THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Squadron 124

38 Broad Street

Westfield, Massachusetts 01085

S.A.L. Squadron124 Meetings – Second Monday of every month at 7:00 P.M.

WE HONOR THOSE

WHO SERVE

Westfield Post 124

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We Honor Those Who Serve

American Legion School Award Medal

Volume 1, Issue 2

Preamble to the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" 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 true spirit of Americanism;

to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars;

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

to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses; to make right the master of might;

to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness;

to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

2016 Scholarship Applications Available

The Post124.org website has been updated to include the 2016 scholarships from the American Legion. There are links to scholarships from the American Legion national, the American Legion Auxiliary National, the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Massachusetts Past National Commander John Smolinksi and Clifford A. Smith Scholarship, the Department of Massachusetts scholarship (both Legion and Auxiliary), the American Legion Post 124 scholarship and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 124 Past Commander Robert W. Myco Scholarship.

Each of the available scholarship application include the eligibility and scholarship rules. There are various deadline submission dates and different types of submissions. The Post 124 scholarships expand eligibility to include college underclassmen years. The following is an excerpt from the S.A.L., Detachment of Massachusetts, Past National Commander's John Smolinski and Clifford A. Smith Scholarship application:

As a state organization, we raise money for various Americanism programs and I cannot think of a better project than helping the youth of our great state reach their goals in life by pursuing a college education.

This scholarship is dedicated to all the veterans that gave of themselves in the defense of our country, many giving the ultimate sacrifice and never returning to this great state of ours. We want to instill a feeling of Pride, Honor and Patriotism into each of the candidates who apply for this scholarship. The one thing that brings them all together is that they are eligible for this scholarship because their father, mother, grandfather or grandmother served in the armed forces and defended their country when called upon to do so. Any member of the Detachment of Massachusetts Sons of The American Legion in good standing is eligible for this scholarship.

We hope that the words from the Sons of The American Legion National Preamble will inspire you to apply for this scholarship:

Commander's Message:

The Christmas and New Year's holidays are behind us. I trust and hope that everyone had a rewarding holiday with friends and family. What can become dreary to some is the boredom of the long, cold and grey winter that January brings upon us. As I recover from a recent surgical procedure, my focus will be to review the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 124 programs. It will be a good time to assess and to identify where we can do better and to measure how the squadron is doing with it's 2016 goals and adjust as appropriate. The Squadron will continue it's emphasis on supporting the American Legion's four pillars with concentration on *Children and Youth* and *Americanism* programs.

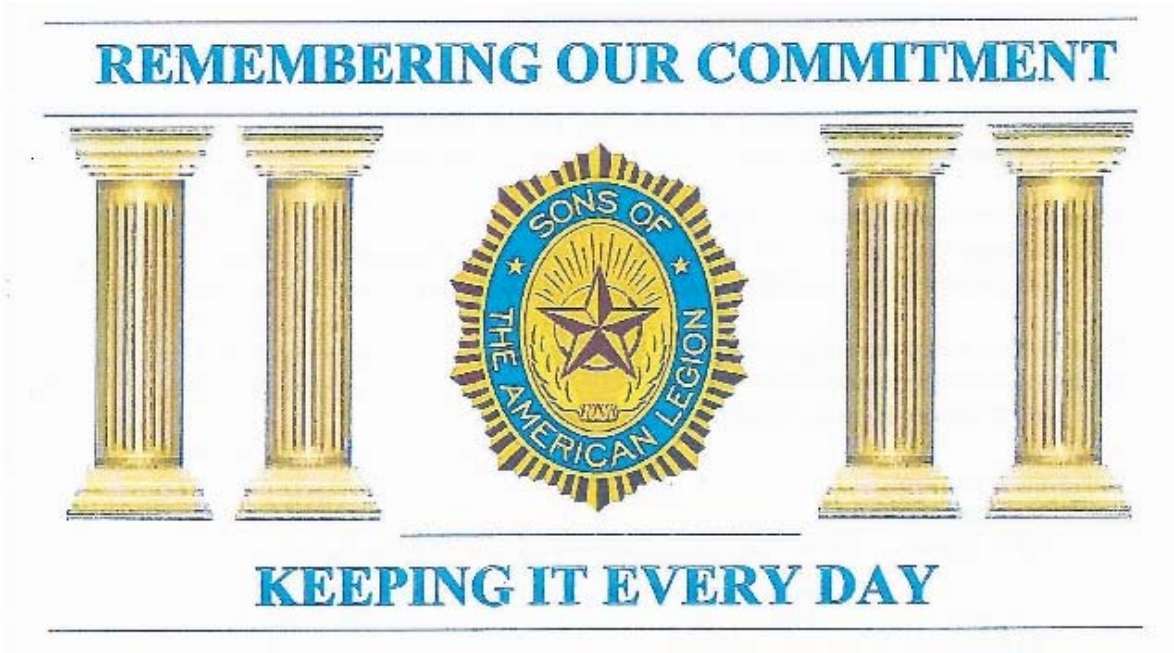
To me, the American Legion's *Children and* Youth and the *Americanism* programs is where the Sons of the American Legion can best assist the American Legion and to acquire the desired tangible results in the community. We have a responsibility to work with our local schools and assist where we can. After all, our youth is America's most important resource and it's in our best interest to assist them in becoming better citizens through the many American Legion's Americanism programs. One such program is the American Legion's School Awards Medal Program. The School Awards Medal Program is the official American Legion School Award Medal is presented by Posts to a vast number of boys and girls in graduating classes of public and private schools. Recipients best represent outstanding qualities of character and ability. Award is based on Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship and Service, which if cultivated, result in better citizenship. Local schools included would be from elementary school, middle school, high school and college. I see a lot of value in the American Legion School Awards Medal Program and I'm committed to get this initiative implemented and for it become a viable and sustained program in the Westfield schools. Over the last few years, I've had plenty of opportunities to visit our schools in Westfield and other communities. I've visited the schools as a veteran or from either my role as President of the Friends of Quabbin or as an elected official in the town of Southwick (Dickinson School Trust). Most recently, I attended a Veteran's Day Program at Paper Mill Elementary School where the first grade put on a great performance for the visiting veterans. I returned to Paper Mill Elementary School three weeks later to provide a presentation and to donate 22 copies of Jane Yolen's book, *Letting the Swift River* Go which was donated from the Board of Directors of the Friends of Quabbin. I visited Saint Mary's Parish Elementary School's 6th Grade on December 15 to present them a certificate of Appreciation and the Squadron also donated a book to the school library. Saint Mary's Parish Elementary School's 6th grade had accomplished a successful donation drive for military dogs and one hundred items were collected and were donated to the USO. Squadron 124 member Connor Carrier is a member of Saint Mary's 6th grade. class. Our congratulations to Saint Mary's 6th grade class for their consideration of those who serve.

The District 3 Oratorical Contest will be held in January and Post 124 will be sponsoring SAL Squadron 124 member Devon Kurtz who is a contestant. As you may recall, Devon this past summer attended the Department of Massachusetts American Legion Boys State program sponsored by S.A.L. Squadron 124 and was selected as a *Samsung Scholar*, the first from Western Massachusetts. Devon is a Senior at Westfield High School and the 2016 Class President. We wish Devon well in the 2016 Oratorical Contest and many of us plan to attend and support Devon during the Oratorical Contest.

The Squadron recently donated to the American Legion's Children's Welfare Foundation who's mission is to assist non-profits with educating the public of the special needs of our children across the nation. The American Legion Post 124 family comprising of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion each contributed so that Post 124 would become a "*Dream maker"* for 2016 and the donation will remain local as it will be going to the Baystate Medical Center's Children's Hospital.

The applications for the American Legion family of scholarships for 2016 have been updated and published to the Post124.org website. The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 124 may fund up to two Past Commander Robert W. Myco scholarships for 2016. In addition, in July, the 2nd annual Coach Emmet F. Morrill scholarship will be awarded to a deserving baseball player on the 2016 Post 124 roster this July.

Preparations for the 2016 American Legion Baseball Season will soon begin with the team registration in just a few weeks. In three short months, the Westfield Babe Ruth Baseball Parade will be here. In August, the city of Westfield will host the Babe Ruth 14-year-old World Series and they will be seeking hundreds of volunteers to assist in this first for the city of Westfield. Perhaps some of our members may volunteer to step-up and to assist in making this prestigious event a success. Please review the future Post 124 events schedule on page 5 and encourage you to participate when you can.



The Pillars of the American Legion

Americanism

Baseball
Boys State / Nation Citizenship
Flag Advocacy
Flag Etiquette
Get Out the Vote
Junior Shooting Sports
Oratorical Contest
Scholarships
Scouting
Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program, "Student Trooper"
Youth Program Alumni

Children & Youth

Child Welfare Foundation
Family Assistance
Scholarships
Youth Support

National Security & Foreign Relations

Junior ROTC
National Security & Foreign Relations
Operation Comfort Warriors
POW/MIA
Troop Support

Veterans & Rehabilitation

Benefits Center
Career Center
Education Center
Health Center
Homelessness
Service Officers
Suicide Prevention
System Worth Saving
Veteran Services
Women Veterans

National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion Kevin Collier

Kevin's theme for 2016 is Remembering Our Commitment, Keeping it Every Day.

During the 2015-2016 administrative year, Kevin Collier's theme is "R.O.C.K.E.D. - Remembering Our Commitment Keeping it Every Day". Through Duty, Honor and Service to The American Legion's Four Pillars - Americanism, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Children & Youth and National Security.

Our Focal Points will be: To continue to support our veterans; To improve educational information to the Detachments and Squadrons; To increase donations to the National Emergency Fund; To continue to focus on the Child Welfare Fund; To Continue to promote Activities in Americanism and Children & Youth Programs; To promote an increase in Activities in VA&R.

Kevin envisions a transition this year from being a great organization to being fantastic and just simply amazing as we achieve and in some areas exceed our goals as we continue to Remember Our Commitment and Keep it Every Day serving our veterans and our nation's youth within our communities.

National Emergency Fund

Helping others in the aftermath of disaster

American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett has established a one million dollar goal for NEF (National Emergency Fund). Support is required for tornadoes in Texas and historic flooding along the Mississippi River. The National Emergency Fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than $8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion family members to recover from tragedy. The American Legion's National Emergency Fund is set up to quickly and efficiently provide money to affected Legion Family members and posts. **A full 100 percent of donations to NEF are turned into grants**. Donations are not used to cover administrative and promotional costs. **Checks may be mailed to:** The American Legion National Emergency Fund, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206. To learn more about the NEF, visit: http://www.legion.org/emergency

69th Annual March of Dimes Spaghetti Dinner Benefit Scheduled for 4 & 5 March 2016

This traditional Benefit Dinner started in 1947 by a group of WW II Post 124 veterans to combat the dreaded polio disease and we are proud to say that Post 124 is the longest American Legion consecutive fundraiser for the March of Dimes in the country.

The original Post members, Westfield Veterans, who started our tradition 69 years ago, were *Anthony Parenzo*, *Alfred Calagari*, Past Commander (1955), *George Hickson*, Past Commander (1950) *John "Tux" Murphy,* Past Commander **(1931)** and *Joseph "Nookie" Calagari,* Past Commander (1951) and longtime member of the Westfield City Council. Anthony Parenzo was a State Representative whose district was Westfield. Perhaps, some of you may have heard of "Parenzo Hall" at Westfield State University?

Parenzo Hall was the first building on the current site for Westfield State College, then known as the Westfield State Teachers College. The School had been located in the center of Westfield on Court St. but by the early 1950s, the buildings where in poor condition ("obsolete and unsafe" per the governor, Paul A. Dever), and growing enrollment requests outnumbered available openings. As a result, in 1951 Governor Dever approved a bond issue which included money for new buildings for the Teachers College. However, when the state administration changed hands, the enthusiasm for new buildings cooled considerably. So in 1953, State Representative Anthony J. Parenzo persuaded the city of Westfield to donate 23 acres of land on upper Western Ave to construct the new college buildings. This renewed interest in the project and ground was broken in 1954.

The new college opened in the fall of 1956 with Parenzo Hall, Scanlon Hall and a Power Plant on the site at a cost of $3 million. At its opening, Parenzo Hall housed the Administrative offices – including the President, Admissions, Student Services, Registrar, Business Office, Human Resources and the Dean's office, as well as the Library, the auditorium, gymnasium, classrooms, science labs, art rooms and even a lunch room. Parenzo Hall was officially dedicated on December 14, 1956 and officially named after Anthony J. Parenzo on January 13, 1957.

69th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

March 4th & 5th, 2016

Meatball Grinders Available: 12:00 to 4:00PM - $ 4.00 each
Take Out Available

Dinner Available: 4:30 to 7:30PM - $ 8.00 (Children under 12, $ 4.00)

Upcoming Events:

January 11th - S.A.L. Squadron 124 Monthly Meeting, Stanley Kellogg Smith Hall, 7:00 P.M.
January 15th - Captain Billy's Fish Fry, 4-7 P.M., Post 124
January 19th - Casino Night, Soldier's Home in Holyoke: 6:30 P.M. (Canteen, 2nd Floor)
February 8th - S.A.L. Squadron 124 Monthly Meeting, Stanley Kellogg Smith Hall: 7:00 P.M.
February 27th - Chot Baginsnki Ice Fishing Derby, Tolland State Forest (Otis): 8:00 A.M.
March 4th & 5th, 69th Annual March of Dimes Benefit Spaghetti Dinner
March 14th - S.A.L. Squadron 124 Monthly Meeting, Stanley Kellogg Smith Hall: 7:00 P.M.
March 19th - American Legion Bowling Tournament, "Partnership for Kids", Holbrook, MA, 11:00 A.M.
March 20th - Holyoke Saint Patrick's Day Parade

We Are Family

American Legion Post 124 Family Officers (Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and S.A.L.)

Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 Officers

Commander: Gene H. Theroux
Junior Vice Commander: Jim Pitoniak
Sgt-at-Arms: Bill Cervonayco
Chaplain: Paul W. Nimchick Jr.
Senior Vice Commander: Darrell R. Myco
Adjutant: Todd Gannon
Treasurer: Todd Gannon

E-mail: salsquadron124@gmail.com
Website: post124.org
YouTube Channel: SAL Squadron 124

Membership News

Renewal notices for 2016 have been mailed from National (Post Card). The renewal for S.A..L. members is based upon age and whether a "dual-member", that being an existing American Legion member and being a S.A.L. member. The membership fee schedule follows:

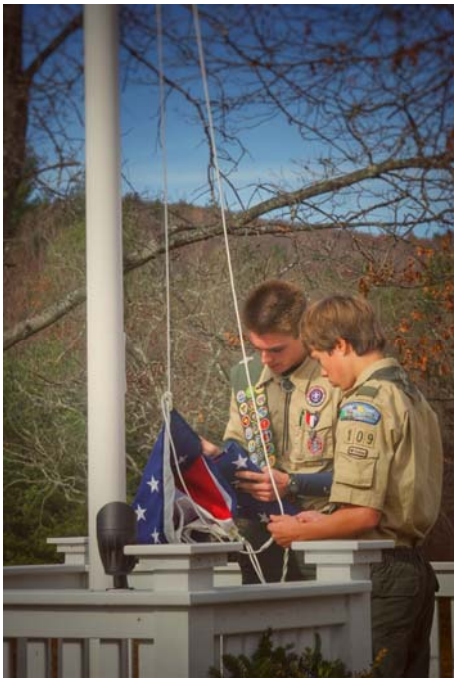
First Year: $21.50

After first year: $35.00
Dual Member (Legion & SAL): Pay SAL per capita $ 6.00
Under 21 years of age: $ 10.00

Make checks payable to The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 124 and place "SAL Membership" in the memo field. Mail Payment to: The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124, P.O. Box 236, Westfield, MA 01086-0236. Application for S.A.L. membership and eligibility criteria is available on the Post 124 website, Sons of Legion tab or URL: http://post124.org/content.php?id=39

"A way we can honor the service of our veterans is by renewing our dues in the American Legion Family. It's simple, but meaningful, way to stand up and be counted." - ***Kevin Collier***, National Commander, The Sons of the American Legion.

Post 124 Donates United States Flag for Veteran's Memorial at Wyben's Union Chapel



The Post had received an inquiry from State Representative John Velis's office if we could assist them by acquiring an American Flag for the newly constructed Veterans Memorial on the grounds of the Wyben Union Church for the dedication ceremony to be held on Sunday, November 15, 2015. There was enough lead-time that allowed a vote of approval from the Post 124 membership to purchase a 5' X 8' United States Flag to honor all Veterans. State Representative John Velis and Past Commander Gene Theroux attended the dedication ceremony in Wyben.

It was a wonderful ceremony and an absolute beautiful veterans memorial that was constructed on the Church grounds on Montgomery Road.

It was refreshing to see the Boy Scout troops actively involved both inside the church and the outside ceremony. The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 member, Eagle Scout, Post 124 baseball player Jonathan Huntley played guitar, sang, presented the flag and helped raise the flag. Jonathan is a member of Troop 821 who's troop leader is Joe Mitchell, a member of Post 124.

2016 Squadron 124 Goals

1. Training: All Squadron 124 Officers Complete American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI) Course: **https://www.legion.org/alei**
2. Membership: Retain, Recruit and obtain 160 % of 2014 membership - Goal is 157 total members

Americanism & Children & Youth:

3. Oratorical Participation from Post 124
4. Boys State: Increase funding from 1 to 2 sponsored candidates from Squadron 124
5.. S.A.L. scholarships: Expand funding from one to two Past Commander Robert W. Myco Memorial Scholarships
6. Identify all American Legion Family scholarship opportunities and make available to Post 124 Legion Family
7. Boys & Girls Club of Westfield: Fund 2 Campers
8. American Legion Child Welfare Foundation – Donate $ 1 of member's per capita to CWF
9. Help Post 124 family achieve "Dream Maker" for 2016 for contributing to Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation:

10. Support our Veterans at the Soldiers Home in Holyoke by participating in the Post 124 Casino Nights
11. Annual Ice Fishing Tournament Fundraiser benefit for Soldier's Home in Holyoke: Goal is $ 1,000.00
12. Squadron prepare and submit a history book for consideration in the 2016 David L. Johnson Jr. Contest

Commander's assessment of 2016 goals: The goals are structured to support the American Legion's four pillars. Without a doubt, membership is a critical component to the success of the Squadron 124 goals. We've been very fortunate to have "dual-members", members of the American Legion and who meet eligibility for membership into the Sons by being direct descendants of veterans. Many of these dual-members are actively involved in the Squadron to ensure it's viability and focus. Some include Past Commanders of American Legion Post 124 who are providing superior guidance from their many years of experience as being officers of the American Legion.

Some may argue that the goals may seem a bit aggressive, but they are obtainable. The mark for total membership is a bit high, but if the Squadron delivers results and is active in the community, that milestone will be obtained. To me, a quality newsletter is important for both informing and retaining our membership. We have a number of squadron members who live a far from Westfield and the newsletter will keep them apprised of what we're doing.

The following is some observations and recommendations on meeting our goals for 2016:

1. American Legion Extension Institute Course: For Post 124 & Squadron 124 Commanders to be able to ensure compliance, we need to have reports available in "MyLegion.org" to monitor participation and completion metrics for ALEI from the Post & Squadron membership.
2. Membership: As of the 24th of December, the squadron is at 101 per cent and 7 new members or renewals have been sent since the last reporting period (24 Dec).
3. Squadron 124 has one confirmed contestant for the 2016 Oratorical Contest.
4. Boys State - we fully expect to be able to fund and sponsor 2 candidates
5. Past Commander Robert W. Myco Memorial Scholarships - Squadron will fund up to two $ 500 awards
6. All American Legion Family, Department, Detachment and local scholarship opportunities have been published to the Post124.org website: http://post124.org/index.php?id=8
7. Action to be taken at either May or June 2016 S.A.L. monthly meeting.
8. Achieved - motion made and voted on at November 2015 S.A.L. Squadron 124 monthly meeting.
9. Voted on and approved by the membership of American Legion, A.L.A. Unit 124 and Sons Squadron 124. Check to be mailed by the Post 124 Finance Officer.
10. Next Post 124 Casino Night at the Soldier's Home in Holyoke is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19th @ 6:30 P.M. - always a great time and our heroes (residents) appreciate our presence there. Volunteers always welcome.
11. Scheduled for Saturday, 27 February 2016 at Tolland State Forest @ 8:00 A.M. (Otis Reservoir)
12. Squadron 124 History Book: In progress

Americanism

Since the country's founding, citizens have shown a devotion to establish a country free from prosecution and devoted to freedom, liberty, and democracy. As Sons of The Legion, we "foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism" through our daily activities in the Sons of the American Legion, we transfer that love of country and value of "justice, freedom and democracy" on to our youth. Strengthening the spirit of Americanism in all our citizens has positive values but especially when we engage the youth of our nation. They are truly the citizens of tomorrow who will carry on, not only the legacy of our organization but, the legacy established over 200 years ago as our nation formed from a group of dedicated patriots. Part of our overall purpose and mission is to continue to "inculcate an individual obligation to the community state and nation." When this is done through a spirit of Americanism, the true power of the individual comes to fruition. Each of us helping our community's efforts in some way reflects the positive element of Americanism that many seek out in the U.S. today as they leave their native lands for a better life and future. Embrace the ideals of the Sons. Work daily to make this a better country, help this carry through to the next generation by getting involved with our youth, start a Scout group, volunteer at a VA or at the Soldier's Home in Holyoke, or undertake just the simple act of going out and voting in the next elections. Exercise your rights and make a difference. Let the spirit of Americanism reflect from all you do!
- Americanism, Greg "Doc" Gibbs, National Americanism Chairman, S.A.L. National Update, Fall 2015.

The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 124 Commander visited Saint Mary's Parish Elementary School's 6th Grade Class to present them a certificate of Appreciation from Squadron 124. The S.A.L. Squadron 124 donated a copy of Ann Bausum's children's book, Stubby the War Dog: The True Story of World War I's Bravest Dog for the school library. The 6th Grade Class accomplished a military dog donation drive at the Post 124 and the Slovak Hall. Over 100 items were collected and donated to the USO. S.A.L. Squadron 124 member Oconnor Carrier, a member of the 6th Grade Class received a certificate of appreciation the night before at the S.A.L. monthly meeting.

Sam Isam of Westfield who became a United States citizen on December 2nd, 2015 was an invited guest at the December S.A.L. Squadron 124 monthly meeting where he was awarded the American Legion's ROTC Excellence Medal. Pictured with Sam are Gene Theroux, Dawn Monty, President American Legion Auxiliary Unit 124 and Mo Spradlin, Commander of American Legion Post 124 and a member of S.A.L. Squadron 124.

Congratulations to Sam for getting engaged to be married over the summer. Sam's goals include becoming a military officer and is a criminal justice major at Holyoke Community College. Theroux first met Sam at Highland Avenue School during a Memorial Day assembly where Sam works part-time as a tutor and a translator.
Sam is enthusiastically proud to have become an American citizen. We're blessed to have Sam in our community and we wish the best in all of his endeavors.

Recent Americanism: Events

Paper Mill Elementary School's First Grade Class hosted an assembly on November 10 to Salute the Veterans. Five of the six veterans in attendance are members of Post 124.

The Westfield Public Schools and Saint Mary's Parish School hold Memorial Day Assemblies prior to Memorial Day each year which the staff and students do a superb job. Paper Mill Elementary School took the lead to recognize Veterans.

Post 124 members in attendance: Lynn Boscher, photographer, Past Commander Barry Plumley, Charlie Kondrat, SVC Cindy Lacoste and Past Commander

Westfield Veterans Day Parade
November 11, 2015

Pearl Harbor Observation, December 7, 2015
Pictured: Don Dorrington, WW II USMC veteran (Iwo Jima survivor), Bob Greenleaf, WW II US Navy veteran (Pearl Harbor survivor) & Gene Theroux

The Boys & Girls Club of Westfield Veterans Breakfast
A great meal, outstanding service and a fine representation of our youth

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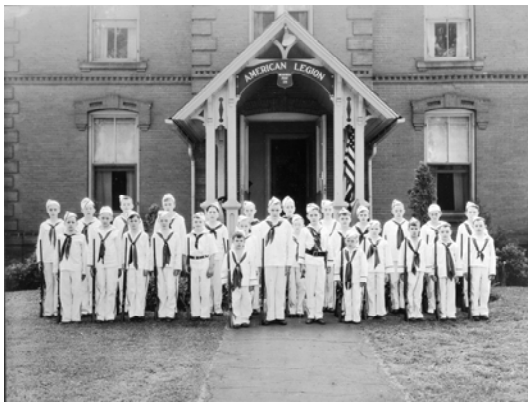
Post 124

WE ARE FAMILY

History of the Sons of The American Legion

The Sons of The American Legion "S.A.L." was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. The S.A.L. is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. Together, members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion make up what is known as The Post 124 Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.



Boy Scouts of America "Sea Scouts", circa: 1928

We Honor Those Who Serve