



Suite 1300
112 State Street

Sons of The American Legion

THE LIBERTY

Detachment of New York



Albany, New York 12207
(518) 463-2215

Volume 3 Issue 25

www.ny.legion.org/sal

Convention Issue 2007

Dates of Special Interest:

- July 4th—Independence Day
- July 14—16—Detachment Convention; Niagara Falls, NY
- July 20th—Boys Nation; Washington, DC
- August 7th—Purple Heart Day
- August 24th—28th AL Baseball World Series
- Sept 11th—Patriot Day
- Sept 17th Citizenship Day

Inside this issue:

<i>From the Adjutants Desk</i>	2
<i>Commander—Con't Squadron 1832</i>	3
<i>VA & R Report</i>	4
<i>3rd District Report</i>	5
<i>7th District Report</i>	6
<i>Membership</i>	
<i>Military Honors for MIA</i>	7
<i>Children & Youth</i>	8
<i>CWF</i>	
<i>Jonathan Deichler</i>	9
<i>Fleet Week</i>	10
<i>Americanism</i>	11
<i>Public Relations</i>	12

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Albert J. Deichler

To all the Sons of this Great Empire State of New York:

How can I start other than by saying what a GREAT year this has been? Traveling around to all the Counties in this GREAT state is more than any one person could ever ask for. Meeting with so many Sons, Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Veterans this year has gone far above any expectations I had before this year started. There have been so many outstanding moments this year that I could not really say which was the most exciting or finest as everywhere that I was in attendance was incomparable.

I really need to thank each and every Sons member of this GREAT state for their support. I do not believe that anyone can really understand what it means to be the Detachment Commander for a State until they have been there themselves and have taken the time from their personal lives and family to fulfill with honor a position to stand by our American Legion Family visiting not only Veterans at hospitals but also visiting other members of our extended family at their Posts, Counties and Districts. The most precious memories I have inside me will remain with me for-



Detachment Commander Albert J. Deichler

ever and the stories I have heard will be passed around as long as I can, like an Indian Chief to his braves, until one day one of these braves becomes Chief and then he will also continue the memories of his escapades through his stories.

As for our new committees (commissions) this year I personally thank each and every member for their support and outstanding work each one has done. I realize this was the first year with these newly designed committees and each Chairman had to try to work out how to operate best with his committeemen. Continued on page 3.

FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK

by Robert J. Avery

As of the date of this article, we are still trying to obtain our 100% goal in membership...and beyond that to the 105%. We currently have 3,675 paid 2006 members who have not yet renewed for 2007, and we need 836 members for our 100% goal.

Remember that membership is everyone's responsibility, and those last stragglers within your Squadron need to be contacted NOW to renew their membership. Your assistance is greatly appreciated as we wrap up the 2007 Membership Year. Let's be certain to reach OVER 100% when the dele-

gates from New York arrive in Reno, Nevada next month for the National Convention.

We will soon gather in Niagara Falls to hold our 33rd Annual Detachment Convention. It is an honor to have with us as our guests, the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion Earl Ruttkofsky from the Detachment of Michigan and Candidate Ray Giehl from the Detachment of Indiana. We are especially glad that our National Commander Earl had the opportunity to visit the great Detachment of New York on two separate occasions this year. The first was

during Fleet Week in New York City..

The 2008 cards are in Albany HQ and will soon be shipped out to the Squadrons that have submitted an Officer Certification Report for the 2008 year. If you have not yet accomplished this task you must do so immediately. Membership cards are NOT sent to Squadrons with no Officers.

In closing, I thank the membership for all of their efforts in support of our veterans, children and youth, and local communities as we continue to advance the work of the Sons of The American Legion. I wish you all the very best in the coming year as we carry on for God and Country!

IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION

The Senate has driven a stake through President Bush's plan to legalize millions of unlawful immigrants, likely postponing major action on immigration until after the 2008 elections.

The bill's supporters fell 14 votes short of the 60 needed to limit debate and clear the way for final passage of the legislation, which critics assailed as offering amnesty to illegal immigrants. The vote was 46 to 53 in favor of limiting the debate.

Senators in both parties said the issue is so volatile that Congress is highly unlikely to revisit it this fall or next year, when the presidential election will increasingly dominate American politics.

A similar effort collapsed in the Congress last year, and the House has not bothered with an immigration bill this year, awaiting Senate action.

The vote was a stinging setback for Bush, who advocated the bill as an imperfect but necessary fix of

current immigration practices in which many illegal immigrants use forged documents or lapsed visas to live and work in the United States.

The bill would have toughened border security and instituted a new system for weeding out illegal immigrants from workplaces.

It would have created a new guest worker program and allowed millions of illegal immigrants to obtain legal status if they briefly returned home.



Commanders message continued from front page -

Again to all the Chairmen, you each did a fantastic job putting it all together. As for the Membership Chairman I congratulate you, (Ross Polson) on putting up with members complaining to you that they know how to handle the membership in their area and saying that they did not need one of the committeemen calling or emailing to them, as to this my only reply would have been is that we work as a TEAM and there is no "I" in the spelling of TEAM and also if everyone did their part to RETAIN, RECRUIT AND REINSTATE then maybe the Membership Committee would not have had to be formed. I know how diffi-

cult membership is as each of us also does, but I again need to thank the whole membership committee for their efforts and accomplishments. We did not reach our 100% goal at the designated time but we are still doing well and I know that with the knowledge the committee has gained this year that next year we will surpass our goals.

Well as everyone knows at this time the State Convention is before us and the year is coming to a finish, so I would like to wish everyone a Great Convention in the Falls, and wishing the incoming Commander the best of all in his upcoming year and one major piece of

advise" Do not blink because the year will be over when your eyes open". Never forget that those who came before you are always available for guidance, support and a shoulder to lean on if ever needed.

Please do not forget that this is our **75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR**. I look forward to seeing many of you to whom I met while traveling this year at Niagara Falls. Thanks again for your support!

For the Good of the Sons

Albert J. Deichler
Commander

Squadron # 1832 News

Hello everyone! Squadron # 1832 had a very productive year. We teamed up with the squadron from E. Syracuse in April to put on a very successful clambake. We put on our annual free Christmas breakfast for all the volunteers that went to the VA for visitations. We had a couple other fund raisers during the course of the year.

Some of the donations we made went to CMN, VA, VAVS, National, Department and Detach-

ment Commander's projects and CWF.

As I write this we are a week away from our annual SAL FOOTWEDGE GOLF TOURNAMENT. The weekend starts on Friday, June 15th with our Post Installation Dinner. Our special installation officer for our squadron will be Past SAL National Commander Neal Warnken from Kansas . Neal is also playing in our golf tournament. I will summarize this at the Convention.

Squadron 1832 did a couple of new functions this year. In November we put on a customer appreciation day at our post. We cooked all day long to keep the food full. This was a very successful day for the Post. Also we cooked a buffet for Memorial Day that everyone seemed to enjoy.

In closing I would like to wish the new officers a great year and especially our new SAL Commander George Martin Jr. who takes over for me after a long 7 year run as Commander.

Dean Williamson, Commander

Proposed NYS Constitutional Amendment!

A bill that amends the state constitution with regard to veterans civil service credits has now passed two consecutive legislatures and will appear as a statewide ballot referendum this

year. If approved by the voters it will amend the constitution.

The bill clarifies that the extra civil service credits that disabled veterans are entitled to will apply

to all veterans whose disability has been certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Currently, only veterans who actually receive disability payments from the Department of Defense are entitled to the extra civil service credits.

VA & R Committee Report

by Thomas Kurk, Chairman

Greetings from the Detachment of New York Sons of The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee. We are getting close to winding down this administrative year for our Detachment. Even though we are looking forward to our summer vacations, we must not forget our veterans who need our help. We are urging all our Squadrons to remain active in assisting our veterans who are hospitalized, and who are at home. The warm weather means it is time for picnics and BBQ's. Wouldn't it be great for us to have a Hot Dog and Hamburg picnic for our veterans at our Post Homes? If not at an American Legion Post, why not on the grounds at your local VA Hospital, New York State Veterans home or at a park in our communities, and invite your local veterans to attend? This time of year,

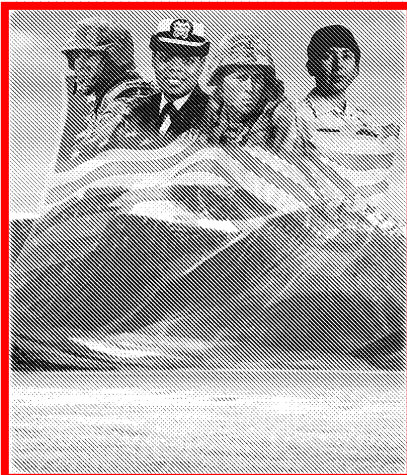
there are many outdoor summer concerts. Get a few volunteers from your Squadron to provide transportation for our veterans and invite them to one of these performances. I am sure that they would enjoy this. As you can see, the opportunities to help our men and women who served our country never end.

Here are a few highlights from the National VA&R Commission meeting held in Indianapolis Ind. during the Spring NEC meeting in May. The Hometown to Heroes, and the American Legion Family Support Program where both in the spotlight at this meeting. We should get actively involved with both of these. Hometown to Heroes assists our Veterans who are returning home who may need assistance in adjusting to life outside the military. The American Legion Family Support

Program helps with the families of our active duty service personal that are away serving our country. Many of you might not know this but any foods brought in to our VA hospitals require certification. Certification must come through the State Health Department or your local County Health Department. This is to insure that all food meets the requirements for safety and quality before it is served to the veterans. More information on this can be found at your local VA.

In closing, I would like to thank Detachment Commander Al Deichler for appointing myself, and the members of this committee to work with him this past year. Special thanks to the members of the VA&R Committee for your unselfish help during the year. Great Job Dave and Gene! And most importantly, to the members of the Detachment of New York who did an outstanding job this year to help our Veterans.

Thank you for your support!



**Promote and Support our
American Veterans!**

**All gave some,
Some gave all!**



3rd District Commander's Report

As another year passes the Third District continues to grow not only in membership but also in our squadrons getting involved with our programs and agendas.

In membership the Third District is currently at 99% and is in 3rd place in the Detachment. There are a few squadrons we are trying to work with to get those last memberships in so we will be able to reach our 100% goal for the District. As I mentioned in our last Detachment newsletter there are many squadrons across the District that are doing great things and I'd like to mention a few.

Joseph E. Zaloga Squadron 1520 has once again contributed to our veteran's rehabilitation and transitional houses located in the capital district. They also have contributed to the Stratton VA homeless program by adopting 20 needy veterans' children at Christmas time. They have also made contributions to the CWF, the Fisher House and the National Emergency Fund.

Gerald O'Neal Squadron 1683 held a bowling outing at Spare Time Lanes in East Greenbush and raised money for the Fisher House. They also held a bingo at the Stratton VA Hospital and handed out canteen books to the winners. They were also involved in sending military packages to our troops. Their squadron has donated over \$3,000 to various programs.

Melvin Roads Squadron 1231 continues to raise money to support our troops and held ceremonies in honor of 9/11 and Pearl Harbor. They have also started a military museum at its Post.

John W. McConnel Squadron 47 made a contribution of \$100 to the National Emergency Fund at Department Visitations.

Hildenburg Squadron 977 held it's Kids Fishing Derby and Hiltown Christmas fundraiser as well.

Greenville Squadron 291 also contributed to the National Emergency Fund and held a flag etiquette program at a local

school.

North Albany Squadron 1610 contributed \$650 to the National Emergency Fund and a \$650 contribution to the Child Welfare Foundation. They also took on a fundraiser for the Wounded Warriors Project. With a goal to raise \$2,500 for WWP, when it was all said and done the Sons of the American Legion along with the Legion and the Post Committee raised over \$12,000 for that project.

It has truly been a privilege and honor to serve as Third District Commander for the Sons of the American Legion for these past 4 years. I'd like to thank all our Legionaries, Auxiliary and Sons members for their support, guidance and for making me feel part of our American Legion family. This year I will be running for Detachment Vice Commander for the Third and Fourth District at convention in Niagara Falls, NY. I ask for your support and guidance once again. Hope you all have a great summer and may god bless.

For the good of the Sons

David L. Bishop,
Third District Commander

The year is 1907, one hundred years ago...

Theodore Roosevelt's ideas on Immigrants and being an AMERICAN in 1907.

"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be

treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American...There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but

something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."

Theodore Roosevelt 1907

7th District Commander's Report

The 7th District has been busier than ever. We have been assisting with Camp Good Days and helping with the Children's Miracle Network Stroll-A-Thon.

My invitations to various functions have been non-stop, which is absolutely wonderful. Our exposure is getting bigger than ever.

The Phelps Color Guard has been so busy assisting their post with various functions; I think all of them should leave sleeping bags at the Post. The Ontario Squadron, with their new color guard, has been very busy also.

Arkport just keeps growing and growing. Every time I talk with them, they have something going on.

We had the privilege of installing the officers for the new squadron in Williamson, and they are very excited about being part of our great organization. The list goes

on.

As of this writing, our membership is at 97.58%, we are in 4th place in the Detachment and 1st place within the larger Districts.

We held our annual "Flag Education & Disposal" on June 3rd in Phelps. This year's event was honored with 7 color guards, the boy scouts, girl scouts, an organist, a 12 person choir and a soloist to sing some patriot songs.

We had a great turn out for our District Convention on June 9th in Shortsville. James Coats was elected Commander to lead the Super Seventh on to greater and bigger

things.

Until Detachment Convention, we will all be very busy. Keep up the great job that you have all been doing. See you all in Niagara Falls.

Ross W. Polson

7th District Commander



Painting crew at Camp Good Days & Special Times

MEMBERSHIP

We are having a very interesting year. Your Membership Committee has learned many new ideas in promoting our membership within our Detachment.

We have heard every excuse that can be written. As a committee we have been very successful in solving many problems that have existed.

Yes, there are still many unanswered questions from some squadrons. Yes, we have tried to address all of the issues.

Being our first year, everyone should be very proud of what we have accomplished so far. As of this writing, we are not 100% in Detachment. After reviewing the many reports we have received from all of the Detachment officers, there are some necessary adjustments that need to be done.

The year is not over!!!! We still have time to make contacts to be 100% by convention. Please send in your transmittals. This is always a tough time of year.

The other most important thing we need to do is to send in your OCFs on a timely basis. We don't need to be chasing down these forms in September and October.

Everyone has done a great job. Please don't stop now.

God Bless all of you and your families.

Ross Polson

Membership Chairman

Military Honors for MIA of 37 years.

Sergeant 1st. Class Francis G. Graziosi was buried with full military honors on May 19th after being MIA for over 37 years. Outside St. Judes Church, located on Lyell Ave. in Rochester, American flags were held in respect by an Honor Guard, Knights of Columbus, Veterans, Legionnaires, and over one hundred motorcycle riders of various chapters from New York and Pennsylvania. Patriot Guard Riders and American Legion Riders were there to pay tribute to a soldier that gave everything for his country. Speaking for the American Legion Riders, "Sgt. Graziosi, we are glad you are home."

I would personally like to thank Fred Truax & Joann from the Hannibal ALR. We left our Post in Baldwinsville

at 7:00 am with the temperature at 38 degrees. When we arrived at Post 1552, a Legion Officer had the Post open and coffee brewing. That meant a lot to the B'ville crew, Thanks! We left Hannibal at 8:30 am and ran straight to Rochester. Fred, did a great job in organizing the ride, hats off to you Bro'. We arrived on time and the Captains of the PGR were ready and got us in place. We had police escort to the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Close to one-hundred and fifty bikes followed the procession. The Flags surrounded the ceremony. The Gun Salute and Taps brought tears to many eyes. Rest in peace Sergeant.

Our own Bruce Reeves was having back-trouble, but held "The Colors" at the church and cemetery. So, we headed back to Hannibal, stopping for a lunch along the way. Back at Post 1552 about 20 bikers re-

laxed at the bar. The B'ville crew clocked a round trip of 193 miles. Met some old friends, met some new friends, all for a worthwhile cause. Ride with Patriot pride. Dan

DAN & MARY PARRISH

American Legion Riders
Vernice Suttle Post 113
Baldwinsville, New York



Ride with Patriotic Pride

Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor, the nations' highest and most rarely awarded military award, was established by an Act of Congress in 1862. President Abraham Lincoln sought to recognize exceptional bravery during the Civil War. At the time, the only battlefield distinction was the Purple Heart, awarded then for meritorious service, not as it is today for wounds received in combat. President Lincoln wanted to honor a deed of personal bravery or self-

sacrifice so conspicuous as to involve risk of life and clearly distinguish the individual for gallantry above his comrades. Incontestable proof of the performance of service would be exacted and each recommendation for the Medal of Honor would be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit. Further, the presentation of this award could only be made by the President of the United States.

Since that time, about 3,500 Medals of Honor have been

awarded. Today there are only 110 living recipients, and many of them were on the U.S.S. Yorktown on May 25th for the grand reopening of the Medal of Honor Museum at Patriots Point in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. The museum is the principal repository for artifacts and memorabilia relating to this distinguished award and its recipients, as well as archives of important documents relating to their selfless service to country and comrades.

CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORT

Gaither E. Espey, Chairman

As our year comes to an end I would like to thank every one of our Detachment members for your continued support of the Children & Youth programs. I need to single out Jerry Ketchum and Bill Lutz for their dedication to our Child Welfare Foundation and The Children's Miracle Network. Without the hard work

of those gentlemen the programs would not have excelled like they have.

There are many other programs that Squadrons donate to. As we get closer to Convention the committee will be going over all the



C.R.F.'s that were mailed to Detachment in Albany. I know the members of this great Detachment will make us proud for all that has been done for our children.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Convention in Niagara Falls. If you have not signed up for the Convention CWF golf tournament please do so. Even if you do not play golf it is a fun afternoon and the proceeds go to a great cause.



As of Close of Books, 05-31-07, the final tally for the 2006 - 2007 year was \$622,292.

The SONS nationally gave a total of

\$321,227.92. The leading Detachment was Ohio with \$43,465.18. The totals for New York were... Legion \$2577.95, the Auxiliary \$3250.64 and the SONS donated \$17,875. This is the highest amount donated by our Detachment in the 4 years I have been Chairman. Thank You all for that! Remember though, our GOAL is \$1.00 per member, let's try to reach it for next year!!!

When I was in Indianapolis for the NEC Meetings, I attended the CWF Meeting. They are looking at a new poster and

CD for next year and putting the CAT Test on-line. Also while there, attending the general meeting, it was announced that the first Children & Youth Conference will be held on September 21st - 23rd, in Indianapolis. It would be nice to see our Detachment send our CAT Member to attend, it promises to be very educational, and I believe he could bring a lot back to this Detachment.

I would like to thank everyone for their donations for this very worthwhile program and for attaining the high numbers that we did!

Please put The Child Welfare Foundation in your budgets or host a fund raiser. Please just donate!! You may send your donations to CWF directly at: American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Inc. P.O. Box

#1055 Indianapolis, IN. 46206, or to the new CAT Member, Either way, please be sure to put on the MEMO LINE: DETACHMENT OF NEW YORK SONS!! This way it will be properly credited without confusion.

On behalf of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and the Children it supports, I would like to Thank ALL Squadrons who have, and who will be donating to this Great Program!

Jerry Ketchum, CWF Chairman & "CAT" Member





Earl Ruttkofsky, National Commander visits the "Cradle of Aviation Museum" in Long Island



Earl visits the Big Apple



Eisenhower Park



Commander Al's Home Coming

Mentoring our youth

Jonathan Deichler has been asked to sign the Pledge of Allegiance and God Bless America at Pinelawn National Cemetery and Eisenhower Park every Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Jonathan, age nine has been signing since he was six years old.

This year he stood in with the Nassau County American Legion with their color guard at Pinelawn National Cemetery, while the National Anthem was being sang, he stood at attention and saluted as always and that was when the Newsday of Long Island took his photo.

We are very proud of Jonathan. He decided that he was going to join the American

sign language club at his school in Valley Stream and then took it upon himself to ask the teacher to learn God Bless America in his first year. He loved the response, then asked the teacher to learn the Pledge.

Now Pinelawn has asked him if he would learn the National Anthem, he hasn't decided yet on that one because he stated



Jonathan Deichler signing the Pledge of Allegiance on Memorial Day

it is very long.

Thank you

Maxine Deichler

FLEET WEEK **NEW YORK CITY**

On May 22, 2007 I had the distinct honor of accompanying our National Commander Earl Ruttkofsky for the purpose of attending Fleet Week in New York City. For those not familiar with Fleet Week here is a short briefing on Fleet Week. Hosted nearly every year since 1984, Fleet Week New York is the City's celebration of the sea services. This year, more than 76,000 people visited the ships, with more than 47,000 visiting Manhattan's Pier 90 and over 29,000 visiting Staten Island's Stapleton Pier. This annual event provides an opportunity for the citizens of New York City and the surrounding Tri-State area to meet Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, as well as witness first hand the latest capabilities of today's Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Team. Fleet Week included dozens of military demonstrations and displays throughout the week, as well as public visitation of many of the participating ships.

Before departing for the flight to the U.S.S. WASP Earl, Commander Jim Casey, Ken Kraetzer and I went to Ground Zero to see the remains of The World Trade Center Towers. While we were walking back we introduced Commander Earl to NYC dirty water dogs - better known as the hot dog.

Earl and I as well as New York Department Commander James W. Casey spent the night on the Carrier U.S.S. WASP as well as American Legion Past National Vice Commander John P. Tipping and Past 10th District Commander John Cook. Also on the overnight trip was Kenneth G. Kraetzer from Pelham Squadron 50. Ken has been instrumental this year as well as in the past getting to-

gether with his post as well as the Navy to have our Legion Family be involved. There were many others who came out to the ship in the morning also by helicopter one of these dignitaries were none other than our own Department President Joan Caccamo.

It was of the highest honor to be able to come into New York City Harbor on the flight deck of the U.S.S. WASP in the presence of the Navy and Marine personal of the ship as well as our National Commander and our American



Detachment of NY Legion members joined by National Commander Earl Ruttkofsky during Fleet Week

Legion Family. During the stay on the ship we had the pleasure of some detailed tours of the ship and its operations. We also met with many of the Navy and Marines of the ship and even watched a basketball game on ship.

After the overnight stay and the disembarking from the Wasp after docking I escorted Earl to his hotel for some need rest time. Before going to dinner my wife, son and I took Earl to Eisenhower Park where there is a field dedicated to Veterans and also an area that has been dedicated to the World Trade Center Towers. I always like to have visitors see this park as the Monuments represent all facets of conflicts and wars of our

country as well as the walk of honor.

On Thursday before Earl's flight I took him to the Atlantic Ocean. First we went to Long Beach and walked the boardwalk as well as walking down the beach to the water; after we finished there I took him to Point Lookout Beach which overlooks Jones Beach (built by Robert Moses). To end Earl's visit to Long Island and New York City we finished up by going to the Cradle of Aviation in Mitchell Field. This is where Charles Lindbergh made his historical flight. At the cradle is The Spirit of St. Louis number 1. Charles actually flew number 2 for his historical flight which is in the Smithsonian, as it happened to be for the first time that I have ever seen at the Cradle the Spirit was not hanging from the ceiling but on the ground so we were able to see it first hand. As we rapped up our tour of the Cradle we headed for the airport so Earl could return home and continue his visitation schedule.

Please feel free to access the picture web page at <http://imageevent.com/sonsny> so you can see more of the places we were at.

To Earl I say thank you for attending Fleet Week here in NY and it was my pleasure escorting you to the ship and showing you just a few of our prestige sites in Long Island. There is some much Long Island has to offer that it could take weeks to see most of it.

Albert J. Deichler, Commander
Detachment of New York

Americanism Committee Report

by Tim Casselman, Chairman

The Americanism Committee is pleased to announce the winner of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of New York's Americanism Committee "What America Means To ME" essay contest. Conner McGuirk, a student at the Kensington Road Elementary School in Glens Falls, NY was the winner in what the Americanism committee hopes will be an annual contest. Conner received \$50.00 to use towards a \$100.00 United States Savings Bond and a pizza party for his entire classroom. The Committee received over one hundred and fifty essays from schoolchildren from every corner of our great state. All entries will be available to read at Convention in Niagara Falls. The committee had an especially hard time choosing the winner, but in the end, we felt that one of the shortest essays spoke volumes.

What America Means To Me

By Connor McGuirk

America means to me a home for freedom and peace.

America means brave soldiers, our peacekeepers.

America means people who believe in liberty.

America means hard work then a just reward.

America has been a country that reaches out to help with the world's problems.

We celebrate our independence, and honor the people who fought for it and died for it.

That is what America means to me.

Over the last year, the Americanism committee has e-mailed State and National Congressional Representatives and Senators, Mayors and public servants throughout our state and asked them "What Does Americanism Mean To You? As the term Americanism can be such a broad word, we wished to find out what it meant to them. We have received several replies. Canandaigua NY Mayor Ellen Polimeni wrote: Americanism is believing in the doctrines upon which our nation was established. The Declaration of Independence started the process of making us American. The Preamble puts it altogether nicely - We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. The Constitution with the Bill of Rights defines our ideals and guides us as we continue to strive to uphold our heritage as Americans.

What do you think? What does Americanism mean to you? We would like to ask for your help by asking you please to offer a few words on what "Americanism" means to you, and to pass this request along to those in your communities. All remarks will be compiled at the end of the year, and placed on a CD; copies of which will be available to you free of charge. Please send your submissions to:

Sons286@yahoo.com

Or mail to:

Tim Casselman

129 Phoenix St.

Canandaigua, NY

14424

Re: Americanism

As we begin to enjoy summer, let us remember that holidays such as Independence Day and Veterans Day are not just a day off from work. As Americans throughout our country celebrate 231 years of freedom and independence on July 4th with barbecues, picnics, and family gatherings, please do not forget our veterans who made, and continue to make, this opportunity to celebrate possible. Being an American is more than just being born here. It is an idea, an attitude. We must challenge ourselves to strive towards a patriotic renewal, and embrace America with a common pride.

"Our flag honors those who have fought to protect it, and is a reminder of the sacrifice of our nation's founders and heroes. As the ultimate icon of America's storied history, the Stars and Stripes represents the very best of this nation."

Joe Barton

Tim Casselman

Americanism Chairman



American Legion and the NY Mets

Sunday Sept. 16th American Legion, Sons and Auxiliary are invited to a baseball outing at Shea Stadium in Queens New York. Mets will play Philadelphia in a 1 PM game. Event theme this year will be honoring Vietnam Era Veterans.

Based on attendance we expect to conduct a pre-game ceremony like the past three years. Group leaders will be eligible to help carry the large Flag onto the field. Group sales of 100 tickets will be allowed to have a color guard, subject to approval of the NY Mets.

For more information go to www.legionpost50ny.com, or email Ken Kraetzer, SAL 50 at kgk914@aol.com or call at 914-630-3457.

What is your Squadron doing?



In the beginning we as young Squadrons start out with small Post & community projects. Then as we grow, we increase our participation with more projects and programs. Our programs and projects are still connected to our Post and community. This is not bad but, there is more to the Sons of The American Legion than Post and community events.

However, making a transition into a Squadron involved in the County, District, Detachment and National programs can be a difficult one. We, as a creature of habit resist leaving our comfort zone. Making changes, starting new commit-

tees or beginning new programs can be difficult for us. It may involve making more members active.

I am asking the leaders of Counties, Districts and the Detachment to reach out to these Squadrons and educate them on the benefits of being a "complete" Squadron. Help them make that step to the next level, getting involved with County, District, Detachment and National programs.

Take a look at the National American Legion Commander Paul Morin's request for Post to put emphasize the four pillars:

- 1) Taking care of our veterans
- 2) National security
- 3) Mentoring our youth
- 4) Promoting patriotism

These are fundamentals on which the American Legion stood for since it's beginning in 1919.

These are four strong projects that every Squadron in the Detachment of New York should look into. For the betterment of our membership and our organization it is a step we must all take.

Bruce Ruthven,
PR Chairman

Public Relations Committee

The Detachment Public Relations Committee would like to thank every member for their contributions and support. Our goal to report all newsworthy items, to educate ourselves and others of the activities and programs of The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion.

Please send your news articles into the Committee

for the Post Convention issue **by August 5, 2007**

Bruce Ruthven, Chairman
1372 White Rd.
Phelps, NY 14532
(315) 548-9639 (H)
(315) 781-2939 (F)
(315) 374-6157 (C)
Email: sal457@intergate.com

Jerry Ketchum, Committeeman
4920 Morrow Hill Rd
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 229-5549 (H)
(585) 229-4564 (W)
(585) 229-4564 (F)
Email: ketchumsons@frontiernet.net

Tim Casselman, Committeeman
129 Phoenix St.
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 393-1069 (H)
Email: tcasselman@rochester.rr.com

Roy J. Mezzapelle, Committeeman
591 Bauer Court
Elmont, NY 11003
(516) 354-3588 (H)
Email: sons1033@aol.com

John Walpole, Jr., Committeeman
218 Kellum St
West Babylon, NY 11704
(631) 884-1212 (H)
(631) 433-1218 ©
Email: jwalpolejr@sal1634liny.org