



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 19, 2014



Boscov's Department Store manager, Lillian Acosta watches as Herman Cohen, a resident Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland, N.J., opens up his gift during Boscov's – Second Wind Dreams Christmas Celebration Dec. 17, 2014. (DMAVA photo by Mark C. Olsen/Released)





Above: More than 120 residents of the Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland, N.J., received presents during the Boscov's – Second Wind Dreams Christmas Celebration Dec. 17, 2014. This is the fourth year that Boscov's Department Store in Vineland has set up a Christmas tree with ornaments for each of the Home's residents listing what present they wanted. Customers and store employees pick an ornament and purchase the item. By the third week of December, all the gifts are brought over to the home and distributed to the residents. The residents who were unable to make it to the auditorium had their presents delivered to their rooms. Right: Jennifer Jobes, right, therapy aide, hands Frank Ferrillo his present.



Far left: Santa Claus poses for a photo with Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland resident William Nixon during the celebration. Left: Kim Morales, left, therapy aide, and Wendy Mihaly, senior therapy program assistant, sort out present for distribution to the residents after the Boscov's – Second Wind Dreams Christmas Celebration Dec. 17, 2014. (DMAVA photos by Mark C. Olsen/Released)

WREATHS COMPLETE THEIR JOURNEY

By Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA Public Affairs

TWIN PINE SQUADRON CADET ANDREW PIROU STOOD AT ATTENTION AND CLUTCHED THE WREATH

in both hands, mirroring the stance of Civil Air Patrol cadets poised above graves across Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery for the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony.

This scene was repeated across the country in synchronization with the main event at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., where nearly 50,000 volunteers placed 230,000 wreaths on headstones of each veteran buried at the 150-year old national military cemetery.

At Wrightstown, nearly 50 cadets laid 400 wreaths honoring fallen Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen. Wreaths – 700,000 of them – were placed at more than 1,000 locations in the United States and at some of the American military cemeteries overseas. Members of New Jersey's Mission of Honor also laid wreaths at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

The program began in 1992 when Maine businessman, Morrill Worcester, brought 5,000 wreaths to Arlington. WAA became a non-profit organization in 2007, co-founded by Morrill and Karen Worcester. The WAA's mission: "Remember. Honor. Teach" seeks to educate Americans about the sacrifices made by veterans. The following year, Congress designated Dec. 13 as "Wreaths Across America Day."

The annual trek from Harrington, Maine to Arlington began Dec. 7. The convoy of trucks carrying the wreaths, along with buses, cars and motorcycles stopped in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

On Dec. 8, nationwide, ceremonies took place at each state house to heighten awareness of the WAA's mission. Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno and Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, addressed an audience in the New Jersey State House Rotunda of veteran organization leaders and New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen at a dedication ceremony for a wreath presented by WAA.

"As we gather with our families during the holiday season, we remember all those families that will miss loved ones who have given their lives in the service of our nation or who are actively serving away from home," said Guadagno. "Today we show our support for our veterans, ser-



Twin Pine Squadron cadet Andrew Pirou prepares to place a wreath on a veteran's grave during the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, N.J., Dec. 13, 2014. (DMAVA photos by Kryn P. Westhoven/Released)

brave men and women of our armed forces have honorably and faithfully served to protect the freedoms we enjoy as Americans," said Cunniff. "Today's wreath laying ensures that our past veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice are never forgotten."

Two days later, a ceremony was held in the Registry Room, also called the Great Hall, at Ellis Island, Jersey City.

The audience, made up of New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen mixed with WAA convoy members, listened as New Jersey resident and WAA board member Edith Nowels spoke about her brother, World War II Medal of Honor recipient Cpl. Horace M. Thorne. Thorne was killed four days before Christmas in 1944.

Shortly after that, the convoy stopped for a remembrance ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel.

The procession arrived at Arlington on Dec. 13, where Morrill Worcester, placed the two-millionth wreath on the grave of the first Soldier buried at the Cemetery, 67th Pennsylvania infantryman Pvt. William Christman.

In New Jersey, a young Civil Air Patrol cadet was also laying a wreath on a grave at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery.



108TH WRAPS UP YEAR



Above: Airmen from the 108th Wing joined more than 3,000 service members and Department of Defense civilians to listen to their Commander-in Chief, President Barack Obama, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Dec. 15, 2014. The president visited the joint base to express his gratitude to service members and DOD civilians for serving their country and wish them and their families a happy holiday. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff

Sgt. Scott Saldukas/Released) Photo below: Col. Robert A. Meyer Jr, 108th Wing Commander, addresses the Citizen-Airmen of the New Jersey Air National Guard unit located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., during a Commander's Call Dec. 14, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released) (This images was created using the iPhone 6+ panorama application)





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Veterans Services (DVS)

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NJ VETS LIST – (October 2014)

CASA visits JFHQ

Robert J. Maguire, right, The Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for New Jersey, visited Col. Christopher L. Perron, Army Chief of Staff, Joint Force Headquarters New Jersey at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Dec. 18, 2014. Each state, the District of Columbia and the fve U.S. territories have one or more CASAs appointed to provide a vital link between the Army and the communities for which they serve. CASAs are usually business or civic leaders who possess an interest in the welfare of the Army and their communities. CASAs serve a two-year term without compensation. Terms may be extended to a total of 10 years of service, followed by possible appointment as a CASA Senior for an 10 additional years. The Secretary may recognize a Civilian Aide as a CASA Emeritus after 20 years of service. To date, more than 500 individuals have served the Army and the nation as a CASA. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)





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@dmava.nj.gov

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Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen – Layout, photographer

Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Writer, photographer

DMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN



Jan. 13 & 14

DMAVA "Veterans Outreach Campaign" Quaker Bridge Mall (10 a.m. – 8 p.m.)
150 Quaker Bridge Mall,
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Feb. 11

DMAVA Medal Ceremony
Williamstown VFW POST #1616

11 a.m.

1940 North Blackhorse Pike, Williamstown, NJ 08094

DMAVA WILL HAVE A VSO PRESENT AT EACH EVENT TO HELP AND ASSIST ANY VETERAN

Strong Bonds
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To find out more on Strong Bonds, contact Sgt. John Schwartz (609) 324-7039 or visit www.strongbonds.org
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2015 Hiring Our Heroes

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ

A Free Hiring Fair for Veterans,
Transitioning Service Members, and Military Spouses
The Timmerman Conference Center
5441 8th Street, Fort Dix, NJ 08640
Wednesday, January 21, 2015

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: 11:00 A.M.

HIRING FAIR: 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

A Workshop for job seekers that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 11:00AM.

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JOB SEEKERS

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Thanks to our local partners:

- United States Army Reserve
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- New Jersey American Legion
- New Jersey Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (NJ DOL VETS)
- Suiting Warriors
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For registration questions, please email hiringourheroes@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5807.



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CANISIUS COLLEGE

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SAT., JAN. 24 vs. CANISIUS at 7 p.m.
ALUMNI GYM - LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ

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