



Comrades:

Hello, my name is Butch Ray and I am honored to serve you this year as Chairman of the Children's Miracle Network Sub-committee on the Children & Youth Commission and I have an exciting news for the 2008—2009 membership year to tell you about!

Having just returned from the 2nd annual American Legion National Children & Youth Conference, I have received more information than there is space here to share with you! Keep your eyes on this web-site for future reports!

First let me send to you my sincere thanks for the donations to the Children's Miracle Network that was received during the National Convention in Phoenix this past August. Over 30 Squadrons, one Detachment, one individual, and the National Organization presented a total of \$15,950 to the betterment of children in CMN hospitals. This is a great start to our goal of \$100,000 in donations we would like to see this year. For the past 4 years the Sons of the American Legion have averaged \$73,000 in donations to CMN. Lets make a big push for \$100,000 this year.

Our other goal for this year is near and dear to our Commander's heart. Commander Tommie Cisna is a strong supporter of the Josh Dog program benefiting CMN and hospitalized kids across our nation. Commander Cisna has seen first hand the joy a little stuffed dog can bring to kids unfortunate enough to be in the hospital.

Commander Cisna would like all members of the Sons of the American Legion to share in bringing pleasure to those less fortunate than ourselves.

During this membership year he would like to see us purchase 2,500 Josh Dogs and have them delivered to the CMN or Children's Hospital near you! If each Detachment purchased and distributed 48 Josh Dogs, we would reach this goal and bring joy and comfort to children everywhere.

Have your Squadron, District, & Detachment purchase as many Josh Dogs as you wish, then have your photo taken giving a Josh Dog to a child in a pediatric ward of a hospital in your community. You can find purchasing information at www.joshandfriends.com.

E-mail your photos to us along with the amount of dogs purchased and we will track Josh's progress across the country. Each photo taken will be placed on the SONS web-site for viewing by all and to spur some friendly competition.

The Squadron and Detachment giving away the most Josh Dogs will receive an award at the 2009 National Convention in Louisville Kentucky.

It is important to remember that \$5 of each Josh Dog purchased is collected as a direct donation to the Children's Miracle Network. Contact me and I will tell you how 100% of the cost of the Josh Dogs you purchase can go to CMN!

The American Legion Family is celebrating our 10th anniversary as a sponsor with the Children's Miracle Network. During this ten year period, we have collectively raised nearly \$20 Million dollars for the support of the more than 170 CMN affiliated hospitals here in the U.S. Every dollar raised stays in your local community for use by your local CMN hospital. Let's kick off our next ten years with a renewed and enthusiastic effort to support the Children's Miracle Network.

Let us all bring some happiness to children's lives that deserve it!

For God and Country:

Sincerely,

Butch Ray

Butch Ray, Chairman CMN Sub-Committee
Children & Youth Commission

