




The State of New Jersey  
**Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**  
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**DMAVA Highlights » 9 November 2007**

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Volume 6, Number 45

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**Contacting us is easy!**

Public Affairs Office

Phone: (609) 530-7088

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**Veterans' Organizations Contact Information**

State Veterans Service Council  
 Mr. Richard Clark  
[RJClark21@msn.com](mailto:RJClark21@msn.com)

NJ Advisory Committee for Women Veterans  
 Mrs. Anna Hoffman  
[hoffmanannem@aol.com](mailto:hoffmanannem@aol.com)

BG Willam C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council  
 Mr. William Rakestraw  
[warjrnj@msn.com](mailto:warjrnj@msn.com)

**Veterans Hotlines**

Benefits & Entitlements  
 1-888-8NJ-VETS  
 (1-888-865-8387)

Mental Health  
 1-866-VETS-NJ4  
 (1-866-838-7654)

**DMAVA Highlights Archive**

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**NJ World War II Memorial**

For information or to make a donation, call 609-530-7049

[WWII Memorial on the web](#)

**New Jersey Freedom Loans**

**News For Your Views**

**History of Nov. 11; Armistice Day to Veterans Day**

From the desk of Col. Alan Bunting, Special Assistant to the TAG

World War I - known at the time as "The Great War" - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11 a.m.

President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day, an act which made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday - a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

**108th ARW hosting high school students**

On the Nov. 15 the 108th Air Refueling Wing will be hosting students from Willingboro High School for a base tour. The students will be tour a variety of offices and squadrons at the wing and walk through a KC-135E static display.

**DMAVA annual coat drive, Nov. 1-23**

From the desk of Paul Serdiuk, DMAVA HRD

The annual New Jersey State Employees Coat Drive started on Nov. 1 and will run through Nov. 23.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth is asking for your support of this worthwhile effort in helping those in need before the cold weather sets in. This year DMAVA has been approved to

### What is a Freedom Loan?

- \* Up to \$10,000
- \* Annual APR 6%
- \* Term: 5 years (no pre-payment penalty)
- \* Unsecured Loan (no collateral required)

### Who is eligible to apply?

NJ residents who are:

- \* Members of the National Guard or Reserve
- \* Mobilized for one year or longer to fight in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) - excluding routine training.

Or

- \* Served 90 or more consecutive days in the GWOT on federal or state active duty (excluding routing training) and have received orders extending cumulative active duty a year or longer.

### How do I apply?

- \* Contact participating banks. Call or visit your local branch office to obtain an application.
- \* Guardmembers, Reservists, or family members with Power of Attorney must submit copies of current mobilization orders with the bank's Freedom Loan application.

### Current participants:

Commerce Bank  
1-888-751-9000

Credit Union of NJ  
609-538-4061, ext. 401

First Morris Bank & Trust  
1-888-530-2265

Manasquan Savings Bank  
732-223-4450

North Jersey Federal Credit Union  
1-888-78NJFCU

Peapack-Gladstone Bank (908)  
719-BANK

Pennsville National Bank  
856-678-6006

PNC  
1-866-PNC-4USA

Sovereign Bank  
1-877-391-6365

Sun National Bank  
1-800-691-7701

### Quote for the Week

Necessity never made a good bargain.

donate all the coats that we collect either to the Veteran's Homes, Veteran's Haven or to a local charity organization.

Coats must be clean and in serviceable condition. Coats for men, women and children will be accepted. The drop-off point for DMAVA Central is located in the front foyer of the building.

Additional information can be obtained from DMAVA's Coat Drive Coordinator, Paul Serdiuk at 609-530-6878.

Thank you for your support in helping other New Jerseyans who are less fortunate.

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## DMAVA Holiday party slated for Dec. 14

*From the desk of Darlene Laarz, Holiday Committee*

The DMAVA/JFHQRS Holiday Party will be held this year on Dec. 14. The mandatory Town Hall will be at 11:30 a.m., with the holiday party immediately following. The cost of the event will be \$10, which will include a raffle ticket for a big flat screen TV and a meal from Amici Milano's. Keep the date open so we can celebrate the holiday together!

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## American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

From the desk of Dorinda Sapp, Affirmative Action Officer

With the theme, *Celebrating our Strengths*, we acknowledge the various Tribal cultures and the rich heritage, art, history, and traditions of the American Indian and Alaska Native People. This year is particularly exciting with the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian. The opening of the museum offers an opportunity for the public to learn more about the cultures and traditions of the Native Americans from North, Central, and South America.

What began at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States has resulted in the month of November being designated for that purpose.

In continuing to celebrate major accomplishments and contributions to military service during American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month, this week we are recognizing Medal of Honor Recipients.

The Medal of Honor is the highest award given to military heroes for their actions that have helped form our nation's rich history. They are honored for their acts of heroism, for their "individual gallantry at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty."

The Medal of Honor is symbolic of the heroic acts that it is awarded for. Elements of the design represent victory, strength, wisdom and valor. Throughout history, American Indian and Alaska Native-American service members have distinguished themselves with their gallant actions during wartime.

### World War I

**Jack C. Montgomery:** 1st Lt., U.S. Army, 45th Infantry Division.

❖ **Place:** Near, Padiglione, Italy, Feb. 22, 1944

❖ **Citation:** For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.

**Ernest E. Evans:** Commander, U.S. Navy.

❖ **Place:** Battle off Samar, Oct. 25, 1944.

❖ **Citation:** For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the USS Johnston in action against major units of the enemy Japanese fleet.

**Van T. Barfoot:** 2nd Lt., U.S. Army, 157th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division.

❖ **Place:** Near Carano, Italy, May 23, 1944.

❖ **Citation:** For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.

### Korean War

- Benjamin Franklin

Man is what he believes.

- Anton Pavlovich Chekhov

He who reflects too much will accomplish little

- Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller

A wise man knows everything; a shrewd one, everybody.

- Anonymous

**Charles George:** Pfc., U.S. Army, Company C, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division

❖ **Place:** Near Songnae-dong, Korea, Nov. 30, 1952

❖ **Citation:** For conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy.

**Raymond Harvey:** Capt., U.S. Army, Company C, 17th Infantry Regiment.

❖ **Place:** Vicinity of Taemi-Fong, Korea, 9 March 1951

❖ **Citation:** For conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy.

**Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr.:** Cpl., U.S. Army, Company E, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division

❖ **Place:** Near Chonghyon, Korea, 5 November 1950.

❖ **Citation:** For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy.

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## Sign up for TRICARE

*From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist*

This is just a reminder that all ARNG Reserve Soldiers that have not been called up for deployment are eligible for the new Enhanced TRICARE Reserve Select program. Current members now have until Dec. 31, 2007, to update their enrollment forms to ensure coverage does not drop. New members can enroll anytime throughout the year. For more information, please contact any of the following: Sgt. 1st Class Josephine Grey at 609-562-0865, Christine Cox 609-562-0876, Spc. Rivera 609-562-0846 or Spc. Rodriguez 609-562-0880.

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## New recycling rules for Lawrenceville, West Trenton

*From the desk of Joseph K. Dunleavy, Environmental Specialist*

The state has hired a new contractor to implement the Governors Executive Order pertaining to recycling at all State owned and operated facilities. This guidance is targeted for the workforce within the DMAVA Lawrenceville complex and West Trenton NJARNG locations only. The contractor and the Treasury Department have provided new collection containers for recyclable items. These containers are to be placed on the loading dock prior to the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month so that the collection truck can pick them up. Please inform all personnel of the requirements.

All aluminum & steel cans, plastic and glass bottles (coded 1 & 2) need to be placed in the "Decorative Containers" or the blue containers with round openings, in the Headquarters Building for disposal. ***Please no caps or lids!*** These items will be collected on Fridays at the loading dock.

The new company will be conducting participatory audits and notify the Governors Office of participation rates. Encourage everyone in your office to recycle office paper, white paper, colored paper, Post It T notes, newspaper, magazines, envelopes, folders, junk mail, and paper wrappers.

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## Heat sources Safety

*From the desk of Sgt. Maj. Nick Kampf, Safety and Occupational Health, NJARNG*

Each year fire claims the lives of 4,000 Americans, injures tens of thousands, and causes billions of dollars worth of damage. People living in rural areas are more than twice as likely to die in a fire as those living in mid-sized cities or suburban areas. The misuse of wood stoves, portable space heaters and kerosene heaters is especially common in rural areas.

The United State Fire Administration (USFA) believes rural fire problems can be reduced by teaching people to recognize the hazards. The following precautionary steps can greatly reduce an individual's chances of becoming a fire casualty.

### Wood stoves

Wood stoves cause more than 9,000 residential fires every year. Carefully follow the manufacturer's installation and maintenance instructions. Look for solid construction, such as plate steel or cast iron metal. Check for cracks and inspect legs, hinges and door seals for smooth joints and seams. Use only seasoned wood for fuel, not green wood, artificial logs or trash. Inspect and clean your pipes and chimneys annually and check monthly for damage or obstructions. Be sure to keep combustible object at least three feet away from your wood stove.

### **Electric space heaters**

Buy only heaters with the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) safety listing. Check to make sure it has a thermostat control mechanism and will switch off automatically if the heater falls over. Heaters are not dryers or tables; don't dry clothes or store objects on top of your heater. Space heaters need space; keep combustibles at least three feet away from each heater. Always unplug your electric space heater when it is not in use.

### **Kerosene heaters**

Buy only UL-approved heaters and check with your local fire department on the legality of kerosene heaters in your community. Never fill your heater with gasoline or camp stove fuel; both flare up easily. Only use crystal clear K-1 kerosene. Never overfill any portable heater. Use the kerosene heater in a well-ventilated room.

### **Fireplaces**

Fireplaces regularly build up creosote in their chimneys. They need to be cleaned out frequently and chimneys should be inspected for obstructions and cracks to prevent deadly chimney and roof fires. Check to make sure the damper is open before starting any fire. Never burn trash, paper or green wood in your fireplace. These materials cause heavy creosote buildup and are difficult to control. Use a screen heavy enough to stop rolling logs and big enough to cover the entire opening of the fireplace to catch flying sparks. Don't wear loose-fitting clothes near any open flame. Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the house or going to bed. Store cooled ashes in a tightly sealed metal container outside the home.

Finally, having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. And remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family.

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## **Veterans Day Activities**

### **Cruise special offered to military, families for Veterans Day**

*From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist*

To honor those who serve us in the military and their families, Carnival Cruise Lines is offering a Veteran's Day promotion throughout the month of November. Active and retired military personnel are able to book up to three "Fun Ship" staterooms for themselves and their friends and family members at special discounted rates. Reservations must be made between Nov. 1 and Nov. 30, 2007, to qualify for this promotion, which is available in conjunction with a wide range of three to 12-day departures through Dec 31, 2008. The promotion is valid for individual bookings only, is capacity controlled, and not applicable with any other discount offer. Fare code CPM1 must be requested during the reservations process and military personnel must provide proof of service. Certain other restrictions apply. For additional information and reservations, contact any travel agent, call 1-800-CARNIVAL or visit <http://www.carnival.com/>.

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### **Park Service, BLM waive fees for veterans, Nov. 11**

The National Park Service, the U.S. Forest service and the Bureau of Land Management will waive recreation-related fees for veterans and military personnel, along with their families, on Veterans Day, Sunday, Nov. 11.

The waiver of entrance and/or standard amenity fees on Veterans Day applies annually, starting last year, to all agencies of the departments of Interior and Agriculture. Those include public recreation lands under the management of the BLM, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Forest Service.

The Veterans Day fee waiver takes place on Nov. 11, even if the federal observance of the holiday occurs on a different day. This year, the federal observance of Veterans Day falls on Monday, Nov. 12.

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## Lowe's offering discount to military, veterans

Lowe's will offer all active, reserve and retired military personnel and their immediate family members a 10 percent discount on in-store purchases made during Veteran's Day weekend, Nov. 8 through Nov. 12, 2007.

The discount is available on in-stock purchases up to \$5,000. To qualify, individuals must present a valid military ID or other proof of service such as a VA card, VFW card, veteran's ID or discharge papers.

This offer applies to all Lowe's stores.

The discount is 10 percent off stock merchandise and special-order merchandise.

Not valid with any other discounts. (Not valid on Maytag Neptune laundry products, Maytag Ice2O refrigerators, Fisher & Paykel appliances, Dyson vacuums, John Deere products or Krups small appliances).

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## Paper Mill Playhouse offering tickets to veterans

On Nov. 11, at 7:30 p.m., the Paper Mill Playhouse is offering complimentary tickets (on a first come, first served basis) for all Veterans for the performance of "Meet Me in St. Louis." For this special event, contact Denise Biel, Box Office Manager, at (973) 379-3636, Ext. 2243 for ticket availability.

The Paper Mill Playhouse has announced a Veterans Discount. Any member of the Armed Forces, present or past, can receive a 20 percent discount on tickets to their Main Stage Productions. Just show your military or veterans ID card when purchasing or picking up tickets at the Box Office.

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## Military Appreciation Monday

For the past 6 years, Golden Corral has been honoring the U. S. military with a free "thank you" dinner and beverage at any Golden Corral restaurant on Military Appreciation Monday (first Monday after Veteran's Day). This year, Golden Corral has designated Monday, **Nov. 12**, from 5 to 9 p.m., to honor any person who has ever served in the United States military.

From the first Military Appreciation Monday in 2001 to the present, Golden Corral has donated 1.5 million free "thank you" meals and \$1.9 million dollars to the Disabled American Veterans.

The Disabled American Veterans Organization will accept contributions on Nov. 1-12 to be used in the local and state DAV chapters.

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## Ceremony at Doyle cemetery, Nov. 11

In concert with the Veterans' Cemetery Advisory Council, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will host a Veteran's Day Ceremony beginning at 11 a.m., Nov. 11, at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 35 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown. The public is invited to attend.

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## Blue Star markers set for re-dedication Nov. 11 and 12

The Blue Star Memorial Highway program began in New Jersey on Route 22 (then Route 29) in 1944 to honor the servicemen and women who had served in the military during World War II. This program started with the planting of 8,000 dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs. The program has since grown to highways and byways across the United States and to honor "all who have served, are serving or will serve in the nation's armed forces."

Individual garden clubs throughout the nation coordinate with their state's Department of Transportation on the projects. Signs with the Blue Star and landscaping surrounding it mark thousands of miles of highway in the continental U.S.

**Nov. 11**, 2 p.m. - the marker in Bay Head, on Lake Ave (take Bridge Ave. west from Route 35); ceremony sponsored by the Seaweeders Garden Club.

Two New Jersey clubs are having re-dedication ceremonies of their sites during the Veterans Day weekend.

**Nov. 12**, 11 a.m. - the marker on Route 22, west bound side near the Cushetunk rest area and the Ryland Inn; ceremony sponsored by the Huntingdon Garden Club.

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## Run supports fallen Soldier's memorial

The 2nd Annual Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski II Memorial 3.5 mile run and two mile walk will be held on **Nov. 11** - rain or shine - at PNC Bank Arts Center, located at exit 116 on the Garden State Parkway. The run/walk begins at 10 a.m.

Lt. Zilinski grew up in Middletown, N.J. and graduated from Christian Brothers Academy, Lincroft. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and in 2004. He completed Airborne School while a student at West Point. He completed Ranger School and was then assigned to the 1/187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). He deployed with the 101st Airborne Division on Sept. 17, 2005. Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski II died in Iraq on Nov. 19, 2005 as a result of a roadside bombing.

The LT Dennis W. Zilinski II Memorial Fund was created in his honor. The Fund has supported programs such as Underwater Warriors Foundation, Inc; Operation Support Our Troops - Wheels for Warriors; Fisher House and Warrior and Family Support Center.

Same day registration begins at 7:45 a.m. There will be a ceremony and tribute to Lt. Zilinski from 8:50-9:30 a.m. and late registration after the ceremony until 9:45 a.m. A post-run reception will be hosted by Carabba's of Middletown. Award will be given to the top three male and female finishers.

Runners can register early through the web site at <http://www.runwithdennis.org/index.html>. Cost is \$25 for adults who register before Oct. 31 and \$15 for runners age 18 and under. T-shirts are only guaranteed to those who register before Oct. 31. For those who register after Oct. 31, the cost is \$35 for adults and \$20 for those 18 and younger.

Vehicle access into PNC Bank Arts Center will be closed starting at 9:45am for the duration of the Race. This is a scenic course with challenging hills going through the complex and ending at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. There will be no strollers or bicycles allowed on the 3.5 Mile Run course.

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## Free entrée for veterans at McCormick and Schmick

*From the desk of retired Chief Master Sgt. Paul Gunning, Wing Family Program coordinator*

McCormick & Schmick's to honor veterans with free entree a part of its ninth annual Military Veterans Appreciation Event <http://www.roa.org/site/R?j=d9OCwxPsQ7V5y0Ccu4TpCQ>. McCormick & Schmick's seafood restaurant will offer all retired U.S. military veterans a free entrée on **Nov. 11**, in appreciation for their service to our country. The offer extends to all who are defined as a veteran by the Veterans Administration, Title 38 US Code 101, which is a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. All veterans must show proper identification. Traditionally, the McCormick & Schmick's Veterans Appreciation event is held on the Sunday prior to the formal Veterans Day holiday. Since Veterans Day falls on a Sunday this year, the McCormick & Schmick's Appreciation event will take place this year on the formal holiday itself.

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## School will hold veterans program, Dec. 12

On Dec. 12, 2007, for the third year, the Midtown Community Elementary School (formerly Ridge Ave) will host a veterans program to Honor those who Served our Country.

We will invite the veterans from around our area and our family members. First there will be a small breakfast with the veterans. The high school ROTC will present the color guard and the high school band will play taps.

Students grades three through five have a writing contest to see who will read their writing to the veterans during the program. The students will sing a variety of patriotic songs.

Veterans will receive tokens of the student's appreciation.

Following the program, the veterans will have a chance to speak to the entire school population. Then the vets will be placed in smaller groups with our students to share special thoughts with them.

If you wish to participate, call Brenda Cook Johnson, Educational Media Specialist/ Librarian, 732-776-2200 extension 3401.

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## ***Military Training, Schools, Opportunities***

### **254th offers Combat Lifesaver course**

*From the 254th Regiment*

The Combat Lifesaver Course (CLS) is a 40 hour course taught over three days by the 254th Regiment at Sea Girt.

It is intensive and instructs non-medical soldiers in the latest techniques of self aid and buddy aid. The course is centered on reducing the number of combat deaths due to the three top causes: bleeding from an extremity, tension pneumothorax (lung collapse) and traumatic brain injury.

The instruction and hands-on training includes Tactical Combat Casualty Care, Medevac procedures, improvised litters, and numerous other subjects.

Point of contact for this training at the Regiment is Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Cosmanic at 732 974-4878 or [STEPHEN.R.COSMANIC@NJ.NGB.ARMY.MIL](mailto:STEPHEN.R.COSMANIC@NJ.NGB.ARMY.MIL).

For questions about this or any other course also contact Master Sgt. Gary Davidson at 732 974-5912 or [Gary.m.davidson@us.army.mil](mailto:Gary.m.davidson@us.army.mil). Or see your Unit Readiness NCO.

More information can be found at AKO in the medical knowledge network in med training: [HTTP://WWW.CS.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL/CLSP/](http://WWW.CS.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL/CLSP/).

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### **Speaking, recognition opportunities for diverse Soldiers**

Operation Tribute to Freedom is seeking OIF/OEF Soldiers who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico or the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean, and Soldiers of Middle Eastern descent to share their story at events. If you are interested in participating in this program, send an e-mail to [PAO@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:PAO@njdmava.state.nj.us). Responses should include the Soldier's name, contact information, bio with brief deployment history, awards and PAO contact information. Include "Diverse Soldier" in the subject line.

TDY available if necessary, but local/hometown Soldiers are preferred. Responses will be taken on an ongoing basis.

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### **254th Regiment holding training courses**

The 254th Regiment (CA) will be holding training courses in the upcoming months at the National Guard Regional Training Institute, Sea Girt.

#### Inactive Duty Training -

Small Group Instructor Training Course, (SGITC) Jan. 5-6, Feb. 2-3, March 1, 2008. You can learn about personality types and the human thought process, how to control the sharp shooter in class, and how to present the best class possible. Few seats remain, sign up now.

Basic NCO Course,(BNCOC) next course starts in April 2008 .

Military Police (31B10 MOS-T) Phase I, Nov. 3, 2007, June 7-8, 2008; 5 seats available. Class starts in 3 weeks, get your soldiers registered today.

PRE WARRIOR Leadership Course, three weekends: Jan. 5-6, Feb. 2-3 and March 1-2, 2008; seats available. Tune up those map reading skills, pass Warrior Leadership Course.

Officer Candidate School Class 52 (OCS)- Project officers interviewing candidates at this time.

#### Active Duty Training -

Combat Medic Training Course (68W Sustainment), Dec. 3-12, 2007, 20 seats will be available. Look for course in ATRRS on Oct. 22.

Combat Lifesaver (CLS), 1st class will be held Oct. 29-31, 2nd class will be held Nov. 1-3, 2007. 3rd class will be held Nov. 13-15, 2007; 30 seats have been filled for each class. Thank you for a great job!

For more information, contact Master Sgt. G. Davidson, 254th Regiment operations sergeant, 732-974-5912, [Gary.Davidson@us.army.mil](mailto:Gary.Davidson@us.army.mil) or your unit Readiness NCO. You can also visit our school information on ATRSS at <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/atrrscc/>, school code is 1004.

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## Retirement Dinners

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### Farewell to Brig. Gen. Harvey

Come and say goodbye and relive the good old days at the retirement dinner for Brig. Gen. Charles Harvey on Dec. 15 at the Lawrenceville Army. The dinner will be held on the drill floor, 6-11 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person and the dress is business casual.

RSVP by Dec. 7 to Marie Durling, 609-562-0739. Send your check, made payable to DMAVD Employee Activity Fund, to: Joint Force Headquarters, ATTN: Marie Durling, 3650 Saylor's Pond Road, Fort Dix NJ 08640.

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## For Your Calendar

### Middle School invites military, veterans to "South Pacific"

*From the desk of Ronald Slate, Supervisor of Visual, Performing and Practical Arts, Springfield Public Schools*

Springfield, NJ - Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School would like to extend an invitation to all of our service men and women to our performance of Rogers and Hammerstein's South Pacific on **Dec. 7** at 7 p.m. The performance will take place at Jonathan Dayton High School's Halsey Hall Auditorium, 139 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081.

The school plans to honor our local service organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Jewish War Veterans, and the Vietnam Veterans Association along with active members of our armed forces at this performance and would like to have you join this celebration.

The school has been working on character education and our students have been researching our service people and the sacrifices they have endured to ensure our nation's freedoms. The students are also working with Operation Shoebox, an organization that takes supplies, items and letters from home and delivers them to our troops overseas.

Students and faculty are sure this will be a special evening for our students, veterans and community.

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## Honorable Mention

### Doyle Cemetery Council selling grave blankets

The Veterans Cemetery Advisory Council of the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery is offering the sale of Grave Blankets for placement on grave sites in the Doyle Cemetery for the 2007 holiday season.

The blankets are 2 feet by 3 feet and cost \$30. They must be ordered by Nov. 30. Profits from the sale of the grave blankets will benefit the beautification of the cemetery.

Call 609-758-7250 or visit [www.state.nj.us/military/cemetery](http://www.state.nj.us/military/cemetery) for more information.

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### Don't talk or text while driving in N.J.

On Nov. 2, Governor Jon S. Corzine signed a bill making it a primary offense for motorists to talk on or text message with hand-held wireless telephones or electronic communication devices while driving. Motorists may use a wireless telephone or electronic communication device if it is hands-free.

The fine for this offense is \$100 and no motor vehicle points or insurance eligibility points will be assessed for this offense.

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## **Federal benefits open season coming soon**

The Federal Benefits Open Season for 2008 is almost here! Don't miss out on this opportunity. Federal employees can enroll or make changes to their enrollment in Federal Employees Health Benefit and in one of the seven dental plans, three vision plans and set up flexible spending accounts for health care and dependent care.

Flexible spending accounts are easy. You pay for a wide range of common, out-of-pocket dependent and health care expenses and then receive reimbursement from your dependent and/or health care flexible spending account(s). By setting aside pre-tax dollars, you reduce your taxable income, thereby paying less in taxes and saving money.

Eligible non-medical expenses for the dependent care account include child care and adult daycare. Eligible expenses for the health care account include co-payments, co-insurance, deductibles, over-the-counter medicines like cold remedies, prescription drugs, vision and dental expenses, and much more.

Current 2007 Participants: you MUST re-enroll to participate in 2008. Enrollments do NOT carry forward year-to-year.

Visit [www.FSAFEDS.com](http://www.FSAFEDS.com) to learn more about the FSAFEDS Program.

To find out more about the other available programs, visit <http://opm.gov/insure/>. Or call Sgt. Jacquelyn Bertrand at 609-562-0866.

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## **Guard, Reserve members, families encouraged to nominate employers**

The Department of Defense will open the nomination season for the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award on Nov. 1, 2007. National Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have gone above and beyond in their support of military employees. Nominations will be accepted at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) from Nov. 1, 2007 to Jan. 21, 2008. The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the U.S. government's highest recognition given to outstanding employers.

For questions regarding the nomination process, please contact New Jersey ESGR at 609-562-0156.

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## **CFC kicks off start to 2007 campaign**

The New Jersey National Guard Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has officially kicked off its 2007 campaign which will run until the last week of November 2007. This year's theme is "Help Our World Forward."

The CFC provides each federal employee with an annual opportunity to voluntarily help others and ourselves by donating to the community, national and international level human, health and environmental organizations. With more than 3,000 human and health service organizations listed in the CFC catalog, there is certainly at least one cause deserving consideration for your personal contribution.

Contributions may be made via easy payroll deductions each pay period or by check.

Over the years, our department has been most successful in this endeavor because of your personal generosity and concern. We urge every employee to support this worthy cause. Catalogs and payroll deduction forms will be going out to all full time Federal Technicians and AGRs.

The CFC Coordinator for this year's Combined Federal Campaign is Jo Anne Miller, J1-HRO Office. For more information, call 609-562-0851.

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## **State employees asked to contribute to charitable campaign**

The New Jersey State Employees Charitable Campaign has officially kicked off its 2007/2008 Campaign which will run until Nov. 27, 2007.

The ECC provides each of state employee with the annual opportunity to voluntarily help others and ourselves by donating to any of the more than 1,400 participating agencies

and organizations listed in the ECC Code Book. Contributions may be made by payroll deductions each year or by cash or check.

Over the years, DMAVA has been most successful in this endeavor because of the employee's personal generosity and concern. We urge everyone to support this worthy cause. Code books and payroll deduction forms will be going out to all full-time state employees.

This year's ECC Coordinator for the campaign is Paul Serdiuk, DMAVA-HRD office. For more information, please contact him at 609-530-6878. Information can also be accessed online at [www.njsecc.org](http://www.njsecc.org).

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## Mailing help for holiday overseas packages

*By Karen Jowers - Army Times Staff writer*

If you want to get holiday gifts to a service member deployed overseas by Dec. 25, it's time to start thinking about mail deadlines.

The first suggested deadline of Nov. 13 is for packages going by parcel post to deployed troops and those living on overseas installations, according to the U.S. Postal Service. Parcel post may be the slowest option, but it's the cheapest, too. For packages to arrive by the start of Hanukkah, at sundown Dec. 4, they should be mailed by Oct. 23.

You can check the cost of mailing your package through different avenues on the Postal Service's Web site.

Postal officials strongly advise families to consider these deadlines because of the volume of mail during the holiday season. Many groups are already gearing up to send packages to deployed troops.

Some tips from the Postal Service:

- ❖ Packages must be addressed to an individual service member. Mail cannot be delivered to "any service member." Use the member's full name, military organization or unit and APO/FPO address.
- ❖ Do not include the country name in any part of the address when using an APO/FPO address.
- ❖ Choose a box strong enough to protect its contents, and use plenty of cushioning material such as popcorn or newspapers.
- ❖ Consider using the Postal Service's free Military Kit - eight boxes of three different sizes popular for mailing to military personnel, along with mailing labels, tape and U.S. Customs forms. Kits can be obtained by calling toll-free to (800) 610-8734. Choose option 1, and when a live agent responds, ask for Care Kit 4.
- ❖ Write the delivery and return addresses on one side of the package.
- ❖ Place a return address label inside the package.

If you miss the parcel post deadline, here are your options for getting mail to an APO/FPO address by Dec. 25 (subtract 21 days from these deadlines to ensure delivery in time for Hanukkah):

- ❖ Space Available Mail (SAM): Nov. 27.
- ❖ Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL): Dec. 4, except for ZIP codes starting with 093, which are all areas of contingency operations. The suggested deadline for those locations is Dec. 1.
- ❖ Priority Mail: Dec. 11 (093 ZIP codes, Dec. 4).
- ❖ First-class letters and cards: Dec. 11. (093 ZIP codes, Dec. 4).
- ❖ Express Mail Military Services: Dec. 18 (not available to 093 ZIP codes).

Visit the following Web site to check out mailing guidelines. <http://www.usps.com/send/preparemailandpackages/preparingpackages.htm>.

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## Send Highlights your happenings

We want your stuff!! Is your unit doing some unique training? Did someone in the New Jersey Guard receive accolades for accomplishing something extra special? Is your unit

running a special event for the community? Does your section of DMAVA have something they need to tell the rest of the department? We want to know about it.

Send us a short piece on what is happening so we can publish it in *DMAVA Highlights*. Let us know who wrote it so we can give them credit. If there are photos, you can send those too. While we do not publish photos in *Highlights*, we can give them to the editor of *Guardlife* and they may be used in that publication.

When you send in your article:

- Identify all people in the article with rank, first and last names and job title or position.
- Spell out all acronyms.
- When it comes to equipment, do not just give the nomenclature, also include the "name" of the equipment. Do not use M998 alone, HMMWV is also needed.
- Give us as much as possible of the meat of the story - who, what, when, where, why and how concerning the event.
- Photos need identification of people in the photo and what is happening in the photo.

Deadline for each week is noon Thursday and should be e-mailed to [Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us). We do not publish flyers or Adobe files. If a Web site is out there to give people more information or to get a registration form, put that in your article.

Don't be intimidated by writing, we edit it for understanding and grammar. Your article may look a different when it is published as we also edit to fit the standards of the *AP Style Guide*.

Show us your stuff!!

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## New Jersey Bar Association offers pro bono military legal assistance

The New Jersey Bar Association established and administers the **Military Legal Assistance Program**. This *pro bono* program provides assistance to New Jersey residents who have served overseas as active duty members of reserve components of the armed forces after Sept. 11, 2001.

Individuals who have been adversely affected upon their return from deployment and cannot be represented by military lawyers can use this program. The program currently offers assistance to the following areas: family law, employment law, veterans' benefits and debtor-creditor law.

The Military Legal Assistance program will refer members of the military who contact the state bar association to volunteers qualified to assist them with their specific legal issues. Volunteers who accept a case through the program must agree to handle such case from inception to resolution without compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

If interested in the program, call toll free 1-888-541-1900 for referral or visit the New Jersey State Bar Association web site at [www.njsba.com](http://www.njsba.com) and click on the button for the Military Legal Assistance program.

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## Honor Guard program wants YOU!

Looking for a way to serve and get some satisfaction at the same time? The Honor Guard program is looking for members of the Army and Air Guard to join the team to perform honor guard duties at the funerals of veterans. There is an initial eight hours of training for all new enrollees, with on-going sustainment training. As an honor guard member, you will receive a day of pay for each day's mission, minimum of \$50, and traditional drilling Guard members receive a retirement point for each day's duties.

If you are interested in applying for the Honor Guard program, call Retired Sgt. Maj. Ed Goetschius at 609-530-7090.

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## VA Launches Suicide Hotline

To ensure veterans with emotional crises have round-the-clock access to trained professionals, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun operation of a national suicide prevention hot line for veterans. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson said:

"Veterans need to know these VA professionals are literally a phone call away. All service members who experience the stresses of combat can have wounds on their minds as well as their bodies. Veterans should see mental health services as another benefit they have earned, which the men and women of VA are honored to provide." VA's hot line will be staffed by mental health professionals in Canandaigua, N.Y. They will take toll-free calls from across the country and work closely with local VA mental health providers to help callers. The toll-free hot line number is 1 (800) 273-TALK (8255).

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## Discounts offered for State employees

Are you a state employee looking to save a few \$\$\$?

Visit [www.state.nj.us/personnel/discounts/index.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/personnel/discounts/index.htm) and you can find a number of businesses who offer discounts to New Jersey state employees. From amusement parks to fitness to computer to phones and lots of other discounts between, you will find many ways to save money. For more information, please contact Cindy Leese at [cindy.leese@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:cindy.leese@njdmava.state.nj.us) or call 609-530-7056.

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## For the Families

### Photography contest for military youths

*From the desk of Amanda Balas, State Youth Coordinator*

Operation Military Kids project in New Jersey is sponsoring a photo contest. The theme is "Families in the Military." Any youth of a military family in any branch of the service, including active duty, National Guard and Reserves is eligible to enter.

The age categories for entries are grades 2-5, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. Photos can be black and white or color and can be in digital or 35mm format.

Photos must be taken by the youth and should capture a unique moment or setting their family life or in their community that means something special to them. They will be judged on originality and creativity. First and second places will be awarded in each age category.

Contact Amanda Balas, N.J. National Guard State Youth Coordinator, for entry forms and more information at 609-562-0742 or [Amanda.balas@us.army.mil](mailto:Amanda.balas@us.army.mil). Deadline for submissions is Jan. 14, 2008.

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### More unemployment benefits for military spouses

New Jersey, Arkansas, South Carolina and Connecticut have come onboard to allow military spouses to collect unemployment compensation when they quit their jobs to move to new duty stations with their service-member spouses. This makes a total of 21 states that authorize unemployment benefits. Eight other states flatly deny benefits while the remainder will consider them on a case-by-case basis. The changes have occurred since the Department of Defense launched a "USA 4 Military Families" campaign three years ago. To assist, DoD has assigned 10 regional representatives to act as liaison between the services and the appropriate state agencies.

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### Army Information Line: 1-800-833-6622

The Army Information Line (1-800-833-6622) is designed to help all Soldiers and their Family members whether they are deployed; stationed stateside or overseas; are brand new to the Army; or are 30 year veterans.

In addition to The Army Information Line, Army Well-Being's Army Families Online Web site [www.ArmyFamiliesOnline.org](http://www.ArmyFamiliesOnline.org) recently welcomed its 2-millionth visitor this year.

The Army Information Line also celebrates its 25-year existence of providing information and referral services to those Soldiers and Family members.

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### Register to use the Guard Family Portal

*From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist*

Have you registered yet for the Guard Family Portal? Did you know that it's available to service members, family members, volunteers and even community members? If you

haven't taken the time yet to log on and register, be sure to do it soon as you're missing out on important information.

What is on the Guard Family Portal?

- Information on Activities and Events
- Volunteers can track their Activity Hours (which equals awards)
- Guard Family Training Modules
- Unit FRG Status Report
- Discussion Boards
- A Local Resource Finder
- Pre-Deployment Information
- Deployment Information
- Reunion Information
- And More!

Log on today to create your account at <http://www.guardfamily.org>.

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## Support for military children of deployed and injured Guard members

*From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance specialist*

**Our Military Kids (OMK)** provides tangible support to the children of deployed and severely injured National Guard and Military Reserve personnel through grants for enrichment activities and tutoring that nurture and sustain the children during the time a parent is away in service to our country. OMK grants are made to honor the sacrifices military parents make and to ensure that the children have access to activities and support that help the children better cope with challenges arising during a parent's deployment or injury recovery. For additional information go to [www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org)

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## N.J. State Family Readiness Council offers Family Grants Program

The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has expanded its Family Grants Program to include an additional grant. There are now two levels of Family Grants; TIER I is the \$2,500 grant that has been in place for the past couple of years. The TIER II opens family grants to New Jersey Army and Air National Guard non-deployed service members who were on State Active Duty or State Missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions) for more than 20 consecutive days. Service members meeting these criteria are eligible to apply for a financial hardship grant up to \$1,500. Applications are available at all New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Family Assistance Centers.

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## Program offers assistance to spouses of deployed military

The Deployed Military Spouses Assistance Program provides direct assistance and referrals to existing programs for spouses of deployed military personnel (active duty, reserve and National Guard) who face unusual financial and emotional stress as a result of the deployments.

Applicants should contact Fawn Mutschler at 609-543-6200 ext. 325 or [wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org](mailto:wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org) to obtain an application. In addition to the completed application form, applicants will also need to submit the following documentation: LES/paystub for applicant and spouse; statement of Financial Need (i.e. reason for applying and how the grant will help); bill or pricing of expenditure as well as any other supporting information the applicant feels may be helpful. Additional information can be found at: [www.state.nj.us/dca/dow/depmilspouseasst.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dow/depmilspouseasst.shtml)

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## Travel Help, Ideas

### Shades of Green offers Disney for military

Now that the summer is almost over, thoughts of how to spend next summer or your next vacation week, can start to pop into your mind. "Can we go someplace better or different, nearer or farther from home, all without breaking the bank?"

One place to consider if Florida is one of your next vacation places is Shades of Green in Orlando. Minutes from the Disney attractions, this resort is also close to golf, dining and other Florida attractions.

Their web site, [www.shadesofgreen.org](http://www.shadesofgreen.org) can give you tours of their rooms and family suites, the local attractions and other amenities that are offered by the resort. The rates are reasonable and will be a opportunity to visit Orlando with your family.

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## Here's To The Heroes

Here's to the Heroes provides a single day's free admission to any one SeaWorld or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place, Adventure Island or Water Country USA for the service member and as many as three direct dependents.

Any active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service member or Guard member is entitled to free admission under the program. He or she need only register, either online at [www.herosalute.com](http://www.herosalute.com) or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a Department of Defense photo ID.

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## Visit West Point, take in the Ike Hall theater

Are you looking for a different place to visit to find history, food and performances of a good variety? Think about visiting the United States Military Academy.

While there you can tour the historic grounds, find lodging and meals, go to the visitor center where you can purchase something to remember your visit and then enjoy live entertainment at the second-largest theater in New York - the Eisenhower Hall theatre.

The list of upcoming entertainment includes stage productions of musicals and plays, ballet, and music - orchestra, jazz and individual performers. Three performances in September included acrobats, opera and a comedian.

Individual ticket prices range from approximately \$25-50 for most performances.

The post is open to civilians; everyone 16 and older must present photo ID.

Find out more information about Eisenhower Hall at <http://www.ikehall.com/>. To find out more about the United States Military Academy, visit <http://www.usma.edu/>.

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## *Sports and Entertainment*

### Philadelphia Phantoms Military Appreciation Night, Dec. 7

Join the Philadelphia Phantoms on Military Appreciation Night as they take on the Norfolk Admirals on Friday, **Dec. 7** at 7:05 p.m., at the Wachovia Spectrum. The Phantoms will have historical displays on the concourse and will also be remembering the anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Tickets for the game are only \$10 for U. S. Veterans and U. S. military personnel (regular price \$19). To order your tickets, call Nick Milillo at 215-952-5772 or visit:

[Click Here.](#)

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### Islanders holding Military Appreciation Night

The New York Islanders ice hockey team is having a Military Appreciation Night on **Nov. 10** at 7 p.m. when the Islanders play the New Jersey Devils.

Military personnel can receive up to 40 percent off tickets, with prices starting at just \$16.

For information on group tickets to this game, call 1-800-882-ISLES, extension 3 or e-mail [groupsales@newyorkislanders.com](mailto:groupsales@newyorkislanders.com). You can also show your military ID at the Nassau Coliseum box office. Go to [www.newyorkislanders.com](http://www.newyorkislanders.com) for more information.

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## Scholarship, Education News

### Policy change boosts G.I. Bill eligibility for some Guard, Reserve

*From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance specialist*

A recent Defense Department policy change widens the eligibility window for some Reserve-component troops who want to use their Montgomery G.I. Bill education benefits. The DoD policy now aligns with Department of Veterans Affairs rules, which say National Guard members and reservists are eligible to receive Montgomery G.I. Bill education benefits for the period covering the amount of time they served on active duty, plus four months. The total amount of G.I. Bill coverage for reservists is still 36 months and reservists normally have 14 years to use their Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits. However, that time might also be extended by the amount of time Guard or Reserve members serve on active duty, plus four months.

The Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP), established by the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act, is another DoD education initiative for members of the Guard and Reserve. To be eligible, servicemembers must have served at least 90 consecutive days of active service after Sept. 11, 2001, in response to a Presidential or Congressional call-up of military forces for wartime or other emergency service.

Guard and Reserve members who served for two continuous years on active duty in support of a contingency operation would qualify for both the Montgomery G.I. Bill and REAP and could select which program they want to use,

Servicemembers can determine if they qualify for the Montgomery G.I. Bill and REAP by contacting their local education office.

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### HBCU holding career fair for students

A number of organizations, including the New Jersey Dept. of Education and the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, are coming together on **Nov. 11** at the Trenton War Memorial Building to commemorate the Malcolm Bernard Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Week.

High school and community college students and parents are invited to attend. An Ecumenical service with the featured speaker, Rev. Stephen Samuels will be held from 10-11:30 p.m. A college fair with workshops will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than 40 HCBUs will be represented at the fair with information about scholarships and financial aid, making the college decision and present and future job market. For more information, visit the web site [www.HBCU-CFNJ.com](http://www.HBCU-CFNJ.com).

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### Free SAT/ACT Offer Extended

A group of NFL, NFL Europe, AFL, and CFL football players have announced they are extending their sponsorship of the SAT/ACT training to all military families.

The sponsorship allows any military person (active, Guard, reserve, or retired) to request as many programs as they need for the students in their lives. There is a secure website to confirm a person's military status before directing the user to the software order site. Logon to:

[www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/portal/page/itc/MHF/MHF\\_DETAIL\\_0?current\\_id=20.20.100.30.0.0.0.0](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/portal/page/itc/MHF/MHF_DETAIL_0?current_id=20.20.100.30.0.0.0.0)

Programs are shipped to domestic U.S. addresses and APO addresses. The sponsorship covers the purchase price of \$199 and the family pays only the shipping and handling of \$9.95.

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### American Legion offers scholarships, booklet on their Web site

The American Legion has scholarship information on their Web site - [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) - including the 152-page booklet, *Need a Lift*, which is a complete financial aid reference guide for veterans, family members and the American Legion family. When you get on the site, click on "Scholarship Information" in the "Useful Links" block.

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## Association News

## NGANJ group life insurance available to members

Are you covered by the NGANJ Group Life Insurance Program? As a member of either the Officers or the Enlisted Association, you are entitled to enroll in your Association Life Insurance Program. This special program provides from \$5,000 to \$50,000 of Life Insurance for you, "round the clock". Premiums range from as little as \$2 per month and may be payroll-deducted from your drill check. Family coverage is also available at low rates designed for you as a member of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. Think of it!! No aviation exclusions...No hazardous duty restrictions...No war clauses.No checks to write. Dependent coverage includes spouses and all children. Information can be obtained by contacting retired CWO Jack Petrosilli at 609-530-6843, or retired Brig. Gen. Robert S. Dutko Sr. at 609-273-1004. Enrollment forms can be obtained by calling retired Col. Frank L. Carlone, Program Coordinator at 732-249-8335.

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## Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey

The Enlisted Association is seeking members to help give our state a larger voice. The Association speaks on legislative issues that benefit military members and families. The association works at the Federal & State level on all important issues. Visit the web site [EANG-NJ.org](http://EANG-NJ.org), click on *Become a Member* for the application and find out more about what the association does.

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## Veterans Information

### Eligible veterans entitled to property tax deduction

Eligible Veterans are entitled to an annual property tax deduction of \$ 250.

#### Veterans' eligibility

- ❖ a citizen of the United States
- ❖ resident of New Jersey
- ❖ honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active service in a war-time period, in any branch of the U.S. Armed Services.

#### Surviving spouse's eligibility

The surviving wife or husband of a veteran who was a citizen of the United States and resident of New Jersey and one of the following:

- ❖ Was receiving the deduction prior to the veteran's death.
- ❖ Would have been eligible for the deduction had the veteran filed an application prior to death.
- ❖ Has died on active duty in a wartime period.

**The application process** - Filing an application with all required documentation with your local Tax assessor prior to December 31 of the pre-tax year in order to be effective in the next year. Documentation includes the property deed and discharge (DD-214) for the veteran. The widow may need to submit the property deed, marriage certificate, death certificate and discharge (DD-214).

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## N.J. Militia Museum conducting Retiree Oral History Program

The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey has put together a National Guard Veteran Retiree Oral History Program. In the past, the NJNG has not conducted oral exit interviews of commanders, full-time personnel, and retirees to preserve history. The museum is going to institute a volunteer program to try to catch up. If you wish to participate, contact the museum at 732-974-5966.

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## Vet Career Connect helps military members find jobs

Vet Career Connect is a program designed to connect military service members with New Jersey employers. Vet Career Connect matches veteran's specific abilities, drives and interests with jobs requiring those specific abilities.

Participants complete a Caliper Profile, which is an on-line self assessment. They will receive an Individual Developmental Guide outlining personal motivators and areas of

developmental opportunity. Participants will then have the opportunity to place the results of the Caliper Profile, their resume and military achievements onto a database which will be viewed by New Jersey-based companies who have indicated a strong interest in employing veterans.

Vet Career Connect program is available at no cost to service members. In order to participate in this program, or if you have additional questions please email or call Barbara Foos, Project Administrator, at 609-524-1228 or [bfoos@calipercorp.com](mailto:bfoos@calipercorp.com).

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## Helmets to Hardhats

The New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council's Helmets to Hardhats Program (NJ H2H) is designed to help transitioning military personnel, National Guardsmen and Reservists find the careers in the building and construction industry. The program seeks to help military members find a career in one of 15 affiliated trades, such as electrical workers, carpenters and painters.

They work in cooperation with the national Helmets to Hardhats program, adding a personal component to the program's on-line services. NJ H2H offers veterans preparation for successful application to any of New Jersey's registered apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades. Services include career counseling, entrance test preparation and referral to supportive services.

For program registration and information, visit online at [www.njbctc.org/h2h](http://www.njbctc.org/h2h) or contact at 732-499-7295 or at [H2H@njbctc.org](mailto:H2H@njbctc.org).

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## DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues

The DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues with kiosk displays at selected malls throughout New Jersey. The schedule is as follows:

November 27, 28, 29	Quaker Bridge Mall
January 8, 9, 2008	Woodbridge Center
February 5, 6, 7	Moorestown Mall
March 4*, 5, 6	Paramus Park Shopping Center
April 1, 2, 3	Voorhees Town Center
May 6*, 7, 8	Ocean County Mall

\*Medal ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. on these dates. The kiosk will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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## N.J. Vietnam Veterans Memorial

N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Vietnam Era Educational Center's upcoming events:

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Free guided tours of the Memorial are offered on the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**Nov. 11**, 7:45 a.m. to noon - 2nd Annual Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski II Memorial 5K Run ([www.RunWithDennis.org](http://www.RunWithDennis.org)).

**Nov. 11**, 12:30 p.m. - Veterans Day Ceremony in the N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

**Nov. 29**, 6 p.m. - Salute to Patriotism Gala, with special guests U.S. Army Gen. Frederick J. Kroesen, N.J. Air Guard Brig. Gen. Robert S. Dutko and members of the 514 Air Mobility Wing. DMAVA will present Vietnam Service Medals, Distinguished and Meritorious Service Medals. Advance registration required.

**Dec. 1**, 6 p.m. - Holiday Lighting Ceremony at the N.J. Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Christmas Tree, Hanukkah Menorah, and Kwaanza Candles.

**Dec. 8**, 1 p.m. - Ghosts in the Landscape: Vietnam Revisited, a photo gallery display and book discussion by the author/photographer, N.J. Vietnam Veteran Craig J. Barber.

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For further information call 1-800-648-VETS or visit [www.njvvmf.org](http://www.njvvmf.org).

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