



*Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of Illinois  
National Executive Committeeman  
Matthew Christie - Illinois*

January 2010

To: All Squadrons and Detachment Officers

I hope that the Holiday season went well for all members of the Sons. I know that many of you were not only spending time with you own families, but many were volunteering their time to help make the Christmas holiday season joyful for some less fortunate people within your communities. Some of you might have volunteered to spend time with our armed forces as we put out a spread fit for a king, just to make them feel more at home, even though they cannot be at home. Many of us helped organize our post's Christmas parties or the Christmas parties for the small kids (and some big kids) at our post. You might have even help with collecting toys for the "Toys For Tots" drive that takes place annually, or maybe even a local coat or food drive.

What ever it was that you did or helped with this holiday season, it is important that you or your squadron keep a record of this. These hours can be logged for community service, VA&R, or Children & Youth depending on what activity it was. Don't forget the dollar amounts, as this also adds up. Now just take 1 minute to think how much money or the amount of hours that were contributed in just 5 or 6 weeks of the holiday season. Well, how much did it total up to? Now think how much it will total thru out the entire year. I bet it will be staggering, if you total it all.

Now that you have an idea of what it totals up to, why not share it with the rest of the Sons organization. Each year your squadron receives a squadron report form, and unfortunately only about 40% got sent back. The results of those 40% were tallied and sent to each squadron, and those numbers were awesome. The National level we had even less of a percentage of squadrons reporting, and those numbers were also awesome. But can you imagine what the numbers could actually be if we had 70% of the squadrons sending in their report. How about 90%? We could someday actually shoot for 100% reporting, and just think of the amount of money and time that will be tallied.

Please don't forget that every little bit adds up, but if your squadron really doesn't do anything that can be marked down, please fill out the form and send it in anyway. It will not be held against your squadron. I have included an SAL Accomplishment sheet that came from National. Remember that this is about 30% of all the squadrons in our country.

Now that the holiday season is over, and we all have to get back to work, I would like to congratulate all the squadrons in our state for their hard work and their dedicated devotion to the Sons organization.

For God and Country,  
Matt Christie

**LET'S NEVER FORGET SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>  
GOD BLESS AMERICA**