

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 11, 2016



Jersey's Own Takes Region 1 Best Warrior

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, New Jersey National Guard Public Affairs

Ask New Jersey Army National Guard Spc. Joseph Garback what he likes best about being a Soldier and he answers without hesitation.

"I just love getting dirty," Garback said.

The 22-year-old field artilleryman had plenty of opportunities for that last week at the National Guard Region 1 Best Warrior Competition, as torrential rains turned Connecticut's Camp Niantic Army National Guard Training Center into a giant mud puddle.

That apparently put Garback in his comfort zone because he won the competition and secured a chance to represent New Jersey next month at the National Guard-wide Best Warrior competition in Massachusetts. It was New Jersey's first win at a regional Best Warrior competition in recent memory.

The three-day event is designed to test Soldier skills in a way that pushes competitors to their physical and mental limits. The physical portion includes a PT test, a stress shooting event, an urban assault course, and a 12-mile road march. The cerebral part of the event includes day and night land navigation, a board before command sergeant majors, and a role playing exercise where competitors were evaluated on their ability to help a fellow Soldier contemplating suicide.

Even though Garback usually works out twice a day, he conceded the road march over hilly terrain was a challenge. He got his motivation to keep pushing from Spc. Shaquille Phillips-Breedlove, a fellow trooper from Alpha Company of the 3-112th Field Artillery.

"He was shoving bananas and Cliff Bars at me the whole time," Garback said with a laugh.

Garback, who grew up in Sewell and graduated from Washington Township High School, didn't take much time to celebrate after the competition. He returned to New Jersey just in time for final exams at Rutgers University, where he's majoring in criminal justice and Spanish.

His plan over the next few weeks is to keep up with his normal training regimen, which includes training in the martial art of Muay Thai, as well as some long walks with his ruck sack in preparation for the next phase of Best Warrior.



Spc. Joseph Garback of the New Jersey Army National Guard was named the National Guard 2016 Region 1 Soldier of the Year at Camp Niantic, Conn., May 5, 2016. Garback earned the title after competing in the Region 1 Best Warrior Competition May 2-5, 2016. Garback along with the 2016 Region 1 NCO of the year will go on to represent the region at the National Best Warrior Competition in Massachusetts in June. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Alicia Brocuglio/Released)

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He's not putting too much pressure on himself for the next stage either.

"I just want to have fun with it," he said. "You can't take yourself too seriously. Usually, when you're doing what you like and having fun, good things happen."

Cover: Keeping pace

Spc. Shaquille Phillips-Breedlove, right, paces Spc. Joseph Garback during the 12-mile road march, part of the National Guard Region 1 Best Warrior Competition held at Connecticut's Camp Niantic Army National Guard Training Center May 4, 2016. Garback was chosen as the National Guard 2016 Region 1 Soldier of the Year. Both Soldiers are with the 3-112th Field Artillery. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jerry Boffen/Released)

Serving State and Nation

IBCT trains at Shelby

New Jersey National Guard Soldiers from Detachment 1, D Company, 104th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, flew RQ-7Bv2 Shadow unmanned aircraft at Camp Shelby, Miss. (Courtesy photo)



TAGs meet at JT2DC

Gen. Robert B. Abrams, center, Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command, meets with Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cuniff, right, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, and the adjutants' generals and their representatives from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, and the Virgin Islands, at the New Jersey National Guard's Joint Training and Training Development Center, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., May 5, 2016. The meeting is a part of a forum between the FORSCOM commander and adjutants general for information-sharing and dialogue, with the goal of overcoming challenges faced by the TAGs. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

NJ Veterans honored

Veterans honored at ceremony

Raymond Zawacki, right, the Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, presents Hightstown resident Gerard L. Gentilella, left, the certificate for the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal during annual New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel, N.J., May 7, 2016. Gentilella served as a private during World War II. The medals were presented by Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, Brig. Gen. Michael Cuniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, and Zawacki to 43 veterans for combat service in the Vietnam War and World War II. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley/Released)



Hangin' with the Phanatic

Gus Papahanges, left, a resident of the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home Vineland, gives a time check to the Philly Phanatic during the mascot's visit to the facility May 9, 2016. (Courtesy photo)

Veterans Outreach Campaign

"SPIRIT OF THE JERSEYS"

May 14, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

State History Fair

Monmouth Battlefield State Park
16 Business Route #33, Manalapan,
N.J. 07726

**HUDSON COUNTY HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES RESOURCE
FAIR**

May 21, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Hudson County Schools of
Technology

525 Montgomery Street
Jersey City, 07302

**VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN
& MEDAL CEREMONY**

May 24-26, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. (Daily)
DMAVA medal ceremony May 24 at
11 a.m. at Center Court

Paramus Park Mall
700 Paramus Park
Paramus, NJ 07652

JUNE CONVENTION OUTREACH

ELKS CONVENTION

June 2-3, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., daily
AMERICAN LEGION STATE
CONVENTION

June 8-10, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., daily
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
STATE CONVENTION

June 15-17, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., daily
Wildwood Convention Center
4501 Boardwalk

Wildwood, N.J. 08260

**SUSSEX COUNTY "BIKE NIGHT
FOR VETERANS"**

June 23, 5 – 8 p.m.

Chatterbox Restaurant
1 State Route 15
Augusta, NJ 07822

63RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE

July 27, 11 a.m.

New Jersey Korean War Memorial
Brighton Park Amphitheatre and
the Boardwalk

Atlantic City, NJ 08401
"VETTE TO VET NIGHT"

Sept. 9, 5 – 8 p.m.

Chatterbox Restaurant,
1 State Route 15
Augusta, NJ 07822)

**VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN
& MEDAL CEREMONY**

Sept. 20-21, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Daily
DMAVA medal ceremony Sept. 20 at
11 a.m. at Center Court

Bridgewater Commons Mall
400 Commons Way
Bridgewater, NJ, 08807

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

PO Box 340
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

1-888-8NJ-VETS(8387) or www.state.nj.us/military



Raymond L. Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs (609-530-7062)
Cheryl Henderson, Executive Secretarial Assistant (609-530-7045)
Chuck Robbins, Assistant to DCVA/Outreach Coordinator (609-530-6855)

Fax: 609-530-7191


Veterans Healthcare Services (DVHS)


Colonel Edward J. Chrystal Jr., Director 609-530-6967 Donna Myers, Sec 609-530-6766 Virginia Fiess, QA Coordinator 609-530-6975 Fax: 609-530-6970	Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO Jennifer Pajak, Sec 132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013 Edison, NJ 08818-3013 732-452-4102 Fax: 732-603-3016	Paramus Veterans Memorial Home Dianne Tabron-Felder, CEO Diane Callaghan, Sec 1 Veterans Drive Paramus, NJ 07652 201-634-8525 Fax: 201-967-8658	Vineland Veterans Memorial Home Allyson Bailey, Acting CEO Sharon Frye, Sec 524 North West Boulevard Vineland, NJ 08360-2895 856-405-4207 Fax: 856-696-6714
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Veterans Services (DVS)

Albert J. Bucchi, Director 609-530-6962 Cynthia Barnes, Sec 609-530-6975 Fax: 609-530-7075	Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery Iven Dumas, State Supt – 609-738-2424 Genia DiBella, Sec – 609-738-2404 Cyndi Dzurisin, Interment Office Supervisor, – 609-738-2407 Dennis Macomber, Honor Guard, – 609-758-7505 350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562 609-738-2400 Fax: 609-758-0169 Maintenance/Cemeteries/Memorials Joseph Amoye & Kenneth Smith Supervisor, 609-738-2408 Fax: 609-758-3490	Vietnam Veterans Memorial 1 Memorial Lane, PO Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733 732-335-0033 Fax: 732-335-1107 Korean Memorial Boardwalk/Brighton Park, Atlantic City, NJ 08401 War World II Memorial W State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608	Veterans Haven South Walter Nall, Supt – 609-561-4948 Vacant, Asst, Supt – 609-567-3715 301 Spring Garden Road, PO Box 80 Winslow, NJ 08095 609-561-0269 Fax: 609-567-5186	Veterans Haven North Sean VanLew, Supt – 908-537-1960 Laura Blaine, Sec – 908-537-1963 200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101 Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 908-537-1999 Fax: 908-537-1990
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State Approving Agency-GI Bill Programs Charles Rowe, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6842 Marisol Meyer, Education Prog Asst – 609-530-6849 Lynn Yesalonina, State Admin – 609-530-6858 Joan Edwards, State Admin – 609-530-6948 Fax: 609-530-7196	Veterans Benefits Bureau Patricia A. Richter, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6949 Elizabeth Scholfield, Prin Staff Officer – 609-530-6954 Paul Kale, Staff Asst – 609-530-6826 Vacant, Sec – 609-530-6868 Michele Johnson, Sec – 609-530-7035 Fax: 609-530-6970	Veterans Service Offices Joseph Bucco, State Supervisor – 609-530-6830 Christopher Wambach, State Supervisor – 609-530-6863 Joseph E. Nyzio, VSO – 609-530-6857 VA Regional Office/Philadelphia Charles Piscopo, VSO – (Mon., Wed., Alternate Fridays) 5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144 856-853-4184/4185/4186
Atlantic City/Cape May Nicholas Petrozzino, VSO Sherri Morris, Sec 1008 Absecon Boulevard, Atlantic City 08401-1999 ~ (Atlantic City Army) 609-441-3060/3061 Fax: 609-441-3899 (closed alternate Fridays)	Bergen/Passaic Joseph Restivo, VSO Titus Osuagwu, Sec 125 State Street, Suite 109, Hackensack 07601-5435 201-996-8050/8051 Fax: 201-996-8009	Burlington Matthew Still, VSO Vacant, Sec 555 High Street, Suite 6A, Mt. Holly 08060 609-518-2273/2274 Fax: 609-518-2275
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Honoring New Jersey's Fallen Heroes & Their Families
7 PM, May 14, 2016
Toms River Armory
1200 Whitesville Rd. Toms River, New Jersey

DIRECTIONS: Exit 82 of the Garden State Parkway. Coming north or south on Route 9 to Route 571 (Home Depot plaza), take 571 West. Get in left lane and make the first left onto Oak Ridge Parkway. Proceed .02 miles and make a left onto Whitesville Road. The National Guard Armory is .01 miles on your right.

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 For more information call: 609-971-3544

**Highlights submissions
deadline 4 p.m. Wednesday:**
mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov



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