

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

A veteran's organization established 1919.



September/October 2008

Volume 21: Number 5

VA ANNOUNCES ON-LINE CLAIMS APPLICATIONS

Story on Page 6

THE LADIES VISIT PEPPERIDGE FARMS

Unit President, Peggy Robbins and Ways & Means Chairman, Susan Darrow presented Pepperidge Farms with a plaque congratulating them on their generous donations for the Unit's Breakfasts. Pictured from left to right is Unit Second Vice President, Phyllis McHugh; Manager of Pepperidge Farms, Cindy; Ways & Means Chairman, Susan Darrow; Employee of Pepperidge Farms, Lorretta; and Unit President, Peggy Robbins. Pepperidge Farms is located on Highway Rt. 37 west in Toms River.



A MESSAGE FROM THE POST COMMANDER

Comrades,

The Grand Opening was a great success and my thanks goes to all who gave so much effort to getting our post home ready and hosting our guests. Without the help from the Auxiliary, S.A.L., Legion Riders, and the Venture Crew, we couldn't have gotten the job done in time. Thank you.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the Annual Picnic September 6. It's time to get back into the swing of things and re-establishing our annual picnic is a start. There are many new things coming down the slot like the shuffleboard competition and other activities. These activities can be found posted on the bulletin board and the web site.

We are still establishing committees to get things in order and keep operations running smoothly. We are always open for additional help. What to help? Come on down.



As you all may know, I've been out of the area for a while and now am combating a case of pneumonia so my message will be very short. Thank you for your support and prayers.

For God and Country,
Frank Stack, Commander



A MESSAGE FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Ladies,

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. By the time you receive this publication, we will have already resumed our meetings. I am very much looking forward upon approval, in starting our breakfasts and various functions throughout the year. It is a great way to get together and we welcome new ideas. Anyone who has suggestions, please bring them to the meetings, we also need volunteers for those functions, so please help if you can.



I would like to congratulate Phyllis McHugh in taking the Membership Chair. She is doing a great job and if anyone knows of anyone eligible to join please contact Phyllis.

For God and Country,
Peggy Robbins, President



A MESSAGE FROM THE S.A.L. COMMANDER

Fellow SAL Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. I am looking forward to seeing you at our meetings, the first Friday of every month. Don't just be a card carrying member. We would like your input at our meetings. If you attend the meetings you will be in-touch with what is going on at the Post. Don't forget we are part of the Legion family. The more members that attend our meetings the stronger we will be.

We also need new members, so if you know of someone who is eligible please talk to them about joining. They can contact Don Sikorski for membership at 732-349-4528



Congratulations to Mark Errion of South Toms River on winning the Gas Barbeque Grill raffle.

For God and Country,
Stanley K. Brown, Commander of 129 SAL



A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Well we did it again!!! Our BBQ/Benefit on July 26th was a FANTASTIC day!!! With all the stress before hand we came together and made it happen and for that I am very proud of the Legion Riders!!!

I not only thank the riders but also for ALL that made it happen, friends, families, and our American Legion Family...we pulled together as one and that is what makes us who we are. The list is endless of thank you's but I would like to send a special thank you to Kim Bala for all your hard work and dedication, to Liz Grella for putting up with us every weekend at the Tiki Bar. To Frank Vanness for not only donating your time but for giving back to the cause... this is only a few, but again the list is endless and I can't thank everyone enough!!!



We will be donating the majority of proceeds to "Oceans of Love" (children with cancer), and look forward to attending their event later this month.



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

VENTURE CREW 129

This spring, the Post officially chartered a Venture Crew. Venturing is a youth leadership program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eight grade) until they turn 21 years of age. The purpose of Venturing is to provide positive experiences and leadership opportunities to help young people learn and prepare to become responsible and caring adults and have fun doing it.

Venture Crew 129 is proud to be the newest member of Post 129. The Crew enjoyed a busy summer of challenging and fun activities. We kicked off our summer by participating in Venture Daze, a weekend event sponsored by the Jersey Shore Boy Scout Council. Our little crew learned lots and won three of the water carnival events. To add some diversity, we went next to the Meadowlands for an Anime Convention (Japanese Cartoons) and what fun! We have some very artistic members. The rest of our days were spent rock climbing, hiking, kayaking, and getting wet on a raft trip down the Delaware River.

In our community we helped the Post clear the picnic area for the grand opening and look forward to continuing to help improve and add to the area. During Founder's Day, we ran a bowling booth for kids and have helped with several Cub Scout activities.

The Crew is always looking for advisors to assist our youth with their projects. If you have a hobby or skill you would like to share, let us know. We are doing some amazing things and welcome volunteers.

If you know of a youth that might be interested in joining us -- new members are always welcome --- The crew meets 7PM the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

For more information about how to contribute contact: Morgan Passiment 732-674-9574

Don't forget the Annual Picnic September 6th!

SEPTEMBER 2008

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 30 | 1 <i>Labor Day</i> | 2 Post General Meeting 8 PM | 3 | 4 | 5 S.A.L. General Meeting 7:30 PM | 6 Post 129 Annual Picnic |
| 7 | 8 Auxiliary General Meeting 7:30 PM | 9 * Shuffleboard * Competition 6 PM | 10 | 11 <i>Patriot Day</i> | 12 | 13 |
| 14 <i>Grand Parents Day</i> | 15 Executive Board Meeting 8 PM | 16 * Shuffleboard * <i>POW/MIA Day</i> | 17 <i>Citizenship Day</i> | 18 <i>U.S. Air Force 1947</i> | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Ladies Breakfast 8 AM – 12 Noon | 22 | 23 * Shuffleboard * | 24 | 25 <i>Gold Star Mothers</i> | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 County Meeting Seaside Heights Post 351 – 8 PM * Shuffleboard * <i>Rush Hashanah</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

OCTOBER 2008

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|-----------|----------------------------|--|----------|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 S.A.L. General Meeting 7:30 PM | 4 |
| 5 Motorcycle Toy Run 2008 12:30 PM | 6 Post General Meeting 8 PM Auxiliary General Meeting 7:30 PM | 7 * Shuffleboard * Competition 6 PM | 8 | 9 <i>Yom Kippur</i> | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 <i>Columbus Day</i> | 14 * Shuffleboard * | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Ladies Breakfast 8 AM - 12 Noon | 20 Executive Board Meeting 8 PM | 21 * Shuffleboard * | 22 | 23 | 24 <i>U. N. Day</i> | 25 |
| 26 ALPC of NJ Awards/Dinner Post 129 - 1 PM | 27 <i>Navy Day</i> | 28 County Meeting Toms River Post 129 - 8 PM * Shuffleboard * | 29 | 30 | 31 <i>Halloween</i> | 1 |

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

You will be getting your renewal in the mail shortly, if you have not already received it. Please send it in as soon as you can. If you don't receive one by October please call me at 732-929-8510. We would like to be on top again in membership. We also would like our members to come to the meetings on the first Monday of the month @7:30 PM and see what your Auxiliary is doing. If you can't get to the meeting please call if you want to help out at our affairs.

Phyllis Mc Hugh,
Membership Chairperson

"BREAKFAST" ANYONE?

The Auxiliary at Post 129 will be having their first breakfast of the new Auxiliary year, September 14, 2008 from 8 AM till 12 Noon. The price is \$7.00 for Adults, Children under 10 will be \$5.00 and children under 5 years of age will be free. The October breakfast will be held on October 19th. Please come with a big appetite because it's "ALL YOU CAN EAT". Tell all of your friends because everyone is welcome. For more information contact me, Sue Darrow at 732-831-9896.

Susan Darrow
Auxiliary Ways & Means Chairman

VA ANNOUNCES ON-LINE CLAIMS APPLICATIONS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced on July 16, 2008 that on-line applications are now accepted without the additional requirement to submit a signed paper copy of the application.

Effective immediately, VA will now process applications received through its on-line application website VONAPP (www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm) without the claimant's signature. The electronic application will be sufficient authentication of the claimant's application for benefits. Normal development procedures and rules of evidence will still apply to all VONAPP applications.

VONAPP is a Web-based system that benefits both internal and external users. Veterans, survivors and other claimants seeking compensation, pension, education, or vocational rehabilitation benefits can apply electronically without the constraints of location, postage cost, and time delays in mail delivery.

For more information about VA benefits, go to VA's website at www.va.gov or call our toll-free number at 1-800-827-1000.

SHUFFLE-BOARD COMPETITION

Notice: An in-house Shuffle-Board League will be starting on Tuesday September 9th and every Tuesday after that starting at 6 PM. We will pick names to form a team and we will play each game to 11 Points and 8 to 0 will be a shutout. The competition will last approximately seven months from September 9th to the first Tuesday in April.

Trophies will be awarded for First & Second Place only, and individual prizes for the best over-all players, first-second & third places. The signup-sheet will be on the Bulletin Board at the Post. Please print your name & phone number.

Thank You,
John J. Loiacono

MOTORCYCLE TOY RUN 2008

The Motorcycle TOY RUN 2008 will be on October 5, 2008. Registration begins at 10:30 AM at the Southern Regional High School parking lot, Route 9 Manahawkin, NJ.

Bring a Toy (\$10 value) plus \$10.00 per person to register. A commemorative pin will be given to the first 800 registered participants. Run leaves at 12:30 PM traveling a 65-mile scenic route of the Pines, ending at St. Mary's Parish Center, Manahawkin, for food and entertainment. Police Motorcycle Units from Ocean, Monmouth, Atlantic, Burlington Counties and New Jersey State Police will escort the run. For more information call (609)-290-0587 or E-mail Toyrun2002@aol.com

PLEASE LEAVE TOYS UNWRAPPED AND NO STUFFED TOYS/ANIMALS

Toys and proceeds are to benefit St. Mary's Parish Church, Barnegat; Calvary Chapel of Southern Ocean County; Veterans Haven and more.

Sweatshirts are available with prepaid orders only. T-shirts will be available at the TOY RUN.

Please feel free to forward this information to other motorcycle riders. I hope to increase the number of motorcycles and participants this year.

Thank you for your support,
Dennis Jarin, Toy Run Coordinator

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*
 1st Vice President: *Jane Keely*
 2nd 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 Quiantana*
 Historian: *Matt Plasencia*
 Chaplin: *Devon Murray*

LEGION RIDER OFFICERS

President: *Wendy Sharkey*
 Vice President: *Matt Plasencia*
 Treasurer: *Raymond Quesuel*
 Historian: *Panama*
 Chaplain: *John Loiacono*
 Sgt.-At-Arms: *William Gesell*
 Secretary: *Joel la Roza*
 Ways & Means: *Dennis Grella*

BUILDING FUND CONTRIBUTORS

The following person made a contribution to 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)

TAPS



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

Post Everlasting 2008

Kenneth D. Osterberg
Warren Keegan
James J. DiGiulio
Anthony Sesta
Eugene Palombo
Donny Hampton

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 a Sound-Off Booster.

Thank you for your support.

The Editor

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 December 1, 2008**

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DATED MATERIAL



NAVY PETTY OFFICER MIKE MONSOOR

PO2 (EOD2) Mike Monsoor, a Navy EOD Technician, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously for jumping on a grenade in Iraq , giving his life to save his fellow SEALs.

During Mike Monsoor's funeral in San Diego, as his coffin was being moved from the hearse to the grave site at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery, SEALs were lined up on both sides of the pallbearers route forming a column of two's, with the coffin moving up the center. As Mike's coffin passed, each SEAL, having removed his gold Trident from his uniform, slapped it down embedding the Trident in the wooden coffin.

The slaps were audible from across the cemetery; by the time the coffin arrived graveside, it looked as though it had a gold inlay from all the Tridents pinned to it. This was a fitting send-off for a warrior hero.



This should be front-page news and we print it here in honor of all the men and women who have served and are serving in the armed forces of our country.

October 27th is Navy Day, a good time to remember PO2 Mike Monsoor and all our navy brothers and sisters as they face the perils of the sea.



Pictured is the insignia draped coffin and a close-up of the Navy Seal Insignia (insert).