



**History of  
The Department of New Jersey  
The American Legion  
For 2021 – 2022**

**Compiled by Gary Cooper, Department Historian**

# Introduction

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, The Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at over 2.4 million in 14,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Over the years, The Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth. Following is a chronology of some significant dates in Legion history:

- ♦ **March 15-17, 1919** - Members of the American Expeditionary Force convene in Paris for the first American Legion caucus.
- ♦ **May 8-10, 1919** - St. Louis Caucus. "The American Legion" is adopted as the organization's official name. The Legion's draft preamble and constitution are approved.
- ♦ **June 9, 1919** - The National Executive Committee adopts The Legion emblem.
- ♦ **Sept. 16, 1919** - Congress charters The American Legion.
- ♦ **Nov. 10-12, 1919** - First Legion convention convenes in Minneapolis. The Constitution and preamble are adopted. Delegates vote 361-323 to locate The Legion's national headquarters in Indianapolis, instead of Washington, D.C.
- ♦ **Aug. 9, 1921** - The Legion's efforts result in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration.
- ♦ **July 17, 1925** - The Legion creates The American Legion Baseball program.
- ♦ **September 1932** - The Sons of The American Legion is officially recognized during the 1932 National Convention in Portland, Ore.
- ♦ **June 23, 1935** - The first American Legion Boys State convenes in Springfield, Ill., to help youths gain an understanding of the structure and operation of the federal government. The first Boys Nation, bringing together youth leadership from all the Boys State programs, convenes in 1946.
- ♦ **June 1, 1938** - The final round of The Legion's first annual National High School Oratorical Contest is conducted in Norman, Okla.
- ♦ **Dec. 15, 1943** - Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery starts to write in longhand, on Mayflower Hotel stationery in Washington, the first draft of what will later become the "GI Bill of Rights" – considered The Legion's single greatest legislative achievement.
- ♦ **June 22, 1944** - President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs into law the original GI Bill, or Servicemen's Readjustment Act.
- ♦ **July 9, 1954** - The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is formed.
- ♦ **Aug. 24, 1969** - The Legion's National Executive Committee establishes the National Emergency Fund as a result of the effects of Hurricane Camille.
- ♦ **Aug. 26, 1982** - The Legion presents a \$1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of the Wall in Washington, becoming the largest single contributor to the project.

- ♦ **July 21, 1983** - The Legion announces its sponsorship of an independent study on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam War veterans. Congress receives the results of the "American Legion-Columbia University Study of Vietnam-era Veterans" in 1989.
- ♦ **Oct. 11, 1990** - The Legion creates the Family Support Network to assist families of service members deployed for operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Middle East.
- ♦ **Oct. 17-18, 2007** - The American Legion National Executive Committee passes Resolution 35 and adopts The American Legion Riders as a national program of The American Legion.
- ♦ **February 2010** - The entire Legion family bands together and wins \$250,000 for Operation Comfort Warriors in PepsiCo's Refresh Everything Project, submitting the most votes in an online contest and beating out hundreds of other groups and charities to take first place in the contest's first month. A big part of getting the word out was the *American Legion Online Update* e-newsletter. This is an early example of the still growing power of online and social media to augment everything The Legion does.

## Department of New Jersey

Upon his return from France on Feb. 24, 1919, Colonel Hobart B. Brown, commanding officer of the 114th Infantry Regiment, 29<sup>th</sup> Division A.E.F., received the following telegram in March:

*Col. Hobart B. Brown, Newark, N.J. A conference will be held at Saint Louis about May First for the purpose of organizing an association composed of those who have been in the land and naval forces of the United States in this war. A convention held in France has already organized forces there in an association called The American Legion and will have its representative at this convention. The convention will be representative. Organization already in existence will be invited to send delegates. Will you allow your name to be used with those of other representative men from all sections of the country as issuing the call to this convention? Will you also wire collect nineteen east Forty fourth St. the names and addresses and rank of others from your state whom you feel are representatives. It is assured of course that your recommendation will include enlisted men.*

Theodore Roosevelt

Upon receipt of that telegram and several conferences with Col. Roosevelt and officials of the Paris Convention, and under the authority of the Paris Convention, eleven men in the city of Newark organized the first Unit of The American Legion, Department of New Jersey. The temporary officers were: Hobart B. Brown, chairman, Newell P. Reed, treasurer, Thomas Goldingay, organizer, F. McCarter, secretary. A temporary charter for the state organization was granted on May 24, 1919, signed by Henry D. Lindsley, chairman, and Eric Fisher Wood, secretary.

The War Camp Community had donated \$3 million for organization purposes. The officers decided to rent the entire top floor of the Ripple Building located in the southeast corner of Clinton & Broad streets, Newark, from 1919 to 1921. The officers and an executive committee of nine members, working without a constitution or by-laws, devoted all their energies towards organizing posts, enrolling members and giving such help, as possible, to men being discharged from the army and navy.

The First Annual Convention was held in Newark in a large auditorium in the Prudential Life Insurance Company, and called to order at 9 a.m. on Oct. 11, 1919. One hundred seventy-six posts had been organized, with an approximate membership of 27, 000. There were 551 delegates present. The eight hour session ended at 6 p.m. During that time the delegates adopted a constitution and by-laws, plans were laid for hospital work, methods were adopted to help the disabled. Resolutions were adopted demanding the National Convention in-

sist our government give immediate and proper relief of all men injured in the service. Twenty-one delegates were elected to attend the National Convention.

First Department officers were:

Commander: Hobart B. Brown  
Vice Commander: Leonidas Coyle  
Adjutant: Thomas Goldingay  
Historian: Lewis B. Ledue  
Chaplain: Rev. Madison Hare  
War Risk Ins. Officer: Samuel Y. Cathcart  
Employment Officer: George Vickers  
National Executive Committeeman: Philip J. Erhardt  
ANEC: W.W. West

Following the convention, committees were organized in 14 counties, which proved effective in handling localized issues.

The Department of New Jersey received its permanent charter on August 1, 1920, from National Headquarters, signed by Franklin D'Olier, commander, who took up residence in New Jersey and remained an active Legion member here. The charter was countersigned by Lemuel Bolles, adjutant. A Supplemental Charter for Incorporated Departments of The American Legion was granted by National on April 20, 1939.

To make the Department more centrally located, by mandate of the 1921 convention, headquarters was moved from Newark to Trenton on January 1, 1922, to the Wilkinson Building on East State St. until October 30, 1924.

From November 1, 1924, to June 30, 1928, it was located in the Vroom Building of the State House. Due to lack of space it moved to 103 West State St. at the corner of Willow, where it remained until February 21, 1932. It next moved to a suite of rooms in the War Memorial Building, facing the State House and overlooking Stacey Park, on February 22, 1932, which was supposed to be permanent and forever, but with the building needing renovations in the 90's, the Department moved to the Ashby Building, 101 South Broad St., Trenton, in 1994. A year later it moved to 135 West Hanover St., Trenton.

Twenty-two years later, it faced moving again. At the February 6, 2016, DEC meeting, a motion was passed approving the impending move to 171 Jersey St., Bldg. 5, 2nd Floor, Trenton, which occurred September 2016.

The state of New Jersey had one National Commander:

William C. Doyle, Post #79, Burlington

Elected: 9/12/1968

At the 102nd Annual Convention in Wildwood, NJ, June 10 – 12, 2021, Daniel Dunn of Port Reading, a member of Woodbridge Post 87, Middlesex County, was unanimously elected Department Commander on Friday, June 11. He was nominated by Elizabeth “Betty” Baranowski, Middlesex County commander. Commander Dunn explained his passion was homeless veterans and maintaining a close relationship with all members of The American Legion Family: Auxiliary, SAL and Riders.



Daniel Dunn, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was born and raised in the Sewaren section of Woodbridge, NJ. He attended schools in Woodbridge, graduating in 1981, after which he enlisted in the U. S. Air Force in Oct.

After his honorable discharge, Dunn was hired by SGS, an oil and petrochemical inspection company. With his time and experience as an inspector, he was hired by Hess Oil Company in 1989 at the Bayonne Terminal. He continues to work at the same location for Buckeye Partners, following that company's acquisition of the Hess facilities. He now has over 30 years of service at the same location.

In 1990, Dunn married his wife Pat. They have two children, Daniel Jr. and Amanda. Dan and Pat would volunteer their time in their community to pitch in wherever needed. They both would become involved with the Cub Scouts, with Dan serving as Cub Master. As his son finished scouting, Dan would start becoming more involved with The American Legion. During his time in the military, his father had signed him up as a member of the Sons of the American Legion. After becoming a regular member of The Legion, he would be asked to "just help out a little." Before long he would become an officer of the post and his Legion career would begin.

As a member of Woodbridge Post 87, he became a very active member holding various positions before taking on the position of commander. He would eventually be recruited at the county level, where he was once again asked to "just help out a little." Dan would again work his way to the top of the county and became Middlesex County Commander in 2009. He would continue to stay involved on state committees and in 2011 became a Department Vice Commander. In 2011, he would be selected to attend National American Legion College, only the third NJ Legionnaire at the time to attend the class, developed and run by the National organization. He would utilize the knowledge gained during the week-long school to develop training programs in the state, and would become the instructor for the NJ Leadership College basic training program. The program was developed to teach other Legion members about the variety of programs available to help fellow veterans. He would also help to determine future leaders who could, also, go to the national program, and bring back ideas to help improve Department of NJ programs.

Before being elected Department Commander, Dunn served as Department Executive Committeeman for Middlesex County for three years, which basically means he is the voice of Middlesex County at the state level and has a voice and vote on decisions made for The American Legion. He has held and continues to hold chair and vice-chair positions on several committees, and has been appointed to the National Americanism Commission to represent NJ on some of the programs and decisions being made for the organization. He chaired the Ad Hoc Moving Forward Committee, which was created by the Department Executive Committee on Oct. 26, 2019, to explore how The American Legion, Department of New Jersey, could improve systems, committees and service to veterans.

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# American Legion Preamble

For God & Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and

democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



# Department of New Jersey Officers

**COMMANDER** – Daniel Dunn

**VICE COMMANDERS:**

Dist. #1 – Francis Carrasco (Bergen, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Warren)

Dist. #2 – John Dunne (Essex, Hudson, Somerset, Union)

Dist. #3– Samuel Alphin (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth)

Dist. #4 – William Bergland (Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem)

Dist. #5– Anthony Gladden (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Ocean)

**ADJUTANT** - John D. Baker

**2021-2022 COUNTY OFFICERS**

**FINANCE OFFICER** – Thomas Adams

**JUDGE ADVOCATE** - Michael Wilson

**CHAPLAIN** – Michael Schaffer

**MASTER-AT-ARMS** – Randy Grizzard

**HISTORIAN** – Gary Cooper

**SERVICE OFFICER** - Kenneth Connors

**ASSISTANT SERVICE OFFICER** – Judith Morales

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN:**

Berley Hanna, Jr.

**ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN:**

Eugene “Gene” O’Grady

**Atlantic**

Commander – Patricia Tatum

DEC – Kenneth Laino

**Bergen**

Commander - Sophia Dmoch

DEC - Michael Carroll

**Burlington**

Commander –Russel Franks

DEC - Barbara Horowitz-Rigg

**Camden**

Commander –John Brouse

DEC –Steven Fisher

**Cape May**

Commander – Hugh O’Donnell

DEC - Joseph Bisbing

**Cumberland**

Commander – Joseph Sweeny

DEC – Vacant

**Essex**

Commander—Terence Scantlebury

DEC– Darrel Collins

**Gloucester**

Commander – Barbara Mejias

DEC - Lester Palangi

**Hudson**

Commander – Robert Gerris

DEC – John Carey

**Hunterdon**

Commander – Alan Brewer

DEC - Robert Miller

**Mercer**

Commander – Tyrone King

DEC – James Perkins

**Middlesex**

Commander – Juan Arencibia

DEC –Larry Bishop

**Monmouth**

Commander – Mary Jo Burkhard

DEC – William Fetherman

**Morris**

Commander –Thomas Dresdner

DEC– William Kramer

**Ocean**

Commander – Brian Hagal

DEC – Charles Jackson

**Passaic**

Commander – George Vanderwall

DEC – Joseph S. Imperato

**Salem**

Commander -James A. Minter

DEC– James A. Minter

**Somerset**

Commander – Donald Caola

DEC - Andrea Adair

**Sussex**

Commander – Roger Gengaro

DEC - Gerald Sheard

**Union**

Commander – Robert Gentry

DEC - Larry Platt

**Warren**

Commander – Frederick Stadler

DEC – John Chechelo

## 2021-2022 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ABC/GAMING:	Brian Hagal
AMERICANISM:	Theodore Howarth, Jr.
BASEBALL:	Frank Calandrillo, Jr
LEGION COLLEGE:	Joseph Imperato
BOY SCOUTS/COMMUNITY SERVICE:	Donna Bielauskas
CHILDREN & YOUTH:	Charles “Andy” Jackson
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION:	Joseph Gugliuzza
EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIP:	Harold Liberatore
EMPLOYMENT, HOMELESS & EDUCATION:	Robert Looby
FINANCE:	Larry Platt
INTERNAL ORGANIATION:	Raymond Miller
LEGION POLICE:	Dennis Smith
LEGISLATIVE:	Joseph Gugliuzza
MEMBERSHIP:	Richard Godfrey
NATIONAL SECURITY/POW/MIA:	Larry Bishop (NS) David Corbin (POW/MIA)
NEWSPAPER ( <i>LEGIONNAIRE</i> ):	Gary Cooper
ORATORICAL CONTEST:	Dan Channel
PUBLIC RELATIONS/MEDIA/ COMMUNICATIONS:	Gary Cooper
REHAB GENERAL SERVICES:	Kenneth Connors
REHAB HOSPITAL:	Elizabeth Baranowski
RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS:	Michael Schaffer
REVISED LEGION:	Berley Hanna, Jr.
SAFETY:	Joseph Becker
SAL:	Anthony Gladden

**AUXILIARY PRESIDENT – Jane Babli**

**SAL COMMANDER – Henry Hasselhan**

## DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS

1. Newark - October 10-11, 1919
2. Atlantic City - September 10-12, 1920
3. Asbury Park - September 15-17, 1921
4. Lake Hopatcong - September 14-16, 1922
5. Wildwood - September 13-15, 1923
6. Newark - August 15-16, 1924
7. Bridgeton - August 27-29, 1925
8. Belmar - September 9-11, 1926
9. Trenton - August 12-13, 1927
10. Bridgeton - August 31-September 2, 1928
11. Elizabeth - September 5-7, 1929
12. Wildwood - September 4-6, 1930
13. Atlantic City - September 10-12, 1931
14. Camden - August 11-13, 1932
15. Cape May - September 7-8, 1933
16. Belmar - September 6-8, 1934
17. Cape May - September 5-7, 1935
18. Asbury Park - September 10-12, 1936
19. Ocean City - September 9-11, 1937
20. Asbury Park - September 8-10, 1938
21. Cape May - September 7-9, 1939
22. Camden - August 22-24, 1940
23. Wildwood - September 4-6, 1941
24. Asbury Park - September 12-13, 1942
25. Newark - August 28-29, 1943
26. Atlantic City - September 7-9, 1944
27. Atlantic City - September 10-12, 1945
28. Cape May - September 11-14, 1946
29. Trenton - August 9, 1947
30. Asbury Park - September 8-11, 1948
31. Wildwood - September 8-11, 1949
32. Asbury Park - September 7-9, 1950
33. Wildwood - September 6-8, 1951
34. Wildwood - September 4-6, 1952
35. Asbury Park - September 10-12, 1953
36. Wildwood - September 9-11, 1954
37. Wildwood - September 8-10, 1955
38. Wildwood - September 13-15, 1956
39. Trenton - July 27, 1957
40. Wildwood - September 11-13, 1958
41. Wildwood - September 10-12, 1959
42. Wildwood - September 8-10, 1960
43. Wildwood - September 21-23, 1961
44. Wildwood - September 6-8, 1962
45. Wildwood - September 19-21, 1963
46. Wildwood - September 10-12, 1964
47. Wildwood - September 9-11, 1965
48. Wildwood - September 8-10, 1966
49. Wildwood - September 7-9, 1967
50. Wildwood - September 19-21, 1968
51. Wildwood - September 4-6, 1969
52. Wildwood - September 10-12, 1970
53. Wildwood - September 9-11, 1971
54. Wildwood - September 7-9, 1972
55. Wildwood - September 6-8, 1973
56. Wildwood - September 5-7, 1974
57. Wildwood - September 4-6, 1975
58. Wildwood - September 9-11, 1976
59. Wildwood - September 8-10, 1977
60. Wildwood - September 7-9, 1978
61. Wildwood - September 6-8, 1979
62. Wildwood - September 4-6, 1980
63. Wildwood - September 10-12, 1981
64. Wildwood - September 9-11, 1982
65. Wildwood - September 8-10, 1983
66. Wildwood - September 20-22, 1984
67. Wildwood - September 5-7, 1985
68. Wildwood - September 4-6, 1986
69. Wildwood - September 10-12, 1987
70. Wildwood - September 22-24, 1988
71. Wildwood - June 8-10, 1989
72. Wildwood - June 7-9, 1990
73. Wildwood - June 13-15, 1991
74. Wildwood - June 11-13, 1992
75. Wildwood - June 10-12, 1993
76. Wildwood - June 9-11, 1994
77. Wildwood - June 8-10, 1995
78. Wildwood - June 13-15, 1996
79. Wildwood - June 12-14, 1997
80. Wildwood - June 11-13, 1998
81. Wildwood - June 10-12, 1999
82. Wildwood - June 8-10, 2000
83. Wildwood - June 7-9, 2001
84. Wildwood - June 13-15, 2002
85. Wildwood - June 12-14, 2003
86. Wildwood - June 10-12, 2004
87. Wildwood - June 9-11, 2005
88. Wildwood - June 8-10, 2006
89. Wildwood - June 7-9, 2007
90. Wildwood - June 12-14, 2008
91. Wildwood - June 11-13, 2009
92. Wildwood - June 10-12, 2010
93. Wildwood - June 9-11, 2011
94. Wildwood - June 7-9, 2012
95. Wildwood - June 13-15, 2013
96. Wildwood - June 12-14, 2014
97. Wildwood - June 11-13, 2015
98. Wildwood - June 9 - 11, 2016
99. Wildwood - June 8 - 10, 2017
100. Wildwood - June 7 - 9, 2018
101. Wildwood - June 6 - 8, 2019
102. Wildwood - June 10 - 12, 2021
103. Wildwood - June 9 - 11, 2022

## PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

'19-'20 Hobart B. Brown - *Died 6-2-55 (160)	'72-'73 Albert M. Robotti - *Died 8-13-13 (280)
'20-'21 Leonidas Coyle - *Died 11-2-37 (95)	'73-'74 W. Robert Bohn - *Died 5-21-94 (115)
'21-'22 Joseph D. Sears - *Died 5-31-59 (20)	'74-'75 James H. Hall - *Died 3-5-17 (339)
'22-'23 Alan Bruce Conlin - *Died 5-28-59 (3)	'75-'76 Frank Riccardi - *Died 8-30-08 (52)
'23-'24 Hon. Phillip Forman - *Died 8-17-78 (93)	'76-'77 Lester Harris - *Died 1-17-14 (75)
'24-'25 A. Eugene Pattison - *Died 4-1-71 (53)	'77-'78 Eugene Howell - *Died 2- 25, 2007 (58)
'25-'26 Frank A. Mathews, Jr. - *Died 2-5-64 (156)	'78-'79 Anthony Lori - *Died 4-18-20 (155)
'26-'27 Hon. John Grimshaw, Jr. - *Died 12-25-71 (77)	'79-'80 Lawrence Luterman - *Died 11-4-86 (469)
'27-'28 George Fleming - *Died 3-5-31 (93)	'80-'81 Martin T. Monroe - *Died 11-4-01 (401)
'28-'29 Col. Herbert H. Blizzard - *Died 7-30-78 (47)	'81-'82 Margaret M. Malone - *Died 4-19-10 (93)
'29-'30 Hon. Richard Hartshorne - *Died 9-14-75 (73)	'82-'83 John M. Neafsey - *Died 5-10-18 (71)
'30-'31 Theodore R. Chrichton (55)	'83-'84 Michael Pastuzyn - *Died 9-13-98 (165)
'31-'32 W. Rex McCrosson - *Died 4-10-66 (156)	'84-'85 John E. Hein - *Died 9-31-08 (293)
'32-'33 Joseph H. Edgar - *Died 8-8-61 (88)	'85-'86 George E. Sampson - *Died 10-16-18 (194)
'33-'34 Samuel Spingarn - *Died 2-24-79 (14)	'86-'87 George F. Himmel, Jr. - *Died 4-11-03 (141)
'34-'35 C. Richard Allen (71)*	'87-'88 Timothy P. Carmody (120)
'35-'36 John E. Cash - *Died 5-18-65 (73)	'88-'89 Ralph L. Stone, *Died 8-23-13 (26)
'36-'37 William T. Reagan - *Died 3-29-63 (260)	'89-'90 William N. Shipley, - *Died 7-26-13 (227)
'37-'38 Dr. J. Iredell Wyckoff - *Died 4-20-62 (68)	'90-'91 Walter Kuzbyt, *Died 6-22-10 (55)
'38-'39 Lester G. Block - *Died 12-18-53 (93)	'91-'92 E. Frank Cartier - *Died 9-23-08 (430)
'39-'40 Albert E. McCormick - *Died 1-29-61 (124)	'92-'93 Joseph M. Lynch - *Died 4-24-09 (324)
'40-'41 John A. Whomsley - *Died 2-7-57 (146)	'93-'94 Joseph English- *Died 4/28/2014 (338)
'41-'42 Roy E. Anderson - *Died 9-29-76 (87)	'94-'95 George Wm. Diem - *Died 8-7-13 (49)
'42-'43 Leo E. Honore - *Died 11-24-73 (15)	'95-'96 Franklin R. Sickie, Jr.- *Died 2-13-219 (164)
'43-'44 Aaron Smith - *Died 6-24-63 (104)	'96-'97 William A. Rakestraw - *Died 8-25-18 (346)
'44-'45 R. Graham Huntington - *Died 1-18-57 (73)	'97-'98 Theodore J. Howarth, Jr. (72)
'45-'46 Joseph C. Fitts - *Died 3-24-74 (53)	'98-'99 Leo L. McKernan - *Died 6-25-21 (522)
'46-'47 Dr. Samuel A. Loveman - *Died 4-2-63 (129)	'99-'00 Berley Hanna, Jr. (499)
'47-'48 Joseph G. Carty - *Died 8-13-68 (9)	'00-'01 Clifford Griffiths - *Died 4-13-22 (281)
'48-'49 Halsey W. Stickel - *Died 6-28-83 (73)	'01-'02 Daniel McCole (157)
'49-'50 Harry V. Groome - *Died 11-21-75 (146)	'02-'03 Wm. "Billy" Mack - *Died 2-17-18 (471)
'50-'51 Hon. C. Conrad Schneider - *Died 7-18-84 (78)	'03-'04 Marshall "Ted" Behr - *Died 1-10-17 (239)
'51-'52 Edmund G. Lyons - *Died 7-25-86 (8)	'04-'05 James Vialard - *Died 12-13-21 (390)
'52-'53 William C. Doyle - *Died 9-13-85 (79)	'05-'06 Joseph M. Gugliuzza (325)
'53-'54 Raymond G. Clyons - *Died 6-25-72 (107)	'06-'07 Charles "Chuck" Robbins (351)
'54-'55 Arthur W. Mazowiecki - *Died 1-28-02 (347)	'07-'08 Frank M. Calandrillo, Jr. (531)
'55-'56 Don Hart - *Died 7-20-97 (95)	'08-'09 Richard Zalinkanskas - *Died 12/11/21 (35)
'56-'57 Harry N. Weeks - *Died 4-24-71 (73)	'09-'10 Robert E. Phillips (262)
'57-'58 Warren R. Davies - *Died 7-30-09 (60)	'10-'11 Robert W. Looby (12)
'58-'59 George D. Town - *Died 10-16-85 (340)	'11-'12 Harold Liberatore (279)
'59-'60 Ralph A. D'Olivo - *Died 4-4-88 (59)	'12-'13 Eugene "Gene" O'Grady (232)
'60-'61 Edward Wysocki - *Died 3-14-04 (113)	'13-'14 James Amos (457)
'61-'62 Murrell N. Woolman - *Died 10-6-93 (11)	'14-'15 Michael Wilson (19)
'62-'63 Henry W. Ryan - *Died 12-4-84 (31)	'15-'16 Michal Babli, Jr. (311)
'63-'64 Franklin R. Sickie - *Died 1-16-79 (164)	'16-'17 Roger Gengaro (213)
'64-'65 Stephan B. Lopes - *Died 1-6-20 (181)	'17-'18 Darryl Reid (178)
'65-'66 William R. Huggard - *Died 7-28-08 (110)	'18-'19 Raymond Miller (129)
'66-'67 Joseph P. Hanrahan - *Died 8-28-88 (107)	'19 -'21 Robert Newell (63)
'66-'67 Albert J. Moeller - *Died 12-15-97 (3)	'21 -'22 Daniel Dunn (87)
'67-'68 James O. West - *Died 7-4-00 (144)	
'68-'69 Jack W. Kuepfer- *Died 11-14-14 (8)	
'69-'70 Joseph F. Ward - *Died 10-30-99 (118)	
'70-'71 Walter P. Kuhner - *Died 9-19-01 (281)	
'71-'72 Frank Piampiano - *Died 10-27-07 (249)	

PDC per vote of Department Executive Committee  
2010-Raymond L. Zawacki

## 2021 - 2022

At the 102nd Annual Convention in Wildwood, NJ, June 10 – 12, 2021, Daniel Dunn, a member of Woodbridge Post 87, Middlesex County, was unanimously elected Department Commander on Friday, June 11.

Each year, the newly elected Department Commander of The American Legion, Dept. of New Jersey, selects a state-wide project to improve the lives of New Jersey's veterans through programs and services that provide assistance, training and care. Commander Dunn sought to raise a total of \$128,100 for The Legion Family Project. Many of the funds would be dedicated to helping veterans in need and suicide awareness. "By working together with our Legion Family, we will be able to accomplish a lot of great things, the way that our organization has always done," he said.

Project elements were:

\$18,000 for additional flag poles at all five veterans facilities and Brigadier General Doyle Cemetery. The two new poles will be for the addition of the Space Force and the [National Guard] Merchant Marine flags.

\$20,000 for a service dog through Rebuilding Warriors to assist a veteran with physical or mental needs.

\$25,100 to Hoboken Post 107 veteran housing expansion project.

\$15,000 suicide awareness funding.

\$10,000 homeless veterans fund.

\$10,000 View Clix for Menlo Park Veterans Home. Twenty residents will receive the 15.6 inch display that is an easy way for seniors to keep connected to family and friends through video calls and photos.

\$5,000 to Veterans Haven South for library and crafts supplies.

\$25,000 will go to the sustainability of the new 501c3 Legion Family Fund.

One hundred percent of every dollar donated is used for the project; none of the money is used for overhead, salaries or expenses. Total raised on July 1, 2022, was \$145,182.

The newly elected Department Commander always finds he must hit the ground running with an ambitious schedule of events, meetings, ceremonies and visitations which start the day he or she is elected. These pages will showcase Department Commander Dunn's successful journey from election to his parade-leading march down Atlantic Ave., Wildwood, culminating his year as Department Commander.

During the term:

- ◆ Department Vice Commanders were asked to take on the role of training facilitators/instructors, in many areas, but especially with mylegion.org membership issues, homeless veterans and suicide prevention.
- ◆ Suicide awareness was brought to the forefront through messages on local media, the Keep Our Veterans Alive initiative and suicide prevention training statewide.
- ◆ Changes recommended by the Ad Hoc Moving Forward Committee, created by the Department Executive Committee on Oct. 26, 2019, began to be implemented; \$20,000 was budgeted to the Public Relations Committee for radio ads which promoted American Legion initiatives in New Jersey, such as membership and suicide prevention.
- ◆ Rehabilitation Hospital Chair Elizabeth Baranowski reported that \$163,862 was donated to aid our veterans.

- ◆ Baseball Chair Frank Calandrillo, Jr. reported that the winner of the \$4,000 David C. Goodwin Memorial Scholarship was Gavin Kincs, who played for the Allentown championship team; the winner of the \$4,000 Ernest Zardetto Memorial Scholarship was Anthony Iacovino, who played for the Wood-Ridge Blue Devils American Legion team.
- ◆ Employment & Education Chair Bob Looby reported on a number of successful job fairs and workshops, and programs to aid homeless veterans working cooperatively with Catholic Charities and the NJ State Parole Board. Homeless Veterans Outreach Awards were presented to Patricia Tatum, Atlantic County commander, Dennis Duddie, Post 170 commander, and Gladys Krasicki. The department was also notified it was awarded its fifth National Homeless Veterans Outreach Award to be presented at the National Convention in Milwaukee. Looby worked tirelessly to develop and implement KOVE: Keep Our Veterans Alive, a program to raise awareness, coordinate, consolidate and network all VSO's, law enforcement and others' initiatives and efforts to promote education to all to help end the veteran suicide tragedy.
- ◆ Affordable Housing for At-risk/Homeless Veterans Chair Jim Scanlon reported on the progress being made in adding apartments for homeless veterans to posts in Hoboken, Westfield, South Amboy and Montclair.
- ◆ Education & Scholarship Committee Chair Harold Liberatore reported fewer than 20 applications were received for scholarships. Recipients were: \$4,000: Michele Roman, Post 211, and Frank DeCeglie, Post 227; \$2,000: Hailey Block, Post 211, Michael Maglio, Post 246, Allison Bott, Post 154, and Michael Little, Post 371; \$1,000: Luke Vasquez, Post 211, Dylan Fecher, Post 348; and the Thomas Ryan Scholarship of \$5,000 was awarded to Hanna MacDonald, Post 79.
- ◆ Legislative Committee Chair Joe Gugliuzza reported the Washington, D.C. trip was held virtually. One of the most pressing issues presented to elected officials was support for the Cathedral of the Air, Lakehurst, built by the Dept. of NJ in 1936, to ensure adequate funds for maintenance.
- ◆ Membership Chair Richard Godfrey presented membership awards to counties, posts and individuals, including: Salem County for being #1 county; Gold Brigade Awards to Tom Covello, Charles Bast, and Richard Godfrey, Sr., who was also recognized as Top Recruiter. Membership total for the term was 33,468, 92.74 percent of goal of 36,089, for 35th place nationally.
- ◆ Safety Committee Chair Joseph Becker presented the George W. Diem Safety Essay Award of \$250 to Ella Kovacsofsky, Post 188, and the Dr. Richard Stockton Safety Poster Award of \$250 to Pajae Senior, Post 8.
- ◆ Americanism Chair Ted Howarth presented the Coloring Contest winner Mason Cooke, Post 528 with a \$300 award. Post and individual Legionnaire Awards went to: William Sweeney, Post 99, Spirit of Americanism; Lt. Nick Caviello, Lyndhurst Police Dept., Post 139, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year; Staff Sgt. Cisco, Trooper Brad Cosh, Trooper William Weiss, Trooper Matthew Rizzo, Post 157, Law Enforcement Officer/Team Valor; Cpt. Kenneth Walters, Firefighter Brendon Guray, Firefighter Christopher Fields, Trenton Fire Dept., Post 182, Firefighter of the Year Valor; Laura Vuono, Lyndhurst Public Schools, Post 157, Educator of the Year.
- ◆ Oratorical Contest Chair Dan Channel reported that Benjamin Duvelson, Post 35, was the winner of the 2022 contest receiving a \$4,000 scholarship.
- ◆ Public Relations Chair Gary Cooper reported the following recipients of Public Relations Awards:  
Newsletters:
  - Single Page: Post 311, Waterford Township,
  - Color: Post 322, Summit,
  - Multiple Page Black & White under 500 members: Post 201, Livingston,
  - Multiple Page Black & White Over 500 members: Post 129, Toms River.

During the course of the year the Department Commander pays an official visit to each county, explaining the year's agenda to members of The Legion Family and accepting donations for The Legion Family State Project. Commander Dunn, accompanied by members of Team Dunn, made official visits to all 21 counties:

- ◆ **Official Visit to Camden County**, September 16, 2021— NJ American Legion Department Commander Dan Dunn made his official visit to Camden County on Thursday, starting with a dinner at Vitales Italian Bistro, Gloucester City, then on to the meeting at Brooklawn Post 72. There, Commander Dunn discussed the issues of veteran suicide, homelessness and The Legion Family State Project. He accepted donations of \$3,150 from the county and posts. Commander Dunn then helped with presenting baseball awards.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Passaic County**, September 21, 2021— Commander Dunn visited with the members of the county at Post 8, Clifton, discussing his agenda and accepting \$1500 in donations to the Legion Family Project.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Middlesex County**, September 22, 2021— Commander Dunn's official visit to his home county of Middlesex, was at his home Post 87, Woodbridge. He first visited with the members of Unit 87 who donated to the state project. Following his meeting with the Auxiliary, Commander Dunn discussed his initiatives with members of The Legion and SAL, and accepted donations of \$11,970 for the state project.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Cape May County**, October 21, 2021— Department Commander Dan Dunn's official visit to Cape May County took place at Post 524, Ocean City, 6 p.m., with a waning full Hunter's Moon and temperatures in the mid 60s. With over 80 members of The Legion Family in attendance, Dunn discussed the issues of membership, homelessness among men and women veterans, and veteran suicide. Donations collected that evening amounted to \$2,250.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Bergen County**, October 23, 2021— Department Commander Dan Dunn's official visit to Bergen County took place at Post 139, Lyndhurst, 9 a.m. With over 50 members of The Legion Family in attendance, Dunn discussed the issues of membership, homelessness among men and women veterans, and veteran suicide. Donations collected that morning amounted to \$4,575.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Warren County**, October 27, 2021— Department Commander Dan Dunn's official visit to Warren County took place at Post 164, Hackettstown, 7 p.m. With over 21 members of The Legion Family in attendance, Dunn discussed the issues of membership, homelessness among men and women veterans, and veteran suicide. Donations collected that evening for The Legion Family Project amounted to \$1,850.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Monmouth County**, November 3, 2021— Department Commander Dan Dunn's official visit to Monmouth County took place at Post 266, Neptune, 8 p.m. With about 20 members of The Legion Family in attendance, Dunn discussed the issues of membership, homelessness among men and women veterans, and veteran suicide. Donations collected that evening for The Legion Family Project amounted to \$3,285.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Cumberland County**, November 10, 2021— On Veterans Day Eve, under a clear sky with a bright, waxing crescent moon, Department Commander Dan Dunn made his way to Millville Post 82 for his official visit to Cumberland County. Fifteen members of The Legion Family were present to hear from Commander Dunn, who accepted donations to The Legion Family Project amounting to \$325.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Mercer County**, November 13, 2021— Commander Dunn arrived at Hightstown Post 148 on Saturday, Nov. 13, at noon, for his official visit to Mercer County under a sunny sky and temperatures in the low 60s; thunder rumbled during the meeting with wind and torrential rain causing the temperature to drop into the low 40s; sprinkles continued on the way home, with traffic lights out on a section of Route 130. Over 22 Legionnaires attended the meeting which raised \$9,900 for the state project.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Atlantic County**, December 8, 2021— The Atlantic County Executive Committee hosted Department Commander Dan Dunn's official visit to Atlantic County at Angelo's Restaurant, beginning with a buffet dinner at 6 p.m. Over 40 members of the Atlantic County Legion Family attended, donating \$3300 for the state project.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Gloucester County**, December 17, 2021— On the night before the last full moon of 2021, Department Commander Dan Dunn's official visit to Gloucester County took place at American Le-

gion Post 133, Woodbury at 7 p.m. Eighteen members, representing six county posts, braved the balmy 55 degree evening to hear from Commander Dunn. Donations to the state project amounted to \$2,400, bringing the total raised before the end of the year to approximately \$85,000.

- ◆ **Quarantine Hold**— A positive test for COVID for Department Commander Dan Dunn led to a suspension of activities during the week of January 10, 2022. Official visits scheduled for Burlington County (Jan. 10, 2022) and Hunterdon County (January 12, 2022) were rescheduled for March.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Union County**, February 10, 2022— On an unseasonably warm February evening (53 degrees), Team Dunn began their official visit to Union County with a dinner at Amici's Restaurant, Linden, at 5:30 p.m. Team Dunn arrived at Post 5, Rahway, for the official meeting at 7:43 p.m., with a waxing gibbous moon illuminating the post through scattered clouds. Over 25 members of The Legion Family attended, donating \$4,650 to the state project.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Sussex County**, February 16, 2022— With a waxing gibbous Snow Moon glowing through translucent clouds, Department Commander Dan Dunn and his team arrived at Post 86, Newton, for his official visit to Sussex County. Over 30 members of the county's Legion Family were in attendance donating \$2,850 to The Legion Family State Project, pushing the total over the \$100,000 mark.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Somerset County**, February 18, 2022— On a clear, crisp, cold & windy evening, Department Commander Dan Dunn and members of Team Dunn made their official visit to Somerset County at Post 12, Somerville. Twenty members of the county Legion Family attended the visit, which raised \$3,001.98 for The Legion Family project.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Hunterdon County**, February 23, 2022— On a balmy, 66 degree afternoon, with the sun setting behind wispy clouds over the Delaware River, Team Dunn arrived at Frenchtown American Legion Post 113 for Department Commander Dan Dunn's Official Visit to Hunterdon County. Thirty members of The Legion Family attended, donating \$1,800 to the state project. Temperature dropped 20 degrees when leaving the warm hospitality of Post 113.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Burlington County**, March 14, 2022— In his first Official Visit of Daylight Savings Time 2022, Department Commander Dan Dunn and his team arrived at Pemberton Post 294, Burlington County, under a sunny sky and temperatures in the lower sixties at 6 p.m. Twenty-one members of The Legion Family were present, donating \$5,300 to the state project. County Commander Robert Franks also re-sented Commander Dan Dunn with a doorbell for Dept. Headquarters to save all our collective arthritic knuckles.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Essex County**, March 17, 2022— Department Commander Dan Dunn made his official visit to Essex County on Saint Patrick's Day, enjoying the hospitality of historic Post 105, Belleville.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Morris County**, March 18, 2022— Spring was in the air as Department Commander Dan Dunn visited Post 342 in historic Chester for his official visit to Morris County. Temperature was 70 degrees under sunny skies as 40 members of The Legion Family packed the hall, donating \$5,400 to the state project.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Ocean County**, March 29, 2022— Department Commander Dan Dunn spent much of a cold, windy Vietnam Veterans Day, in Ocean County, honoring Vietnam Veterans at an event at Tom's Retreat on Route 9, Little Egg Harbor, and at a ceremony in Barnegat, before he and the Dunn Team started his official visit to the county with a dinner at Lefty's at 5:30 p.m. They moved on to Barnegat Post 232, where over 60 members of The Legion Family packed the bar area donating \$6,051 to the state project, putting the project OVER-THE-TOP!
- ◆ **Official Visit to Salem County**, April 30, 2022— Salem County brought Commander Dunn and members of Team Dunn far below the Mason-Dixon Line to Finn's Point National Cemetery and to view Fort Mott on a Saturday. DVC Bill Berglund, provided an informative narrative about the historic facility.
- ◆ **Official Visit to Hudson County**, May 20, 2022— Department Commander Dan Dunn and his team began his Official Visit to Hudson County at Post 99, Kearny, at 3 p.m. The historic post was once the Dis-



abled Soldiers & Sailors Home (1887-1932). In the rooms upstairs, the post has a collection of donated clothing which it offers to veterans in need through their veteran outreach program. The Hudson County posts donated \$3,525 to the state project. On the way to the Joia Portuguese Restaurant, Harrison, the team stopped at the statue of Philip Kearny, the town's namesake, and St. Stephen's Church, to see the statue dedicated to the Four Chaplains, before showers made their appearance. Father Washington, one of the four chaplains, served at St. Stephens.

Throughout the year, Commander Dunn and his team also attended a variety of Department of NJ, community, military and post events, meetings and golf-outing fundraisers, o include:

**Department Executive Committee meetings** in June, August, October, December, February and April.

**New Jersey Boys State, June 25, 2021** — Commencement Ceremony for the 75th class of American Legion Jersey Boys State was held at Rider University. Col. Patrick J. Callahan of the NJ State Police delivered the keynote address. Department Commander Dan Dunn addressed the audience and presented \$2,000 scholarships to the boys elected governor, lieutenant governor and senators: Devin Falci, governor, Nicholas Kimble, “senior” senator, Matthew Xu, senator, and Sydney Wiredu, senator. Due to cancellation of the session in 2020, the students registered for that session were able to attend the 2021 session, electing one of those statesmen as a “senior” senator.

**The 72nd Annual High Point Memorial Service, June 27, 2021, 12:30 p.m.**— With cobalt blue skies providing a background for the memorial at High Point, New Jersey, Department Commander Dan Dunn led The Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion up the driveway to participate in the annual service.

**The 87th Annual Carranza Memorial Service, July 10, 2021, 1 p.m.**— Every year Mount Holly Post 11 of The American Legion holds a memorial service at the monument to honor the fallen aviator Emilio Carranza. The service is held on the second Saturday of July at 1 p.m. There is no rain date and the ceremony is held even during inclement and severe weather conditions. Captain Carranza has been called “Mexico's Lindbergh.” In 1928, while flying a goodwill mission from New York City to Mexico City, his plane crashed near Tabernacle, New Jersey, during a thunderstorm. After the tragedy in 1928, the members of Post 11 made a promise to keep the memory of Emilio Carranza and his mission of Good Will and Peace alive. Every year since 1928, the members of American Legion Post 11 have kept that promise that their preceding comrades had made without fail for 93 years. It was sunny and warm with a light breeze that day as Commander Dunn and DVC Sam Alphin presented the American Legion wreath at the base of the memorial. Thirty wreaths from various groups were presented.

**Unsung Heroes Ceremony, Rahway, July 17, 2021, 9:30 a.m.**— On a peaceful knoll overlooking all of Rahway Cemetery, sits a group of graves in the shadows of the trees. Down an embankment the Rahway River gurgles by, as it might have done during the American Civil War, and as it did when 29 heroes of that war were buried there and, essentially, forgotten, many in unmarked graves. Heroes of the United States Colored Troops (USCT), unrecognized because of the color of their skin—unrecognized until the members of James E. Mackie Post 499, honored their service, sacrifice and dedication with a remembrance service to these “Unsung Heroes”. Twenty-four years later, about 75 members of The American Legion, Dept. of NJ, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, community leaders and others gathered on that warm, sunny morning to pay tribute to and hear of the history of those heroes and the historic site.

**Resolution from Middlesex County Board of Commissioners, August 19, 2021**— On the evening of August 19, the Middlesex County Board of Commissioners (formerly Freeholders) at its regularly scheduled

meeting, honored Department Commander and county resident Dan Dunn with a resolution in recognition of his military service and accomplishments serving veterans through The American Legion. Commissioners Charles Kenny and Commissioner Chair Ron Rios made the presentation.

**National Convention, Phoenix, Arizona, August 27 to September 2, 2021**— The 102nd National Convention of The American Legion was held in Phoenix, AZ, with 37 NJ delegates braving the 110 degree “dry heat”. The delegation was housed at the Arizona Grand Resort and Spa, about 10 miles from downtown Phoenix, in Tempe. Those who arrived early enjoyed the on-site golf course. The facility also featured an on-site water park, pools, hot tubs and restaurants. A reception was held for the NJ delegation honoring NEC Chuck Robbins, and PDC Bob Newell, on Tuesday evening, in recognition of their service to the Dept. of NJ. PDC Ray Miller set up a special display toasting the 13 American service members killed at the Kabul airport. Chaplain Mike Schaffer read each name during his prayer. The shadow of that tragedy was a constant reminder during the conference of the selfless dedication and sacrifice of our troops, every day. Paul Dillard was elected National Commander.

**Patriotic Program, Mitchell A. Davis Post 182, Trenton, September 4, 2021**— On a beautiful day, under sunny skies with a comfortable temperature of 75 degrees, Department Commander Dan Dunn visited Mitchell A. Davis Post 182, Trenton, for their Annual Patriotic Program and Barbeque where he was presented a certificate in recognition of his service to The American Legion.

**John Basilone Parade, September 19, 2021**— The parade is in honor of John Basilone, the only enlisted Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross. He returned to action after receiving the Medal of Honor and was killed in action. The town of Raritan, where he was born, honors him with a parade every year in September and weather could not have been better, as the parade kicked off under sunny skies with comfortably warm temperatures. The streets were lined with hundreds of local residents.

**Commanders Call, Sea Girt, October 17, 2021**— Leaders from various state veteran organizations met with Brig. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., the Adjutant General and commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJDMVA), and Acting Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Walter R. Nall at the Veterans Commanders Call at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt, N.J. The Commanders Call provides veteran organization leaders with updates on NJDMVA’s programs, services and benefits, as well as future plans.

**North Jersey Caucus, October 25, 2021**— at Hightstown Post 148 at 6 p.m. Members of the South Jersey Caucus were invited to the meeting. PDC Chuck Robbins presented the proposal to unify the caucus into one. Joe Imperato proposed three caucuses, adding in one for central New Jersey. A committee was established in the North Jersey Caucus to study the matter. Appointed were Larry Bishop, Sal Torre and Will Kramer.

**Veterans Day, November 11, 2021**— Department Commander Dan Dunn had an active Veterans Day, serving as the Grand Marshal of the Woodbridge, NJ, Veterans Day Parade. After the parade, he boarded a bus at Woodbridge Post 87 to join a contingent of N.J. Legionnaires for a trip to New York City to march in the parade there, meeting up with New York Department Commander Frank LaMarsh.

**Groundbreaking for Homeless Veteran Housing, Hoboken Post 107, December 7, 2021**— On Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Department Commander Dan Dunn joined members of Post 107, Hoboken, elected officials and community members to break ground on an expansion of the post to bring 18 additional units for homeless veterans to the lot that now sits vacant at the corner of 2nd and Willow streets.

**North Jersey Caucus Meeting, January 31, 2022**— Department Commander Dan Dunn stopped by the North Jersey Caucus meeting at Sayreville Post 211, to update the representatives from the north Jersey counties on the status of his goals halfway through his term. Delegates selected Morris County DEC Will Kramer, Post 170 Commander Dennis Duddie and Post 213 Commander John Hanson as candidates for Dept. Vice Commanders for 2022-2023. No decision was made on changing the ratio of the current system of two commanders from the north, one from the south to alternating one for one.

**For God & Country Service, February 6, 2022**— The 79th Annual For God & Country Service in remembrance of the four chaplains who sacrificed their lives on the Dorchester on February 3, 1943, was held at the Cathedral of the Air, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Department Commander Dan Dunn gave the welcoming address. Department Vice Commanders gave the tribute to the four chaplains: Rev. George L. Fox, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Rev. Clark B. Poling and Rev. Johnny P. Washington. After each tribute, State Chaplain Michael Schaffer lit a candle in memory of their supreme sacrifice

**2022 Washington Conference Wreath Laying, February 28, 2022**— The American Legion's Washington Conference, held annually in our nation's capital, usually gives our organization's leadership a chance to meet face-to-face with elected officials to discuss legislative initiatives and priorities important to Legion members and their families. It also provides a forum that allows Legionnaires to hear from senators, representatives and officials from the White House and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as they address our members at the conference. In 2022, the conference was scheduled Feb. 27—March 2, but the conference was virtual. A delegation did travel to Arlington National Cemetery so Department Commander Dan Dunn could place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns on a brisk, but sunny Feb. 28.

**Oratorical Contest, March 5, 2022, War Memorial, Trenton**— The Department Oratorical Contest was held at the War Memorial Building, Trenton. Competition began at 10 a.m. Three orators competed, representing three districts: Ruhi Kulkarni, a sophomore at Monroe High School, sponsored by Post 522, Monroe Township (second place); Justin Del Valle, a senior at Leonia High School, sponsored by Post 1, Leonia (third place); Benjamin Duvelson, a junior at Union High School, sponsored by Post 35, Union (first place).

**81st Annual Last Man's Dinner, Haddonfield Post 38, April 5, 2022**—Department Commander Dan Dunn attended the Last Man's Dinner. Each year, the Last Man's Club of Haddonfield American Legion Post 38 conducts the Last Man's Dinner to honor the veterans who have served our country in the past, as well today's active duty personnel. All members of Post 38 are members of the Last Man's Club and are on the charter for the war in which they served. The Last Man's Dinner was created to preserve the memories of our wars, to pay fitting tribute to their departed comrades, to foster and perpetuate good fellowship, and to eat, drink and be merry. Post 58 is the only New Jersey American Legion Post which has perpetuated this tradition. Post 38 also held a Last Man's Dinner on Jun 29, 2021, which Commander Dunn also attended

**National Security Trip to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, April 14, 2022**— National Security Chair Larry Bishop arranged a trip, for those interested, to visit Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. A military bus picked participants up at the Cathedral of the Air, Lakehurst, for their visit to the 108th Air Wing, KC-46 305th, 305th Air Mobility Operations Support Squadron. Commander Dunn, a U.S. Air Force veteran, was back in his element, and New Jersey was a much safer place with him at the controls.

**N.J. American Legion Leadership College, April 22—24, 2022**— New Jersey American Legion Leadership College was held at the New Jersey Army National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt. Although skies were cloudy, on occasion, it was the first time in many years not marred by rain. Welcoming the attendees on Friday

evening, April 22, was The Adjutant General of New Jersey, Brigadier General Lisa J. Hou and Department Commander Dan Dunn.

The year for post, county and department commanders can be challenging, rewarding and exhausting with travel, meetings and events. Commander Dunn honored four County Commanders at Testimonial Dinners in Atlantic, Bergen, Camden and Morris counties, and was honored, himself, for the extraordinary year he had.

**Department Commander Daniel Dunn's Testimonial Dinner, Grand Marquis, April 24, 2022**— The Testimonial Dinner for Department Commander Dan Dunn was held at the Grand Marquis, Old Bridge, from 2 - 5 p.m., with over 250 guests in attendance. Department Commander Dan Dunn and his wife, Pat, were escorted to the head table by PDC Mike Wilson. Department Commander Dan Dunn received a Joint Resolution from the N.J. Senate and Assembly from Assemblyman Craig Coughlin. Woodbridge Councilwoman Sharon McAuliffe and Woodbridge Mayor John McCormac presented a proclamation to Commander Dunn. Department Commander Dan Dunn received a proclamation naming April 24, 2022, as Daniel Dunn Day from Col. (Ret.) Walter Nall, acting N.J. Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs. NEC Berley Hanna, Jr. presented a letter from National Commander Paul Dillard to Department Commander Dan Dunn. Department Commander Dan Dunn received a U.S. flag flown in his honor in Washington, D.C., from his vice commanders.

**40th Annual Legislative Breakfast, May 1, 2022**— Commander Dan Dunn began May Day attending the 40th Annual Legislative Breakfast hosted by the Jewish War Veterans of New Jersey at the Clarion Hotel, Toms River.

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 129 100 Year Celebration, May 1, 2022**—That evening, Department Commander Dunn traveled to American Legion Post 129, Toms River, to honor Unit 129 for 100 years of service to veterans and their community.

**Gold Coast Cadillac Fundraiser, May 7, 2022**— Mother Nature did not cooperate on Saturday, May 7, for Gold Coast Cadillac's fundraiser in support of the Department's homeless veterans housing initiatives. However, the pouring rain, wind and 50 degree temperatures, did not prevent the Verrazano Cadillac Club of Staten Island/Brooklyn from parking a number of classic Cadillacs in the showroom on Route 35 north, Oakhurst. La Dona Italian Cuisine, Manalapan, provided a delicious buffet. Monmouth County Commissioners presented Gold Coast Cadillac with a Certificate of Recognition for their commitment to supporting the NJ American Legion's homeless veterans programs. Affordable Housing for At-risk/Homeless Veterans Committee Chair Jim Scanlon explained the Department's homeless veterans housing initiatives. For every Cadillac sold the weekend of May 7-8, 2022, Gold Coast Cadillac pledged \$100 to the NJ American Legion's homeless veterans initiatives, making a preliminary donation of \$2500.

**Memorial Day Services at BG William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Arneytown, May 28, 2022**— The Annual New Jersey State Memorial Day Program at the BG William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery kicked off with its traditional parade of veterans organizations at 10:58 a.m., under partly cloudy skies, 80 degrees and a bit humid. Keynote speaker was New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, joined by Brigadier General Lisa Hou, The Adjutant General of NJ, and Representative Andrew Kim. Murphy thanked the veterans and the families of those buried at the cemetery. "New Jerseyans have always answered the call to service in times of war and peace. They set the foundation for the United States. Through their families and loved ones, we posthumously thank them." Shortly after the service ended, skies opened-up with a 40 minute downpour.

**Awards Barbecue at Veterans Haven North, June 1, 2022**— Department Commander Dan Dunn and members of Team Dunn motored to Glen Gardner to attend a BBQ and recognition ceremony at Veterans Haven North. With showers predicted, the celebration was held inside, with some great food. Commander Dunn accepted the award for the Department of NJ.

**Locustwood Statewide Memorial Service, June 5, 2022**— As just about every speaker noted, it was a beautiful day for the 87th Annual Statewide Memorial Service at Locustwood Memorial Park, Cherry Hill. Starting with the parade of counties shortly after 2 p.m., skies were clear, temperature about 80 degrees, with a faint waxing crescent moon overhead. Music was provided by the Bonsal Blues of Post 133, Woodbury; Firing Squad was from Stetser Lamartine Post 281. Refreshments followed at Cherry Hill Memorial Post 372. During the service, a carnation is placed in a wreath by representatives of each of New Jersey's 21 counties. The ground was dedicated to The American Legion, Department of New Jersey by the Locustwood Memorial Park Association for the final resting place of deceased Legionnaires and spouses. It is called by many "The New Jersey Arlington."

### **103rd Annual Department of New Jersey Convention, June 9 - 11, 2022**

**Final Department Executive Committee Meeting, June 8, 2022**— The 103rd Annual Convention of The American Legion, Dept. of NJ, unofficially began on Wednesday at 3 p.m. with Department Commander Dan Dunn's final DEC meeting at the Convention Center, Wildwood, NJ.

**General Session—Day 1, June 9, 2022**— The 103rd Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of New Jersey, was opened by Department Commander Dan Dunn on June 9, in the Convention Center, Wildwood, NJ. Day 1 was highlighted by Miss NJ Alyssa Marie Sullivan singing the National Anthem and addressing the assembly; National Vice Commander Cory Bates delivering a message from National Commander Paul Dillard; the presentation of Dept. awards; and the nomination of officers for 2022-2023. Department Commander Dan Dunn was presented the NJ Civilian Commendation Medal by Acting Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs Walter Nall and PNEC Charles "Chuck" Robbins.

**General Session—Day 2, June 10, 2022**— The 103rd Annual Convention of the American Legion, Department of New Jersey, was reconvened by Department Commander Dan Dunn on June 10, in the Convention Center. Day 2 was highlighted by an opening performance by The American Bombshells, Rayna Bertash, Stephanie Meadowcroft and Nicolette Templier; an address by former Army POW Jessica Lynch; an address by Sandra Mount, COTA family; Membership Awards; and the election of the 2022-2023 Dept. officers. Steven V. Fisher was elected Commander for 2022—2023. Former First Lady Pat Dunn placed the new, blue Past Department Commander's cap on PDC Dan Dunn and pinned on his PDC pin.

**Initiation & Parade, June 11, 2022**— As is custom, the new PDC must be initiated into the Past Commander's Club on the Saturday morning before the parade, which was June 11. "Friar Baboonas" was initiated at the Bolero Resort, 3320 Atlantic Ave., Wildwood.

Department Commander Dan Dunn's last official act as leader of the NJ American Legion was leading the parade with his officers down Atlantic Avenue in Wildwood, NJ. It was, literally, the "end of the road."

# Epilogue

*The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step—Lao Tzu*

In a year, the State Commander travels much farther than 1,000 miles, often attending multiple events in a day, outpacing his officers. “It’s what you do,” like the commercial says. This book does not pretend to include all of those events or travels. Although it highlights the year of Commander Dunn, it by no means is a complete compendium of every stop of his whirlwind year.

*Sometimes you will never know the value of something, until it becomes a memory—Dr. Seuss*

Long after this brief history sits idly on a shelf, looked at infrequently, the register of the memories of this year will remain as a time capsule of one year in the life of The American Legion, Department of New Jersey, hopefully used by future Department Historians, and others, as a reference.

# Department Executive Committee Meeting Minutes





*New Jersey Legionnaire*



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