

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



MAY 25, 2011

Gold Star mothers share grief, remembrance dinner



Members of the New Jersey Gold Star Mothers and Families were honored May 21 at a ceremony at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J. The Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

is an organization of mothers who have lost a son or daughter in the service of the country. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Grant, 444th MPAD)

By 2nd Lt. Amelia Thatcher, 444th MPAD

A handful of the 10,000 Boy Scouts took time out of the annual Camporee held at the National Training Center at Sea Girt on May 21 to welcome members of Gold Star families to the New Jersey National Guard family.

Led by Life Scout Craig Rieth, son of Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, the Gold Star Mothers Dinner coincided with Armed Forces Day to become a "meaningful celebration – not a memorial service."

Families in attendance included many surviving relatives of Soldiers and Marines who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the sisters of men who did not return from Vietnam and the famed Battle of the Bulge.

For Amy Moore and her husband Patrick, the grief is still fresh.

"They called him the mayor of Bordentown," Amy said of their son Spc. Benjamin Moore, who died in Afghanistan earlier this year. "He was all about helping people."

"He galvanized the community," Amy's brother-in-law Kevin Moore added. "At least there's something good coming out of it."

A junior firefighter at 16 and an EMT after high school, the Moores credit their Soldier's civic activities – and death – with increased youth participation in their hometown.

The drive to serve also inspired two Zilinski sons to join the military. Capt. Matthew J. Zilinski is company commander of the 508th Military Police. His older brother, 1st Lt. Dennis Zilinski,

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a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, died in Iraq in 2005. Capt. Zilinski attended the dinner with his parents, Marian and Dennis Sr.

"(Dennis) was like a people magnet, that's what I like to say about him," Marian said. She also recalled the life-changing night when her family learned of their son's death.

"They, the uniformed officers, invite you into your own home," she said. "They ask you to sit down. I thought if I didn't sit down, they wouldn't tell me. But they do. They give you the news."

Working to organize the Camporee and dinner was Craig Shelley, Scout Executive for the Jersey Shore Council. "We want to help our Scouts recognize and support these families and the sac-

rifices they've made," he said. "This is part of the coaching and teaching of citizenship."

Judi Tapper, a Gold Star mother and President of the Dept. of New Jersey, American Gold Star Mothers, encouraged those present to "find solace with other mothers who share the same grief."

Amy Moore noted that "a lot of these Soldiers' stories sound the same. You have good kids, go-getters. They have similar personality traits."

"With other Gold Star families you can be yourself," Marian Zilinski added. "They won't say, well it's been five years, you should be over this."

"You wake up with it," Dennis Zilinski Sr. said. "You go to bed with it."

However, as Saturday's dinner demonstrated, New Jersey's Gold Star families do not have to be alone.



Fort Lee resident Irving Morgenstern, a World War II veteran, receives the Meritorious Service Medal from Raymond Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs at New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, while Albert Bucci, Director of Veterans Services also at DMAVA, looks on during a medal ceremony at Paramus Park Mall on May 24. DMAVA's Division of Veterans Programs held the medal ceremony to honor past and present veterans, and had an information kiosk from May 24 – 26 to provide veterans programs information and assistance. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)



Fort Lee residents from various war conflicts pose together at a medal ceremony held by the Division of Veterans Programs of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on May 24 at the Paramus Park Mall in Paramus, N.J. Standing from left to right are World War II veterans Sidney Konigsbert; Alvin Goldfarb; Alvin Sussman, and Korean War veteran Leo Rettig. World War II veteran Irving Morgenstern is seated. In addition to various family members and friends, the event was attended by several elected officials to include Sen. Robert Gordon and Assemblywomen Joan Voss and Connie Wagner. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)

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Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
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Monmouth Park Race Club to host Armed Forces Day June 4

To honor and salute past and present veterans and military service members, the Monmouth Park Race Club will host their first ever "Armed Forces Day" on Saturday June 4 at the Monmouth Park Racetrack in Oceanport, N.J.

The general public and all members of the military are encouraged to attend the special day, which will be filled with spectacular exhibits, music, a fly over, and exhilarating Thoroughbred horse racing.

The scheduled events will consist of a Blackhawk landing at approximately 10:30 a.m. with tours of the helicopter; a military fly over; honor guards from the Army, Navy, and Coast Guards; displays from the Army, Navy, and Marines; antique and military vehicles; and live music from several local bands.

The "Armed Forces Day" event is free to all veterans and military service members with a valid military ID. In addition, general parking will also be free to all veterans and military service members.

A \$3 admission will apply for grandstands and \$5 for clubhouse admission. Children under the age of 12 will be admitted free.

The event will run from 10:30 a.m. until the end of the last race for the day.

The Monmouth Park Racetrack is located at 175 Oceanport Avenue in Oceanport, N.J.

For details of this event, information about sponsors, parking, and other general questions please visit the Monmouth Park Race Club's Web site at www.monmouthparkraceclub.com or www.mprc.us or www.monmouthpark.com, or you may also contact Paul M. Travers, president of MPRC, at 732-213-8421 or via E-mail at paulmtravers@gmail.com.



Pay tribute to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces by either attending in person or staying at home to watch on television the National Memorial Day Concert on Sunday, May 29 from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

For more than two decades, the Public Broadcasting Services' National Memorial Day concert has been leading the nation in honoring the services and sacrifices of the men and women in uniform, their families at home and all the fallen service members who have given their lives for the nation.

The multi award winning concert will be hosted by actors Gary Sinise and Joe Mantegna and will be broadcast live on PBS and via American Forces Network. Joining them will be an all-star lineup of dignitaries, actors and musical artists.

The concert is open to the public and it's free. No tickets are necessary. General admission gates will open at 5 p.m. The broadcast portion of the concert begins at 8 p.m. and is finished by 9:30 p.m.

For more information please visit www.pbs.org/memorialdayconcert.

National Guard Militia Museum announces expanded summer hours

SEA GIRT, N.J. – The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey is pleased to announce expanded summer hours for its main museum at the historic National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt.

Beginning Friday, May 27, and running through Labor Day, the museum will open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We are fortunate that our museum sits within walking distance of some of the Garden State's most beautiful beaches," said 1st Lt.

Vincent Solomeno, historian of the New Jersey National Guard and the museum's curator. "With the summer season upon us, our expanded hours help us reach more visitors and in turn educate the public about our rich military history."

A permanent exhibit – "A Splendid Little War: New Jersey and the Spanish-American War" – is set to open July 1. In addition, a special exhibit chronicling the state's role in the emergency response to the September 11, 2001 attacks is slated for August.

Established in 1980, the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey at Sea Girt presents the role of the New Jersey Militia and the National Guard within the context of the larger history of the state. Collections include original and reproduction uniforms, weapons, photographs, artifacts and art from the period of Dutch, Swedish and British colonization through the War for Independence, Civil War and World Wars I and II to the present day, with particular attention paid to the diversity of the New Jersey citizen soldier and his or her experience.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit the museum's web site at <http://www.nj.gov/military/museum/> or call 1st Lt. Solomeno at 732- 974-5966.



DMAVA picnic scheduled June 3

Come join us for the TAG's annual DMAVA/JFHQ's Picnic!

The event will be held on June 3, next to the HSCOE building at the DMAVA campus at approximately noon. Cost will be \$10 if paid in advance and \$12 at the entrance on the day of the event.

The menu will consist of sausage, hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, potato and macaroni salads, coleslaw, baked beans, ice cream and beverages.

Dress is appropriate picnic attire, so bring your shorts and sandals.

Furthermore, there will be a town hall meeting at 11 a.m. prior to the picnic at the Lawrenceville armory drill floor. Attendance to the town hall meeting is mandatory. For those employees choosing to not attend the picnic, it will be a full and normal workday and they must return to their regular duty station.

Buses will be provided for those attending the town hall meeting from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst areas.

Contact your department representative for tickets:

DMAVA – Dawn Baulo at 609- 530-6717; Tina Taylor at 609-530-7170; Karen Hansen at 609-530-6868; and Carl Lang at 609-530-6961.

JBMDL – Barbara Alcott at 609-562-0870; and Paul Thompson at 609-562-0915.

HSCOE – Kevin Hearn at 609-530-7069

Picnic attendees are encouraged to bring lawn or portable chairs.

NJNG to celebrate Unity Day

The New Jersey National Guard will host its 13th Annual Unity Day Celebration on Thursday, June 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Joint Force Headquarters in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Come celebrate the ethnic, cultural, and organizational diversity of the New Jersey National Guard through food sampling, music, entertainment, educational displays, and dessert contest and giveaways.

Fun activities and community service projects will include a Zumba class; fun walk/run; and a blood drive and bone marrow registration.

Registration for these activities will be required:

Zumba – registration at 7:30 a.m. at JFHQ drill floor.

Fun walk/run – registration at 8:30 a.m. at front of JFHQ.

Blood drive and bone marrow registration – at the rear of JFHQ building from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The point of contact for the event is Army Maj. Barbara Brown-Wilson, state equal employment manager. Brown-Wilson can be contact via phone at 609-562-0856 or via E-mail at Barbara.g.brown@us.army.mil.

The Joint Force Headquarters building is located at 3650 Saylor's Pond Road in JB MDL.

**E-mail your Highlights submissions to
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armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us**

Veterans Outreach Schedule



June 2011

Wildwood Convention Center
4501 Boardwalk, Wildwood, N.J. 08260

OUTREACH EVENTS ONLY

Elks State Convention: June 2-3, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

American Legion State Convention: June 8-10, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

VFW State Convention: June 15-17, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

June 4

Monmouth Park
"Armed Forces Day"

175 Oceanport Ave, Oceanport, N.J. 07757

Outreach Event Only 10:30 a.m. – end of last race

DMAVA to host Memorial Day event

All department employees and their families are invited to attend the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs annual Memorial Day commemoration on Saturday, May 28 at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, N.J.

Ceremonies will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a parade of color guards from various veteran organizations led by the Cemetery's Joint Honor Guard. A Memorial Day service will follow at 11:00 a.m.

The cemetery is located at 350 Province Line Road in Wrightstown.

