

Please consider holding a function during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Years season. Also you could make a visit to the facility during Veterans Day week. Any of these would be greatly appreciated by the

Veteran patients. Contact Recreation Services at 410-605-7000 x4649 or Voluntary Services at 410 605 7000 x5877.

Have a great Holiday Season.
Bob Filippi
VAVS Representative

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

The Fall 2012 edition of the Charlotte Hall Gazette contains an article, "Riding in Style", detailing the arrival of PDC Buddy Mastin's Project, the 2012 Ford Starcraft 18 passenger bus, at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. I wanted to share the last paragraph with you. "The CHVH family is overwhelmed by the generosity and efforts of all those involved in this effort. The Legion Family has time and again given tremendous gifts of support to our veterans and their families. Every one of our residents, staff members and family members are filled with gratitude for this unprecedented gift."

The Southern Maryland District holds a bingo at the Veterans' home on the third Monday of each month. The bingo starts at 6:30 PM and finishes about 8:00 PM. PDC Buddy Mastin is our Bingo caller with S.A.L. members walking the floor and providing assistance to the residents. Special thanks to Jackie Eloshway and the ladies of Unit 172 who have been serving snacks and drinks at the Bingos. Each night we give away \$200. This money goes directly to the residents. If you are interested in donating to the CHVH Bingos, send your donate to the Detachment earmarked for CHVH Bingo. If you are interested in volunteering your time, additional help is always welcome.

On December 8, the CHVH Service Organization Liaison Committee (SOLC) will host the Christmas Ice Cream Social from 2-4 PM. As the S.A.L. representative to the SOLC, I'm proud to say this event is always well attended. Last year, 104 residents participated. In addition to ice cream, each resident receives a Christmas card with \$5 inside. Donations for the Ice Cream Social can be sent to the SOLC Treasurer Richard Bamberger at 2209 Pinefield Court, Waldorf, MD 20601.

If you are interested in learning more about the CHVH, log on to their website, www.charhall.org, and take the virtual tour. The tour takes less than 10 minutes but provides an insight into the home and the services provided to our Maryland Veterans and their eligible spouses.

Dave Tatman
CHVH Representative
tatman_david@comcast.net
301-645-1537.

Commander's Project

As we all know in the past we always supported the Commanders Project with great success and I am sure this year will be no different. We need to step up again and serve America's veterans and their families which is why Commander Hill chose "Heroes to Hometowns". This program is a transition program for severely injured service members returning home from the global war on terrorism. H2H establishes a support network for the service members that allows them to ease into their hometowns or new surroundings.

Here, to name a few, are some benefits this program offers:

- education and employment assistance
- help with securing temporary and permanent housing
- temporary financial assistance
- home and vehicle adaptation
- child care support

Commander Hill's goal this year is \$40,000. This will provide a solid base of financial resources to be utilized within the state of Maryland.

Events in support of the Commander's Project:

Bartender Challenge – Department
Auxiliary Chaplain vs Detachment
Commander – January 26, 2013 @
Gold Star Post 191 – from 4pm to
9pm.

Squadron 40 Dinner Bingo – February 17
(more info at next DEC Meeting)

Susquehanna Squadron 135 –
Commander Project Draw down ~
March 2, 2013 (more info at next
DEC Meeting)

Serving America's veterans is what the Sons of The American Legion is all about and we do it with PRIDE and HONOR!

For God and Country,
Jim Alexander
Commander's Project Chairman
jimalex831@verizon.net
(443) 623-9907

Children & Youth Corner

With The Holiday Season coming quickly upon us I think we all know that Christmas is a big time of year for our children. Toys for Tots has a lot of work to do this time of year and I hope all of you are making their job worthwhile by giving a couple unwrapped toys to help out for the Christmas season. I would like to Thank Ray Groves our Toys for Tot chairman for all the work he has done leading up to the seasons. Many of you have received emails and have also read messages from Ray as he is working to get the word out. If you have any questions please feel free to contact him, Great Job Ray.

Over the last month the Detachment has had a

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few opportunities to work hand and hand with some of our programs to help our children. In October PDC Tommy Deal worked with Ed Steininger to put together a tailgating party for the families of Casey Cares before they attended a UMBC sports event. Commander Hill, Michelle Hill, Erika Hill, PNC Matoska and his wife Shelly, Tommy, Ed and Myself had a great afternoon with the families and even had the chance to serve a good dinner to our boys from the Boys Scouts whom also were attending the event. On November 4th the Detachment was ask to help supply volunteers for the Southern Regional Special Olympics of Maryland Bowling Tournament and again many answered the call. Commander Hill, Erika Hill, Terry and Ray Edwards, Ray and Diane Groves, PNC Matoska and Shelly Matoska, PDC Tommy Deal, Dave and Neal Sprucebank, Toni King, Joe Weiks, Don Zimmerman, Special Olympics chairman Jimmy Alexander and myself all attended and volunteer for great event. I encourage everyone when you have the chance to attend a event to help our children and youth to get out there and do so, you will get more out of it then you put into it. Thanks to everyone that help out.

Our Second Annual Laps of Love is now scheduled so mark your calendars for April 20, 2013 at Spalding High School. You can go on line at sallapsoflove.org and register now. It is a new site so if you go to last years site, please re-enter with 2013 and it will take you there. We will be giving more information out at our DEC meeting and in the next Pride. If you have any questions, please contact me at dhall1967@verizon.net.

Have a Great Holiday Seasons and Remember our Children,
JR Hall
C & Y Chairman

Maryland Special Olympics

The season is changing and it's getting colder, that means its Polar Bear Plunge time! Are you ready? If so, meet me at Sandy Point State Park on January 25th at 4pm so we can take the plunge together. Make sure you are registered, go you www.plungemd.com and go under teams, look for American Legion Family to register or donate. Can't make the Polar Bear Plunge, you can volunteer to help with the Winter Olympic Games at Whitetail Ski Resort in PA on February 25th and 26th.

I had the opportunity to work the athletes in the Southern Region Bowling Tournaments, what a rewarding experience. If you would like to help with a bowling tournament here's your chance, on Sunday December 2nd, 10am to 6pm, is the State Finals. All gold and

silver medal winners from around regional competitions and all unified bowlers will be competing. We need many volunteers for this event. Competitions will be held at: Bowl America Gaithersburg, 1101 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg MD 21878

Our children are our future!
Jim Alexander

Child Welfare Foundation

As in years past, Maryland will once again be supporting CWF. At the beginning of the year, I set a goal of \$1.00 per member. With so many worthy projects to donate to, I can only hope that you remember to donate as you see fit. Maryland was very fortunate and received two grants from CFW totaling over \$74,000.00. In total, the Child Welfare Foundation gave out over \$700,000.00 in grants to non-profits across the Nation.

Yours In Service
Larry Ford

Toys For Tots

I am happy to report that the TOYS FOR TOTS program is going well and our drive works year round. Parkville Post has gotten a load of toys and my post Carroll Post 31 has filled 2 boxes and working on a 3rd one plus cash donations from the S.A.L., Riders and Ladies Aux . Also, I would like to have all squadrons to let me know what and how they are doing. You may reach me at raymondgroves202@comcast.net or at 410-861-5557 and let me know. Also Sykesville Post is having a Toys for Tots Christmas Party on 11/17/2012. Admission is a new unwrapped toy. Please call 410-795-7242 for information. Any squadron having anything for Toys For Tots, please advise me and put it on SAL websites, as well as Facebook. I if you would be so kind, you can also send info to me and I will put it on sites for you. Also, all members attending the DEC Meeting 12/9/12 at Ocean City, MD, would you please bring a new unwrapped toy for Toys For Tots. Thank you all in advance.

Happy Thanksgiving
For God And Country
Raymond E. Groves
Toys For Tots Chairman

Casey Cares Newsletter

Well as the holidays approach, there is not much to report from Casey Cares. The Soccer game tailgating party was not attended as well as was hoped for, but some of that had to do with the fact that Hurricane Sandy was headed our way. Still, the Sons of The American Legion came together to serve food

for the party. Thanks to Convenience Catering for supplying the grill, and to Commander Hill and family, for the cooking duty. Thanks also go out to all the volunteers that assisted, as we once again let the community know what we do. We had enough food cooked to provide dinner for a group of Cub Scouts that also attended the game. Of course this could not have been made possible without the help of University of MD, Baltimore County, at their Catonsville Campus.

Let us not forget Casey's Kammies Jammies program. We are collecting pajamas of all sizes at our Detachment meetings this year. Please bring a pair or two with you to help this very worthwhile program. Also do not forget our 2nd Annual Laps of Love event, with more information about this from our Children & youth Chairman.

Also remember that as the end of the calendar year is rapidly approaching, so is our request for donations for those with slots machines. Letters are forthcoming.

Respectfully,
Ed Steininger Sr
Chairman
443-807-1495

Time and Place / Convention Committee

First I want to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes, while I was in the hospital. I'm doing well and back to doing most things; just doing them a little slower.

Time and Place has always asked for our Squadrons to help identify possible sites for our Convention, so we can hold the Convention at different sites around the state and give everyone a chance to have it held in their back yard. Anyone wishing to get the list of the requirements for the Detachment Convention, contact me.

As far as Convention the biggest push we're trying to make this year is to add vendors. We have to wait and let the Marriott change hands before we can talk with them, so this is on hold in one sense. It is not on hold in that, ideas from our members as to what they would like to have in the form of vendors at the Convention. We need all the input you can give, to make our Conventions the best we can make them.

For God and Country,
Mitch Gilbert

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Legislative Alert

I trust everyone was able to get out and vote in this very important election. Get to know who your new elected officials are and get in touch with them to let them know we need to support the veterans. I continue to send out e-mails with the legislative updates from The American Legion Legislative Commission (<http://www.legion.org/legislative>). I am reminding ALL members of the Sons Organization to watch for discussions of Veterans Issues, we need to stand strong in support of our Country and our Veterans. I am listing web sites with contact information for our Senators (<http://www.senate.gov>) and Congressmen (<http://www.house.gov/>), let them know where we stand on the issues. I set up a meeting with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Edwin Chow. Commander Hill, 2nd Vice Commander JR Hall, VA Chairman Ray Edwards, Robert Hill and I had a great evening talking about what the Sons can do and seeing what we can do for our veterans. Sec. Chow is a great supporter of the Sons and of our Veterans; he really cares and does what is best for the veterans.

Tom Deal
Legislative Chairman
tom.deal@verizon.net

National Campaign Update

Dear Team Maryland,

Since becoming the Leading Candidate for National Commander at the end of the National Convention in Indianapolis I have been staying busy.

In September I took my first National Visitation to Austin, TX September 14-16th. I had an enjoyable time visiting with Detachment Commander Jeff Alvis and Past National Commander and Detachment Adjutant Kevin Winkleman. On Friday night they hosted an Awards Banquet were Advisor of the Year and Adjutant of The Year received plaques for their services to the organization were presented. Other awards were distributed as well. In attendance were the leadership of the Legion Family and the Leading Candidate for American Legion National Commander Dan Dellinger. On Saturday, I had an opportunity to address the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL meetings. It was a great weekend learning more about just what Texas does and how they work.

I went out to the National Children and Youth Conference in Indianapolis on September 21-23rd. This trip was taken with our Campaign Chairman Bear Weinzirl and

Fundraising Chairman JR Hall. However both of them were there on other duties. Bear was recently appointed as our SAL National Children & Youth Commission Chairman and was attending the Conference to make a special SAL presentation. Bear did an incredible job and was the hit of all the presenters. JR, being our Detachment Children & Youth Commission Chairman was attending to learn more about the programs and to bring valuable information back to the Detachment. The weekend was a great success for all attending.

October rolled around and included visits back to Indy for the Fall NEC, a visit to Sharptown for a Heroes Haven Banquet, a trip to Stevensville for a squadron meeting and a trip to Georgia for another visitation.

The first trip was to Indy for the Fall NEC Meeting. The Campaign had a big success with the luncheon that was hosted by Maryland on Saturday for over 200 members of the NEC. Special thanks go out to members of the Campaign Team that made their first visit to an NEC and worked the luncheon and to others that are regulars at the NEC's. They included Jim and Donna Alexander, JR and Margie Hall, Ray and Terry Edwards, Tom and Eleanor Deal, Bill Hill, Bill Stem, Jeff Seiler, Bill and Shelly Matoska, Carol and Danny Robinson, Bruce and Cheryl Paquin, Larry Ford, and George Grossnickle. We provided a great luncheon and a great giveaway. Wearing the new campaign shirt, the Team did a great job.

On October 20th I had the opportunity to MC the Heroes Haven Banquet put on by Dor-Wic Legion Family in Sharptown. It truly was a great honor to have been asked by Ray Edwards and leadership of Heroes Haven. That evening I had the opportunity to meet with three young wounded warriors that Heroes Haven brought to Sharptown for shooting and deer hunting. I got to witness the honored guests receive their black powder guns as a gift and to see them receive a life membership in The American Legion. The hearts of well over 200 in attendance were touched watching these young heroes receive their gifts of appreciation of their sacrifices to our country.

On Wednesday October 24th I traveled over to meet with Kent Island Squadron 278. It was a great opportunity to meet and hear about what one of our Maryland squadron's is doing. This is a squadron that is deeply involved with their Post Home and truly supports their veterans. After sharing with them about the campaign, the Squadron voted to donate \$1,000.00 to the campaign. I was truly touched by their generosity. I want to thank Karl Kibler, NESD Commander for arranging the invitation to Sq. 278's meeting.

The last weekend of October I traveled to Atlanta, GA. I was treated like a honored guest by NEC Bob Brown and the other

members of the Detachment. I was not even allowed to carry my luggage. Upon arriving, NEC Bob took me to American Legion Posts 51 and 251. We also went and had lunch at the first Chic Filet Restaurant. Commander Matt Chebro conducted a very informative meeting on Saturday. Matt is the son of the Leading Candidate for National Vice Commander Tom Chebro. It was nice to get to spend some time with one of my comrades that I will get to serve with. I had an opportunity to speak before the Legion and the Auxiliary sessions. I also had the opportunity to speak before the Legion Riders session. They had over 130 in attendance and were excited to hear that I am also a Legion Rider. After attending a Memorial Service on Sunday morning on October 28, 2012, I headed to the airport hoping to get home before Hurricane Sandy rolled into town. I made it.

Coming up this month, I look forward to going to Essex Post 148 for a fundraiser being put on by the Squadron on November 10, 2012. The following weekend I will be heading over to Delaware for a visitation and then up to New Hampshire on November 30th. I am sorry about being a little long winded, but I wanted to catch everyone up with were the Campaign is now. In the future, I will share my travels as they occur. I want to thank everyone for their support and look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

For God and Country **Joe Gladden**

Leading Candidate for National Commander
Sons of The American Legion
2013-2014

Northern Central District News

It's hard to believe its November already and the holidays will be here before you know it. I would like this opportunity to wish you all, safe and happy holidays with loved ones and friends. And let's not forget all of those brave men and women veterans who may be alone at this time of year.

Also, I hope that all of you and your friends and families have safely survived the terrible storms. We all have so much to be thankful for.

Upcoming NCD events: We have our Bragging Rights Pool Tournament at Slate Ridge on November 18th at 12:00 noon and all are welcome to participate. Our Fall meeting will be there the same day and our scheduled guest speaker is Tina Pearson, Founder and CEO of Home of the Brave (my Commanders Project). In March we will do our Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at

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McVets. Our Toys for Tots for program is once again doing well and I will have more information on that in the next Pride.

In September, the NCD once again participated in the Perry Point Carnival and the volunteers from our Squadrons, as well as our State officers, was outstanding. A big thank you goes out to all who volunteered or made donations to the carnival. We severed over 250 burgers to the vets and staff before we ran out. We could have done well over 300, and will do so next year

Wishing the best for all in the upcoming New Year, I know we will make the Detachment even stronger with our support for each other and the next National Commander, Joe Gladden.

God Bless our troops and this wonderful country, the United States of America.

Bob Spencer
NCD Commander

Northeastern Shore Herald

Welcome to fall. With that comes our membership drive. As of 11-2-12 the North Eastern Shore District is in third place in the Detachment in membership. We are 58 members behind last year at this time. A right hand salute goes out to Squadrons: 21, 29, 36, 70, and 246 for being over 50% in dues paid. The growth of the Sons of The American Legion depends on our membership. Please contact those who have not yet paid their 2013 dues. EVERY Squadron should strive for AT LEAST Three Star membership.

Our next NESD District meeting will be held on December 2 at 10:30 A.M. at Sgt. Preston Ashley Post #228. EVERY Squadron should send a representative.

Also, the next DEC meeting will be held in Ocean City on December 9, 2013 at 1:00 P.M. at Synepuxent Post # 166.

Please Support Heroes to Hometowns,
Karl B. Kibler
Commander: N.E.S.D.

Southern Maryland Pride

The Southern Maryland District is currently in fourth place in membership. The DEC's are doing a good job ensuring that the squadrons are submitting their memberships. However, there are too many

zeroes from squadrons in the District that have not turned in any memberships. They are as follows: 28, 126, 171, 235, and 238. Kudos goes to the squadrons who have met the targeted goals of 35% by November 15th. They are: 7, 34, 40, 66, 82, 108, 141, 172, 206, 226, 255, 274, 275, 276, 295. Also, a Shout Out goes to the squadrons who are at 100% of their goal. They are as follows: 227, and 295.

The Southern Maryland Travel Club which consisted of SMD officers traveled to Mayo Post 226. It was truly an American Legion family affair because the SMD Legion officers and the SMD Auxiliary officers were in attendance. We had a great time of fellowship with the Post 226 family. They extended their hospitality to us and everyone had a great time. Next time will be even better.

The SMD is sponsoring a Draw Down on Saturday, November 10, 2012 at the Glen Burnie Post 40. Tickets are \$35.00 per couple with limited drinks and dinner.

The SMD Commander has not received any calls for the sick and relief in the District. However, if there are any please forward the names to the commander.

The next Southern Maryland District SAL meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 2, 2012 at the Wheaton Post 268 at 1:00 p.m.

Yours In Service,
Greg Taylor
SMD Commander

South Eastern Shore Gazette

Fellow Comrades,

The South Eastern Shore District will be holding a fundraiser on Saturday, December 8th at American Legion Post 166 in Ocean City, Maryland. This event will begin at 4pm and run to 8pm. Tickets are \$35.00, admits two for dinner, includes draft beer, water and soda's, while supplies last. Proceeds benefits "Joe's Journey" National Support Fund. Only 150 tickets will be sold. Contact Ray Edwards (410) 215-9354 for tickets. Please do not wait until the last minute. Tickets are going fast.

Saturday, December 8, 2012 The Detachment of Maryland will be conducting a training class at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City at 11 am. Please make every effort to attend this training. Our next DEC meeting will be Sunday, December 9, 2012 1pm at American Legion Post 166, in Ocean City, Maryland.

Congratulations to Squadron 87 for reaching Four Star status. The SESD is currently in second place in membership. Please continue to turn in membership as soon as possible. For our current district fundraiser, we are raffling off a scooter. Drawing will be Sunday, December 16th at the District Christmas Party held at The American Legion, Post 243 in Hurlock, Maryland.

Serving Veterans and Their Families,
Ray Edwards Jr.
South Eastern Shore District Commander
(410) 215-9354 Cell

Western Maryland Tribune

One half of year is almost gone by and things are moving on. The Western Maryland district has 18 squadrons we have NO goose eggs. Great job to all the squadron's please keep up with your membership and get those cards mailed in Our second meeting is January 13th at 1:00 pm at FSK Post 11 in Frederick, MD. . I would like to thank all the squadrons for hosting out district meetings. I hope everyone makes an effort to attend our meetings. Please be aware that Western Maryland District does have a Facebook page where one can join and see what is going on at our local squadrons. Please let's get those members renewing and get new members as we are the largest district in the state of MD. Now is the time to start recording what is being done for the end of year reports. I would like to see all 18 squadron's turn in a report this year! And please do all you can to support our Commanders Project "Heroes To Hometown"

Our 3rd meeting will be February 3rd 2013 1:00 pm at the Hampstead Squadron 200 Hampstead, MD and our 4th Meeting is May 19st 2013 1:00pm at Emmitsburg Squadron #121 at Kumps Dam Emmitsburg, MD.

Yours In Service
Jeff Seiler
WMD Commander

NEC NEWS

I bring you greetings from National Commander Chris Huntzinger. Commander Chris welcomed everyone to the Fall NEC. While there he commended everyone on their membership and getting on "The Band Wagon". Several Detachments including Maryland have surpassed the National goals. Maryland's membership on the National level puts us at 34.738% which places us in 17th and 3rd in the East Region. Every time we make goal the Detachment will receive a certificate for membership. Let's see if we can collect one for each month and make Commander Bill proud of his membership

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team, which is all of us.

While at the Fall NEC members of the Detachment sat in and participated in the various commission and committee meetings. Maryland blue cap members were well represented at the NEC. Here are some of the resolutions that were passed by the NEC and confirmed by the American Legion Internal Affairs.

- SAL NEC 1-F12, Background Screening Procedures and Policies for Sons of The American Legion Youth Program Volunteers
- SAL NEC 3-F12, Rescinding Non-Legislative Resolution from the SAL VA&R Commission, Ride to Recovery Program
- SAL NEC 7-F12, Support of the Oratorical Program
- SAL NEC 8-F12, Establishment of the Sons Public Relations Awards, Snapshots of Service
- SAL NEC 9-F12, Support of the Stolen Valor Act

Here are a few dates to remember;

- Membership Target Date 35% (2013) November 15, 2012
- Membership Target Date 45% (2013) December 12, 2012
- Membership Target Date 60% (2013) January 16, 2013
- Membership Target Date 75% (2013) February 13, 2013
- National Americanism Month February 2013
- Washington Conference February 24-27, 2013
- National SAL Vice Commander East- Unofficial gathering & Homecoming March 8-10, 2013
- National A.L. Commanders visit to Maryland March 9-10, 2013
- Membership Target Date 80% (2013) March 13, 2013
- Legion Birthday March 15, 2013
- National Commander Chris Huntzinger's Homecoming March 22-24, 2013
- National Children & Youth Month April 2013
- Membership Target Date 90% (2013) April 10, 2013
- Spring NEC & National Management Institute Training May 4-5, 2013
- Membership Target Date 100% (2013) May 8, 2013
- Veterans Assistance Day May 18, 2013
- Membership Target Date 105% & Delegate Strength Target July 24, 2013
- National Convention (Houston, TX) August 23-25, 2013

With the holidays upon us please remember our Veterans at home and in the VA Hospitals.

- Servings Those Who Served Us
- Andy Dadds
- National Executive Committeemen

Adjutant's Corner

D.E.C.: The next meeting of the Detachment of Maryland Executive Committee is scheduled for December 9, 2013 hosted by Synepuxent Post No. 166 in Ocean City, Md. at 1:00 PM. By request of the Commander, all Committees and Commissions will meet one hour prior to the convening of the D.E.C. at the same location. The post home is located at 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, Md. 21842 and the post phone number is 410-289-3166. Detachment Commander, Bill Hill, has announced that he will be hosting a hospitality room along with his Vice-Commanders at the Grand Hotel in room 820 on Friday, December 7th beginning at 6:00 PM. Snacks & a variety of beverages will be provided by your host. This is a great opportunity to make new friends and renew old acquaintances.

Training Symposium: On Saturday, December 8th, a Sons of The American Legion leadership and general training session will take place from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM with a break for lunch. The training will consist of two sessions and will take place in the Grand Hotel on the 4th floor in the Grand I. For those unfamiliar, the Grand Hotel is located on the beach behind the Legion post between 21st and 22nd streets at 2100 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City, Md. 21842. We have the good fortune to have two of the most renowned instructors in the country facilitating these sessions, our own Past National Commander Bill Sparwasser and from the Detachment of Minnesota, Past National Commander Joe Mayne. The training sessions are open to all members of the Legion Family and pre-registration is not required to attend. I can not stress enough how unique an opportunity this is for the membership of Maryland to have these two distinguished gentlemen with their background and experience volunteer their time to facilitate this training for us.

Cruise Raffle: Remember, on Sunday, December 9th at the D.E.C. meeting the drawing for a free cruise to the Bahamas on the Carnival Ship, Pride, is scheduled to take place which is sponsored by the National Campaign Committee. The winning ticket will receive an all inclusive paid balcony cabin for two people which is scheduled for April 21-27, 2013. National Commander Candidate, Joe Gladden, has generously announced that all proceeds from the cruise raffle tickets sold during this D.E.C. weekend will be split between the Campaign Fund and the Detachment Commander's project, "Heroes to Hometown". For your last chance to win a free cruise see either JR Hall, Bear Weinzirl, or myself for a raffle ticket. They are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. After the drawing on Sunday those wishing to attend the cruise can contact Debbie Felix of View of the World Travel at 410-975-8439. The S.A.L. block of cabins will be released back to Carnival on December 16, 2013.

Draw Down: If you were coming to Ocean City for the D.E.C. weekend to relax, forget about it. On Saturday, December 8th after the training sessions, the South Eastern Shore District is hosting a Draw Down. The festivities will commence at 4:00 PM at Post No. 166 in Ocean City with all proceeds going to the National Campaign Fund. The event is scheduled from 4:00 to 8:00 PM featuring a silent auction, horse racing films, money wheel, 50/50 drawings and a chance to win \$1000.00. The cost for this event is \$35.00 a ticket which admits two people and includes dinner, soft drinks, and draft beer. Only 150 tickets are sold with every 10th number winning at least \$35.00. Additionally, the first number drawn wins \$50.00, the 50th number drawn wins \$250.00, the 100th number drawn wins \$350.00, and the 150th number drawn wins \$1000.00. The 149th and the 150th numbers to be drawn, which are the last two tickets left to be drawn have the option to split the \$1000.00. As a bonus for those that wish to support the campaign fund and still have a chance to win, you do not have to be present to win. This is a win/win situation for everyone. For tickets or more information contact S.E.S. District Commander, Ray Edwards, at 410-215-9354.

Address Labels: In the month of October every member of the Detachment of Maryland, eighteen years of age and older, received a packet of patriotic mailing labels with a cover letter from Detachment Commander Hill. First, if you have member in your household under the age of eighteen and wish to prevent future mailings of this type; go to the Detachment web page and print out a Date of Birth Form. You will see that this form is self explanatory and can be mailed to National Headquarters where the permanent membership records are maintained. Next, it is paramount that every recipient of this newsletter take this information back to their respective squadrons and discuss and emphasize the importance for each member to support this program by making a personal donation. The Detachment of Maryland supports a wide array of programs across the state of Maryland and like any other fraternal group or business, these economic times have stifled our ability to meet all of the needs of our local charities. The VA facilities and local youth groups we support are depending on us more so today than ever in our history due to the limited resources, again, as a result of the tough times we are all realizing. To help compensate for this economic dilemma, Commander Hill has put a call out to all members to assist the Detachment as the letter states, to provide practical and meaningful support to our veterans and those in need across our great state. There is no donation that is too small, for it is the sum of the whole that will continue to keep the Detachment of Maryland helping those in need. On behalf of Commander Hill and all of the officers of the Detachment of Maryland, I want to THANK YOU for your

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generous gift and please pass this thanks on to your members.

January D.E.C.: The host for the January Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be Overlea Perry Hall Squadron No. 130 at the post home located at 8666 Silver Lake Drive, Perry Hall, Md. 21128. The post phone number is 410-931-0660. This meeting will convene on January 27, 2013, at 1:00 PM and will be preceded by the Detachment Commissions and Committees meeting at noon.

Radio Club: In lieu of recent events with Hurricane Sandy, the National Organization has asked everyone to re-publish the following article.

Indianapolis— Since its inception in May, 2011, The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) has grown steadily to nearly a thousand members, a statistic that club president Marty Justis, W9WMJ expects to surpass before the end of the year. “Nearly every day, more licensed radio amateurs who are members of the Legion family sign up on line,” Justis said. “Today TALARC is one of the nation’s largest ham radio clubs.” The American Legion Amateur Radio Club was established in May, 2011 by Resolution 11 to encourage participation in amateur radio Licensing and emergency communications. Many club members across the country are participating in the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)

working with their local emergency management officials. Any Legionnaire, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member who holds a valid Amateur Radio License of any class is eligible for free membership in TALARC. Information is available on the club’s website: www.legion.org/hamradio.

Background Screening:

Please be advised that The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion have both passed resolutions to implement procedures that will require background screening of volunteers selected to staff American Legion Baseball, Boys State & Boys Nation, Oratorical Contest, Junior Shooting Sports and the Boy Scout program. This becomes effective in 2013 and that said background screenings be conducted annually prior to the start of each program and that the screening be conducted only by the vendor authorized by The American Legion. More discussion at D.E.C. meeting.

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska
Adjutant,
Detachment of Maryland

Open Forum

The following announcements are a result of my article in the last issue of the Pride regarding an open forum for members

to advertise their squadron events, editorialize or ask S.A.L. oriented questions.

S.A.L. Towson Squadron #22 presents there: Comedy Night on January 26, 2013 with all proceeds to benefit Veterans and Community Programs. Door/Bar open at 6 PM Limited open bar, soda and beer Dinner served at 7PM/Show Time 8:30 PM Donation is \$35.00 in advance For ticket information contact Squadron Commander, Stu Crook @ 443-829-8030 or the post lounge @ 410-823-8030.

McVETS: The Glen Burnie Legion Family will be hosting a Christmas Luncheon for the veterans and staff at the McVet Center on Saturday, December 22, 2013 beginning at 11:00 AM. The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training is located at 301 North High Street, Baltimore, Md. 21202. For more information contact JR Hall from Glen Burnie Squadron at 410-365-7758.

Holiday Wheelbarrel of Cheer Raffle

In support of Loch Raven VA Community Living Center (formerly known as BRECC). Sponsored by the Jackson & Johnson Memorial Sons of The American Legion Squadron No. 263.

Tickets are \$3.00 each.
Drawing at 9:00 PM on
Wednesday, December 19, 2012
at the post home located at
151 Winters Lane, Catonsville, Md. 21228.