



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

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February 27, 2014

HONORING OUR VERY OWN “MONUMENTS MAN”

STORY AND PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. ARMANDO VASQUEZ

Along with his family, Harry Ettlinger fled Germany in 1938 because of the Nazi's persecution of Jewish families and settled in Newark, N.J. He became a U.S. citizen and was drafted in 1944 and returned to Europe as an infantryman in the U.S. Army with the 99th Infantry Division.

Just as his unit was about to engage in the Battle of the Bulge, he was reassigned as an interpreter because of his fluency in German. Shortly after, he joined the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives effort, where he remained for one and a half years. This special group consisted of 345 individuals representing 13 countries and was responsible for saving, restoring and preserving thousands of works of arts seized by the Nazis during World War II.

It was an effort worthy of a Hollywood movie.

Consequently, the Rockaway, N.J. resident and one of only five surviving members of the famous “Monuments Men” was honored by local officials, Rockaway Township American Legion Post 344 and the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Feb. 24 at a special screening of the recently released movie “The Monuments Men” at the AMC Theater in the Rockaway Mall.

Ettlinger, still sharp and witty, cracked jokes as he was presented with proclamations by Congressman Rodney Frelinghuy-

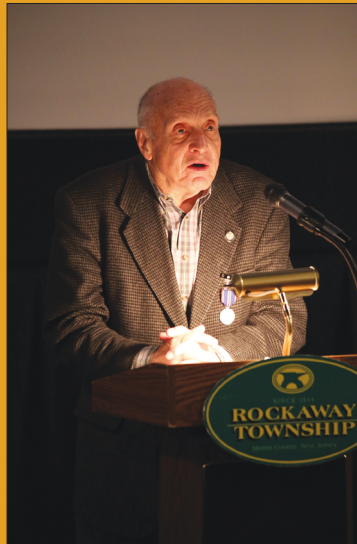


Photo left, Harry Ettlinger addresses the audience at the AMC Theater after receiving several awards, including the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. Photo right, Harry Ettlinger, left, poses for a group photo with Ray Zawacki, center left, deputy commissioner of veterans affairs, 1st Sgt. John Rowe, center right, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-102nd Cavalry, and Capt. Ryan Harty, commander, Bravo Troop, 1-102nd Cavalry.

sen, Senator Joseph Pennachio, Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce and Rockaway Mayor, Michael Dachisen. In addition, Raymond Zawacki, NJDMAVA Deputy Commission of Veterans Affairs, awarded Ettlinger the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal.

After the accolades and speeches, the more than 300 present at the ceremony

viewed the film, “The Monuments Men.” The film tells the story of a small group of men and women who are in a race against time to locate and save some of civilization’s most beautiful and important masterpieces from destruction by Nazi fanatics in the final days of World War II.

“We did it to preserve the world’s culture,” said Ettlinger.

THE MONUMENTS MEN



HIGHLIGHTS

VA Mail-Order Pharmacy Receives Highest Score in Mail Order Segment of J.D. Power Study

WASHINGTON -- For the fourth consecutive year, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy receives the highest customer satisfaction score among the nation's public and private mail-order pharmacies, according to a respected, independent study.

"Our Nation's Veterans deserve a first-class pharmacy as a part of the exceptional health care available," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "It is an honor to hear from Veterans that we are delivering on that commitment."

The 2013 [independent study](#) was conducted by J.D. Power. Veterans were asked to rate VA on cost competitiveness, delivery, ordering process and customer service experience. Out of 1,000 possible points, VA scored 871. This was the highest score among participating mail-order pharmacies.

The score matched the same industry-high score received by the Department in 2012. VA also led the industry nationwide in 2010 and 2011. "The fact that we are rated higher than our private sector counterparts is due in part to our unique partnership with our patients and medical centers," said Dr. Robert A. Petzel, VA's Under Secretary for Health. "In addition to the convenience of mail-order service, Veterans also have a pharmacist available to meet with them face to face."


VA participates in this annual survey as a way to compare itself against industry leaders and to ensure VA health care meets the highest standards.

On February 13, an employee who works in the VA Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy received the 2013 Securing Americans Value Efficiency (SAVE) Award from President Obama. Kenneth Siehr from Milwaukee, Wisconsin met with the President to discuss his proposal.

Siehr's winning idea allows Veterans to track the status of their mail-order prescriptions via the Veterans Health Administration's MyHealthVet web portal.

With over 8 million Veterans enrolled, VA operates the largest integrated health care delivery system in the United States, with a mission to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. VA provides a broad range of primary care, specialized care, and related medical and social support services. More information is available at <http://www.va.gov/health/>.

Veterans who wish to learn about the mail-order pharmacy and other health benefits can find information at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/.



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Col. Mark Piterski, left, outgoing commander of 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey National Guard, receives a framed brigade flag from Col. Edward Chrystal, incoming commander. The presentation was part of the change of command ceremony at the Lawrenceville armory Feb. 23, 2014. (NJDMAVA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven / Released)



Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Santiago, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey National Guard, receives a framed 42nd Infantry Division patch from Command Sgt. Maj. David Piwowarski, 42nd Infantry Division, New York National Guard. Santiago is leaving as the brigades top non-commissioned officer to assume the position of State Command Sergeant Major for New Jersey. (NJDMAVA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven / Released)

HIGHLIGHTS

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FLAPJACK BREAKFAST HOSTED BY SOLDIERS ANGELS MC

Soldiers Angels Motorcycle Club is hosting a flap jack breakfast to benefit Veterans Haven South on Sunday, March 22 from 8 to 10 a.m. at Applebee's on Route 9 in Lanoka Harbor, N.J.

Last year Soldiers Angels Motorcycle Club donated a barber's chair, sponsored a special lunch for the residents and provided many personnel care items for the veterans staying there. We look forward to this year and making our displaced Veterans more comfortable.

Need more info about this event, please email: soldiersangelsmc@yahoo.com.



DMAVA Highlights is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. e-mail at pao@njdmava.state.nj.us.

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Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
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Air Force Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez – Public Affairs Specialist