

# SOUND-OFF

A publication of the George P. Vanderveer American Legion Post 129  
2025 Church Road, Toms River, New Jersey 08753  
(732) 255-9250

Web-Page: [www.alpost129.com](http://www.alpost129.com)

**A veteran's organization established 1919.**



July/August 2008

Volume 21: Number 4

## GRAND OPENING WHAT A CELEBRATION

On Saturday June 21, 2008, the George P. Vanderveer American Legion Post 129 of Toms River, New Jersey held its Grand Opening with an open house to all. Hundreds of people showed up for the ceremonies and celebration of the dedication for the new building. There were dignitaries and visitors from all over the state to help us commemorate our new Post Home.

For a full review of the affair, turn to page 6 & 7.



Our New Post Home June 2008

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE POST COMMANDER

To all the American Legion Post 129 Family,

This is my first message to everyone as the commander of Post 129. It is an honor and privilege to be able to take the helm of this great organization.

We still have a long road ahead of us to reach our peak, so all I can ask again is please help your post anyway you can cause every little bit helps.

I am asking everyone in the post, "Legionnaires, S.A.L., Ladies Auxiliary, and Legion Riders" to work together in the desire to achieve our goal to make us #1.



To all our new officers and trustees, all I can say is thank you for stepping up to the plate.

In closing I want to say to our Past Commander Jack Meyer, "well done, well done." You did an outstanding job at the helm and I know that as our membership coordinator you will make us #1.

For God and Country, *Frank Stack*, Commander 2008-2009



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Ladies,

As my first message of the year, I would like to thank the Auxiliary for their faith and support in me by electing me President, and to the ladies who have taken committees so that we may have a productive year. Our installation was beautiful and I thank all who served.

I congratulate the Commander and his Officers and I hope to have a successful year working together.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in September and resuming our breakfast once a month and holding other fundraisers. So please come out and help.

Enjoy your summer!!!

For God and Country, *Peggy Robbins*, President



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## A NOTE FROM THE LEGION RIDERS PRESIDENT

I would like to start off by saying THANK YOU!

We, as the Legion Riders, are very proud and honored that we were included and installed on May 18, 2008 and brought into the American Legion Post 129 Family. We look forward to working together and making this post the best it can be.

I would also like to thank everyone for all your support and help on making our Legion Riders pasta dinner a HUGE success!

Our membership for the ALR is growing and I am proud to say that we are really pulling together as a group and family.

Please check the bulletin board for upcoming events.

For God and Country, *Wendy "Gypsy" Sharkey*, President



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## POST 129 WEBSITE [www.alpost129.com](http://www.alpost129.com)

Post 129 has a website, [www.alpost129.com](http://www.alpost129.com). This will provide continuous access to happenings at the post and any changes in scheduled events.

The new website will also provide a quick reference of post information such as officer listings, membership requirements and applications, canteen and hall activities, post history, and links to other functions within the post, auxiliary, sons, and legion riders. Just enter [www.alpost129.com](http://www.alpost129.com) to view up to date information about your post. In the future Sound-Off will also be viewable through the website. *Bill Parady*, computer room chairman

## **POST 129 PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENTS**

### **Article IV: Nominating Committee, Section 3**

Qualifications for the office of Commander shall be two years in office as Vice-Commander, Adjutant, or Finance Officer or any combination thereof, and, successful completion of the American Legion College Advanced Course.

Qualifications for Vice-Commander shall be one year in elective office and having chaired a special or standing committee, and, successful completion of the American Legion College Basic Course.

### **Article V: Elections, Section 3**

Part or all of the ballot may be dispensed with by a two thirds vote when there is one candidate for said office. Balloting is necessary when more than one candidate has been nominated for any office, these names shall be listed by random selection. Said voting shall be by secret ballot. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed. Elective officers shall assume office at the first General Meeting after the American Legion Department of New Jersey Annual Convention.

### **Article VII: Duties of Elective Officers, Section 7**

The Board of Trustees shall be chaired by the immediate past commander and retain custody of all Post and real property. Approve for signature by the Commander, Finance Officer and/or Adjutant all deeds, mortgages and legal documents and covenants, providing an opinion has been obtained from legal counsel whom the Board shall retain yearly and with the approval of the membership. **[[The trustees shall negotiate all lease agreements with the tenants or prospective tenants of the Post property known as 245 and 247 Main Street. The Board shall also handle, lease and rental agreements of the parking areas located adjacent to and within the Post boundaries.]]** And, monitor all budgeted expenditures and notify the appropriate officer or committee chairperson when their budget is about to be exceeded; review and monitor all bids and appropriations; the Board shall meet Quarterly to review Post and committee records and report to the Executive Board as soon thereafter as practicable. The Board shall inventory all Post property and equipment on a yearly basis and file a record of such with the Adjutant. "...And such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the society.

*Explanation: Post 129 is no longer owner of said property*

### **XI: Meetings, Section 1**

The General meetings of the Post shall be held on the first Monday of each month and shall be called to order at 8:00pm. Twenty-one members shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not obtained by 8:15pm that meeting may be canceled by the Commander. There shall be no General Meeting held on an official holiday.

*Change: Quorum to eighteen members.*

### **Article XVI: Bar Committee, Section 1**

The Commander shall appoint a committee consisting of at least six members to serve with the chairperson, subject to approval of the membership. The Chairperson shall have successfully completed the American Legion College Club Management Course.

#### **KEY**

Additions: Underscored

Deletions: **[[Bold]]**

Changes: *Italic*

Submitted by the By-Laws Committee.

# JULY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Happy Birthday America</b>	1	2	3	4	5	
		<i>Army Air Corps 1926</i>		 <i>Independence Day</i>		
6	7 Post General Meeting - 8 PM	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Post Board Meeting - 8 PM	22	23	24	25	26 Legion Riders Picnic/Pig Roast 1 PM – 6 PM
					<i>Korean War Vet Day</i>	
27	28	29	30	31	<b>Freedom is Not FREE!</b>	

## MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES

### OCEAN COUNTY CEREMONIES

Ocean County American Legion conducted its annual Memorial Day ceremonies on Sunday May 25. Post 129 participated with its Ritual Team lead by Bob Scheiderman reciting “Flanders Fields” and the Honor Guard providing the rifle volleys. Commander Jack Meyer and Past Commander Dave Corbin raised the colors during the ceremonies.

Also attending was James Jermey of the Royal Canadian Legion A.L. Paterson Branch 87 to lay a wreath in tribute to his grandfather who served in the armed forces of the United States. James Jermey is a member of S.A.L. Squadron 129 and an executive board member of the Branch 87. James’ uncle is now also a member of the S.A.L. Squadron 129.



### MEMORIAL DAY

At the creak of dawn on May 26, the American Legion Post 129 Honor Guard set out to honor various gravesites and memorials throughout Toms River. At each site a prayer was offered, a floral piece laid, a triple volley from the rifle team and Taps was played.

At 9:30 Post 129 Legionnaires, Auxiliary, S.A.L. and Legion Riders participated in the township parade and Memorial Day ceremonies at town hall. S.A.L. member James Jermey laid the wreath at the flagpole. His unit in Canada, Branch 87, gave the wreath placed at the Toms River Township Hall.

It was such a grand pleasure for James to visit us on such a magnificent holiday in our nation.

Pictured are: the raising of the colors; County Commander Theodore Fegula; James Jermey; and Bob Scheiderman.



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## Dedication Ceremonies

Saturday June 21, 2008, the George P. Vanderveer American Legion Post 129 of Toms River, New Jersey held its Grand Opening with an open house to all. Hundreds of people showed up for the ceremonies and celebration of the dedication for the new building. (Pictured left)

At 1 PM the dedication began. It started with opening words of welcome from Ocean County Commander Theodore Fegula followed with an invocation from Chaplain Rev. Bill Vanderbilt. The Boy Scout Troop 129 led the “Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag”, followed by Kayla Calabrese signing our national anthem.

Department Commander Richard Salinkanskas (Pictured right) spoke on behalf of the Legion. He commended Post 129 on their achievement and spoke on building the American Legion membership with younger veterans. Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher spoke to the gathering reflecting on the posts place in the community in years past and praised the accomplishments of Post 129. Freeholder Joe Vicari spoke next and presented a Proclamation from Ocean County to the post.



Commander Frank Stack did the dedication.

The *Shamrock and Thistle Bagpipers* played a series of great patriotic numbers to commemorate the occasion.

The Post Honor Guard gave the traditional rifle salute to commemorate the occasion. Phil Jones commanded the detail of Stan Brown, Steve Lembo and Ron Mills.

The Kum Sung Demo Team performed a magnificent demonstration of grace and discipline to the music "Proud to be an American".

Four of the involved persons at the completion of the building, Past Commander Stan Brown, Building Committee Co-Chairman Dave Kearns, Building Committee Chairman Bobby Blair, and Auxiliary President Peggy Robbins cut the ribbon (Pictured left) with Commander Frank Stack (Far left) and Past Commander Jack Meyer (Far right).



## The Celebration

After the formal ceremonies, all retired to the picnic grounds (Pictured below) in the rear of the property for an afternoon of entertainment, great food, and fellowship. It was a good time for us to get acquainted with the members who are unable to get out to come to the post but just couldn't miss this historic moment in our post's history.

The Vintage Automobile Club of Ocean County and the Vintage Automobile Museum had a number of vehicles on display. The kids had a ball with a face painting expert (Lower left) and the Moon Walk. A great group called Hotflash (Upper left) provided live music and post member *Richie the DJ* (Lower left) filled in to provide continuous music. Richie has played numerous times for our post at the various affairs. The *Shamrock and Thistle Bagpipers* were also well received with a demonstration at the picnic grounds. (Upper right)

There was plenty of food, hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage, chicken and salads. To drink was birch beer and the real stuff too. For those who wished a special brew, the canteen was open. (Pictured left and right)

We surely hope everyone enjoyed themselves and will come back sometime for a visit.



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## CONVENTION NEWS - POST 129 AWARDS:

Post 129 and Squadron 129 took numerous awards in membership at the Department Convention.

Post 129:

- 2008, Department Membership Recruiter of the Year, John Meyer, Post 129
- 2008, Top New Member Recruiter, Jack Meyer, Post 129
- 2008, Gold Bregale Membership Award, John D. Meyer, Post 129
- Department of New Jersey, Charles Beaumont Membership Achievement, Jack Meyer, Post 129
- 2008, Convention Membership Award for Attaining A Membership Greater Than 110%, Post 129

Squadron 129:

- SAL Detachment of New Jersey, Membership 50-99, 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Squadron 129, 2008

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## A NOTE ON MEMBERSHIP

Hello Comrades,

Well the same thing keeps happening over and over again. I've sent this message many times but nobody seems to be watching it. So we'll try it once more.

When you send in your dues (\$30 for Legion, \$20 for Auxiliary and \$15 for SAL) please make sure of two things. One, make separate checks for each part of our organization. Secondly, please, please, please up date your correct mailing address. All this is very important because it's hitting the fan royally.

Now you can mail all this to the address for the post at 2025 Church Rd. or to me at 990 Stamler Dr., Toms River, NJ 08753. I'll ensure that it gets to the right person.

Hopefully this will correct an already bad situation. Keep your flags flying high.

For God and Country, *Don Sikorski*...Membership Chairman for SAL

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## A BARBEQUE FOR OUR TROOPS

American Legion Post 129 let the members of the New Jersey Army National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team know they are supported, by treating them to a luncheon. For two hours, 25 volunteers and post members flipped burgers, grilled hot dogs and served them up with a smile.

"These are good kids and good soldiers, and they're doing a tough job," said Vice Commander Frank Stack. "We've got to make sure they know that people back here support them."

Post 129 plans to continue its support of the brigade by mailing monthly packages to the soldiers. Stack said members would begin collecting personal items such as toothpaste and nonperishable food items to send overseas in 20-pound boxes.



Pictured are some of the post volunteers that helped at the event.

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# AUGUST 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1 style="color: blue; text-decoration: underline;">God Bless Our Troops</h1>					<b>1</b> Legion Night Blue-Claws Game First Energy Park 7:05 PM <i>Air Force Day</i>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> S.A.L. Barbecue Gas Grill Raffle Drawing 3 PM	<b>4</b> Post General Meeting - 8 PM Auxiliary General Meeting 7:30 PM <i>Coast Guard 1790</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Navaho Code Talkers</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>National Airborne Day</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <i>National Aviation Day</i>	<b>18</b> Post Board Meeting - 8 PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24/31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> County Meeting Mystic Island Post 493 - 8 PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## **POPPY PROCLAMATION**

On May 13, 2008 the George P. Vanderveer American Legion Auxiliary Unit 129 Toms River were recipients of the Poppy Proclamation at the Town Hall. Attending were President Jean Robbins,



Poppy Awareness Chairperson Peggy Robbins, members Jane Keeley, Phyllis McHugh, Mariann Zito, and Cathe Regan. Post members attending were Jim Regan, Art Robbins, and Frank Zito.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came out to distribute poppies this year. It was a huge success.

Thank You All,

*Peggy Robbins,*

Poppy Awareness Chairperson

### **LEGION RIDERS PICNIC**

The American Legion Riders Post 129 is proud to announce its 1st annual Picnic/Pig Roast on July 26, 2008, 1 PM – 6 PM.

There will be Music, Food, Beer, Games, a 50/50, a Motorcycle Raffle (98 Sportster HD), and much more. Stop in the canteen; ask for Wendy for more info and ticket sales. Tickets are \$20 and Raffle Tickets for the Sportster are \$30.

For God and Country,

*Wendy "Gypsy" Sharkey,* President

### **S.A.L. BARBECUE GAS GRILL RAFFLE**

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 129 is having a raffle for a beautiful gas grill, which can be seen in the Post Canteen. Tickets are available at the canteen or can be obtained by calling the post (732) 255-9250. Tickets are \$1.00 each. The drawing will be held on Sunday, August 3, 2008 at 3 PM. The proceeds will benefit scholarships.

### **VETERAN MEMORIAL UPDATE**

The Veteran Memorial is on the move again. All who have subscribed already will be receiving an update in the mail. There have been some small changes in the layout and we want everyone to know where the project stands. It was important to see the building was completed first.

### **AMERICAN LEGION NIGHT**

## **Lakewood BlueClaws**

Vs.

## **West Virginia Power**

AUGUST 1, 2008 at 7:05 PM

Come out to the ballgame and celebrate American Legion Night at First Energy Park promoting your organization and what it has to offer the people of New Jersey. Contact the Post for tickets and more information.

### **50/50 WINNER**

The winner of the Summer Vacation 50/50 drawing June 3<sup>rd</sup> was Edward J. Kwityn for \$2282. Thanks to everyone who helped make our raffle a great success. *Frank Stack*

**August 4, 2008**  
Deadline for next issue of  
**SOUND-OFF.**

**OFFICERS for 2008/9**

**POST OFFICERS**

Commander: *Frank Stack*  
 Vice Commanders:  
*Steve Lembo Dave Corbin*  
 Finance Officer: *Bob Blair*  
 Sgt. At Arms: *Richard Gato*  
 Chaplain: *Rev. Bill Vanderbilt*  
 Historian: *Michael Wolff*  
 Service Officer: *Thomas Haskell Sr.*  
 Trustees:  
*Jack Meyer Phil Jones George Callahan*  
*David Kearns Bill Pardy Tom Moore*  
*Ron Cluse Artie Robbins Frank Zito*

**AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

President: *Peggy Robbins*  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: *Jane Keely*  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: *Phyllis McHugh*  
 Treasurer: *Bernice Stanton*  
 Historian: *Lynn Keating*  
 Chaplain: *Jean Robbins*  
 Sgt.-At-Arms: *Marian Zito*  
 Secretary: *Patricia Cozine*

**S.A.L. OFFICERS**

Commander: *Stan Brown*  
 Vice Commanders:  
*Jessie McClean Ray Lofmark Matt Plasencia*  
 Finance Officer: *Duke Haring*  
 Sgt. at Arms: *Justin Quiuntana*  
 Historian: *Matt Plasencia*  
 Chaplin: *Devon Murray*

**LEGION RIDER OFFICERS**

President: *Wendy Sharkey*  
 Vice President: *Matt Plasencia*  
 Treasurer: *Raymond Quesuel*  
 Historian: *TBA*  
 Chaplain: *John Loiacono*  
 Sgt.-At-Arms: *William Gesell*  
 Secretary: *Joel la Roza*

**SOUND-OFF**

A Post 129 Newsletter Publication dedicated to getting the word out to the membership.

E-Mail: *soundoff129@comcast.net*

Editor: Rev. Bill Vanderbilt  
 (American Legion Press Club of N. J. Member)

Staff Members:  
*Once organized staff members will be listed.*



DEADLINE for September/October Issue:  
**Monday August 4, 2008**

**TAPS**



We salute our comrades that have answered the call, "Rest in peace" and transferred to Post Everlasting.

**Post Everlasting 2008**

*Edward Donaleski*  
*Edward F. O'Toole*  
*Anthony M. Pedone*  
*William A. Robbins*  
*Albert Romberger*  
*Andrew F. Struchko*  
*William Walker*  
*Harry R. Springer*

**SOUND-OFF BOOSTERS**

January/February

- *Toms River Det. 796 Marine Corp. Lg. (08)*

March/April

- *Signe Lockwood (mo PFC Frassetto) (08)*
- *W.L. (Bill) Thompkins (moPhil Grant) (08)*
- *Jim DiGiulio (08)*
- *Harry A. Witworth (08)*
- *William A. King Jr. (08)*

May/June

- *Gene O'Grady (08)*

July/August

- *Joe Derhay (07)*
- *Raymond & Eleanor Latshaw (07)*
- *Jimmie Di Netta (08)*
- *Marie & Dana Hughes (08)*

September/October

- *John & Jean Parker (07)*

November/December

**Booster Support:**

Would you like to be a booster supporter? Send a check for \$15 made out to American Legion Post 129 to become Sound-Off Booster.  
 Thank you for your support.

*The Editor*

**BUILDING FUND CONTRIBUTORS**

The following persons were not listed in the last publication of the Building Fund. Our thanks for your continuing support.

*Paul C. Brush \$100*  
*William P. & Per Anne Choltco \$50*  
*Jimmie Di Netta \$50*  
*Richard & Sign Lockwood \$100*  
*(In memory of George Paulton)*

# SOUND-OFF

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**GEORGE P. VANDERVEER**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 129**

2025 Church Road  
TOMS RIVER, NJ 08753  
(732) 255-9250  
[www.alpost129.com](http://www.alpost129.com)



## DATED MATERIAL



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## THE ONLY FLAG THAT DOESN'T FLY

There's a beautiful place where Seed companies grow their flowers close to Vandenberg AFB in California. There are over nine miles of flower fields that go all the way to the ocean. Between the fields a flag is planted.

The Floral Flag (pictured here) is 740 feet long and 390 feet wide and maintains the proper Flag dimensions, as described in Executive Order #10834. This Flag covers 6.65 acres and is the first Floral Flag to be planted with 5 Pointed Stars, comprised of White Larkspur. Each Star is 24 feet in diameter; each Stripe is 30 feet wide. This Flag is estimated to contain more than 400,000 Larkspur plants, with 4-5 flower stems each, for a total of more than 2 million flowers.

