

June 4, 2024



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

Commissioner's Corner



New Jersey Gov. Philip D. Murphy addresses the audience during the opening of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Veterans Service Office, located at the Township of Union Senior Center, in Union, New Jersey, May 31, 2024.

Veterans Service Offices

With last Friday's ribbon cutting of the State of New Jersey Union County Veterans Service Office, New Jersey Service Members, Veterans, and their families now have a point of entry to access veterans benefits, programs, and services in each of our 21 counties.

In 2023, Governor Murphy pledged to expand the number of veterans service offices from fourteen to one in every county. We opened new offices in Passaic County, Camden County, Middlesex County, Warren County, Cape May County, Salem County, and Union County. I am pleased to see the Governor's vision realized and excited about the assistance they will provide. Staffed by trained and accredited veterans service officers, each location can connect eligible New Jerseyans to employment, education, counseling, housing, medical, and social benefits that they have earned through their service.

In addition to the Governor's leadership, this historic expansion was made possible by the bipartisan support of our partners in the New Jersey Legislature and the commitment of county governments,

municipalities, and Garden State Veterans Service Organizations. I wish to acknowledge the hard work of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs teams who were critical to this initiative's success.

New Jersey is investing more, doing more, and achieving more in the area of state-delivered veterans benefits, programs, and services than at any time in our history. We owe nothing less to the patriots who have done so much for our country. Expanding access is the cornerstone of our efforts to connect those who have worn the uniform with the benefits that they have earned through their service to the United States.

Please help us spread the word! A list of our offices can be found on our webpage: nj.gov/military/veterans/services/vso/ and please call our new hotline: 1-844-671-1019 to reach one of our Veterans Service Officers by phone.

As always, thank you for staying connected to DMAVA.

We invite you to share ideas, events and feedback. Please email our team at outreach@dmava.nj.gov.

Major General Lisa J. Hou, D.O.
The Adjutant General & Commissioner



Invitations



Major General Lisa J. Hou

The Adjutant General
New Jersey Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs

requests the honor of your presence at the

20th Anniversary Remembrance

as the Garden State honors and remembers the four New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers killed in action on June 4-5, 2004. May we never forget the sacrifice of

SSG Frank Carvill
SPC Christopher Duffy

SSG Humberto Timoteo
SGT Ryan Doltz

on Wednesday, the 5th of June 2024 at 11:00 am

Global War on Terrorism Memorial
101 Eggerts Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648



Major General Lisa J. Hou

The Adjutant General
New Jersey Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs

requests the honor of your presence as we
commemorate the

80th Anniversary of D-Day

on Thursday, the 6th of June 2024 at 11:00 am

World War II Memorial
125 W. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608



THE STAFF AND CADETS OF THE
NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY
ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY FOR

CLASS 57

Monday, June 17th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Lawrenceville Armory
151 Eggerts Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

RSVP by Friday, June 7th, 2024 to:
Caitlin.Keenan@dmava.nj.gov or (732) 974-6534

Events

DMAVA Calendar

DMAVA is sponsoring or will participate in the events below. A DMAVA Veterans Service Officer will be present at many of these events. Please check details to confirm.

- June 5 | Lawrenceville
[20th Anniversary Observance of four NJ Army National Guard Soldiers Killed in the Global War on Terrorism](#)
- June 6 | Trenton
[D-Day 80th Anniversary Observance](#)
- June 8 | Bordentown
[Military Appreciation Day / Resource Fair](#)
- June 8 | Berlin
[Braddock Preserve at Winslow Health & Wellness Fair](#)
- June 13 | Sea Girt
[Book Signing at the National Guard Militia Museum of NJ](#)
- June 15 | Sea Girt
[20th Annual SGT Nutter Run](#)
- June 15 | Dover
[Dental Services & Resource Fair](#)
- June 17 | Lawrenceville
[NJ Youth ChalleNge Academy Graduation](#)

- June 18 | Lawrenceville
[Mental Health First Aid Training](#)
- June 18 | Sea Girt
[Quarterly Women's Open Forum](#)

Community Calendar

We add new events to our calendar on a daily basis so please bookmark and check back often.

[View Full Calendar](#)

Featured Event



Ceremony to honor Grace Banker with a Signal Corps "Distinguished Member of the Regiment". This will be presented by Col (retired) Linda Jantzen US Signal Corps to Graces's granddaughter, Carolyn Timbie. Know of Grace's History 100 years ago at the Cenotaph dedication ceremony in 1924 along with Gen Pershing.

Saturday, June 8th, 11am
Armory Park,
in front of the Cenotaph memorial in Passaic, NJ.
(Intersection of Main Ave and Prospect Street).



Grace Banker was a native in Passaic, NJ. She was the Chief Operator of the 1st Unit of Hello Girls (Signal Corps Tel Operators) that deployed to France. She was the only woman in the Signal Corps to be honored in 1919 with the Distinguished Service Medal. She and the 223 women returned to America after the war only to be denied their veteran status. They fought for 60 years and at last were recognized but received no benefits except to have their service recognized on their headstone. Women like Grace (amongst others) didn't live to see the day of recognition.

Spotlight



State Memorial Day Ceremony

Congressman Andy Kim, 3rd District; New Jersey Gov. Philip D. Murphy, Maj. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey, along with the New Jersey National Guard leadership, state veterans and community organizations, and several hundred attendees honored New Jersey's fallen service members during the annual State Memorial Day ceremony at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, New Jersey, May 25, 2024.

The Cemetery, dedicated in 1986, is New Jersey's sole state-operated veterans' cemetery and is managed by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. It is the final resting place for more than 88,900 veterans and family members.

[View Images](#)

NJ National Guard



44th IBCT

Soldiers assigned to Task Force Guardian, along with service members from various coalition forces, complete the "Murph Challenge," which requires each participant to run 1-mile, complete

100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 squats, and finish with another 1-mile run.

The workout has become a Memorial Day tradition among service members to honor U.S. Navy SEAL Lt. Michael P. Murphy, who was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2005, and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during Operation Red Wings.

[View Images](#)



Task Force Redleg LFX

U.S. Army Soldiers of Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery Regiment, 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, conduct a live-fire exercise utilizing the M119 Howitzer, in Iraq, May 28, 2024.

The exercise was conducted in order to maintain proficiency and readiness in support of the Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve mission.

[View Images](#)



Recruiting and Retention Battalion

Soldiers, both past and present, took part in the Passaic Township Memorial Day parade. The Passaic Recruiting Office proudly represented the New Jersey Army National Guard.

Join Our Team

100% Free College Tuition
Bonuses up to \$20,000
Student Loan Repayment



DMAVA Veterans Services



State VSO Opened in Union County

Leaders from the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; state legislators, county officials, and veterans join in opening a new DMAVA Veterans Services Office, located in the Township of Union Senior Center, in Union, NJ on May 31, 2024.

The new office will serve as a one-stop resource for veterans and their families. With the opening of the Union office, all 21 New Jersey counties are now equipped with a Veterans Service Office.

[View Images](#)



Veterans Honored at VFW Convention

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs held a State Medal Ceremony at the Wildwood Convention Center in Wildwood, NJ on May 31, 2024. Twenty-two female veterans were awarded medals during the Department of New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars annual convention.

[View Images](#)



Veterans Honored

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs held a State Medal Ceremony in South Brunswick, NJ on May 23, 2024.

(L-to-R) Eugene Holland, Michael Bongo, Bob Saiewitz and Joseph Hellerman live together at Brandywine Princeton where they received their service medals.

View the news coverage on [PIX11](#).

NEW JERSEY VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE



**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**The Benefits Guide has been updated
effective May 17, 2024.**

[Get Current Edition](#)



SMS Alerts - Text "NJVets" to 78015

Opt-in now to receive SMS Alerts from DMAVA! Text "NJVets" to 78015 or scan the QR code above and send. You will be immediately opted-in to receive alerts and important messages from the Division of Veterans Services.

This service is provided free of charge, however, carrier messaging and data rates may apply. To opt-out at any time, simply reply "Stop".

**THE DMAVA READJUSTMENT
COUNSELING PROGRAM PROVIDES
VETERANS WITH:**

**INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING
GROUP COUNSELING
FAMILY COUNSELING**

**SCAN THE CODE AND CALL YOUR
LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER,**

OR CALL:

(888) 865-8387,

OR EMAIL:

VBB@DMAVA.NJ.GOV



**SUPPORT
IS PEER TO PEER**



**Call Us 24/7
7 days a week
(866) 838-7654**



NJ Veterans' Benefits Hotline

888-865-8387
vbb@dmava.nj.gov

Veterans Outreach Schedule

Veterans Service Offices

DMAVA Departments



CounterDrug Task Force

NEWARK, NJ - Drug Enforcement Administration Agents partnered with the New Jersey National Guard CounterDrug Task Force to collect and dispose of unwanted prescription medications during Operation Take Back New Jersey, April 30, 2024.

Operation Take Back New Jersey is a biannual event that encourages residents to safely dispose of unused or expired medications consequence-free.

Since 1973 when the DEA declared war on the epidemic of drug overdoses nationwide, Take Back Days have helped communities in need to address public health, environmental, and nationwide security concerns by safely disposing of unused and expired medications.

There were 240 collection sites across the state and 218 Law Enforcement Agencies participated, helping provide a total of 14,459 lbs. of unwanted prescription medications which were collected and disposed of at the Covanta Essex Resource Recovery Facility in Newark, NJ.

For more information on National DEA Take Back Day, please visit dea.gov/takebackday.

NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.




TUITION
FREE

Now accepting applications
for Class 58 - July 2024.

APPLY
NOW!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

 njyca.org/admissions

 rpm@dmava.nj.gov

 (800) 997-5587 / (732) 974-6516



Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and
Belonging

DEIB Newsletter

NJ National Guard Family Programs

May 2024

May Newsletter

State Partners



Civil Service Commission's
STATEWIDE
JOB FAIR
Connecting talents, building the future of New Jersey.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
CSC
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION



RAMAPO
COLLEGE
OF NEW JERSEY



STATE
AS A
MODEL
EMPLOYER
Empowering
Abilities,
Embracing
Inclusivity
www.nj.gov/csc

Government Agencies, Colleges & Universities
are looking for talented individuals like you.

Date & Time
Tuesday, June 18, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location
Ramapo College
Bill Bradley Sports & Recreation Center
505 Ramapo Valley Road
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430

Parking Available
Guests may park in **Lots B, C, & D**

More Details

- 3 breakout sessions on how to apply for a State Job will be on the second floor (Room Q225)
- Onsite Typing Certification Test will be administered on the second floor (Room Q223 Computer Lab)

Register using the link below
<https://forms.office.com/g/xD4RKFWT9e>



SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER

NJ State Agencies

- [Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicides among Service Members, Veterans & Their Families](#)
- [The New Jersey's Governor "We Value Our Veterans" Awards](#)
- [Vote For Valor](#)
- [Career Services for Veterans](#)
- [Tax Resources for Military/Veterans](#)
- [Educator Certification for Military Spouses and Veterans](#)
- [Civil Service Preference for Veterans](#)
- [NJ National Guard Hunting / Fishing Licenses](#)
- [NJ Special Hawker and Peddlers License](#)
- [Veterans Designation for Drivers License](#)
- [Military CDL Skills Waiver Program](#)
- [Disabled Veteran / Purple Heart Recipient Placards](#)
- [Disabled Veteran Hunting and Fishing Licenses](#)
- [Veteran and Disabled Veteran-Owned Business](#)
- [Division of Consumer Affairs Military Outreach & Support](#)
- [Professional & Occupational Licenses for Veterans and Spouses](#)
- [Military and Overseas Voting](#)
- [Troops to Teachers](#)
- [Journey Through Jersey](#)

Federal Partners



Finish your benefits claims within one year to be eligible for the most backdated benefits

VA News | May 29, 2024

Last year, more Veterans submitted their “[intent to file](#)” (ITF) for benefits claims than [ever before](#). These ITFs are disability compensation claims that Veterans started, but didn’t finish, and they’re an important tool because they help Veterans preserve their earliest possible effective date for their benefits claim, which makes them potentially eligible for backdated benefits.

If you submitted an ITF last year, you must act fast. You only have 365 days from when you submitted your ITF to complete it.

[Read Full News Feature](#)

Veteran trust in VA has increased 25% since 2016, reaches all-time high

VA News | May 28, 2024

WASHINGTON - Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that Veteran trust in VA has reached an [all-time high of 80.4%](#) — up from 55% when the survey began in 2016. This is based on a survey of 38,293 Veterans who used a wide range of VA services between January 1 – March 31, including health care, disability compensation benefits, memorial affairs, the GI Bill, home loans, and more. Those Veterans were asked whether they “trust VA to fulfill our country’s commitment to Veterans.”

[Read Full News Release](#)



VA Benefits for Veterans with 100% Disability Update

In this episode of theSITREP, the host discusses 14 different VA benefits that Veterans qualify for when they are receiving 100% Service-Connected Disability

[The SitRep Podcast](#)



VIETNAM **GULF WAR** **POST - 9/11**

**WERE YOU EXPOSED TO BURN PITS,
NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CHEMICALS,
AGENT ORANGE, OR OTHER TOXINS
WHILE SERVING IN THE MILITARY?**



**Apply for VA
health care today
at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).**

VA  U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Have questions?
Call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 0
to speak with someone right away.

Featured Links

- [National Parks Pass](#)
- [VALife Insurance](#)
- [VA Urgent Care Services](#)
- [Accessing Records from the National Archives or NPRC](#)
- [PACT Act Performance Dashboard](#)
- [How to Check Your PACT Act Claim Status](#)
- [Download VA Benefit Letters](#)
- [Podcasts on Veterans' Issues](#)
- [VA Health and Benefits Mobile App](#)
- [Women Veterans Call Center](#)

- [Veterans Legacy Memorial](#)
- [Million Veteran Program](#)
- [#VetResources](#)

Community Spotlight

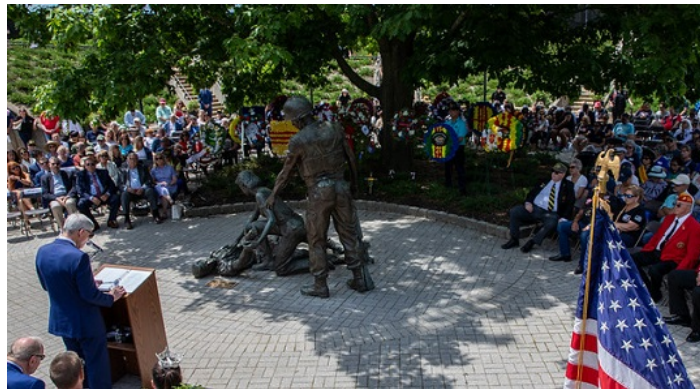


42,000 Flags

More than 1,000 New Jersey Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, and family members placed more than 42,000 American flags on graves at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Wrightstown, NJ on May 24, 2024.

The Cemetery, dedicated in 1986, is New Jersey's sole state-operated veterans' cemetery and is managed by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. It is the final resting place for more than 88,900 veterans and family members.

[View Images](#)



NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial

A ceremony was held for Memorial Day at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum in Holmdel, New Jersey, May 27, 2024.

[View Images](#)



Union High School JROTC

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Mischa LeGoff, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 150th Assault Helicopter Regiment, talks to cadets with the Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps from Union High School about army aviation and information on college ROTC programs at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, NJ on May 30, 2024.

The New Jersey Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion organized and lead the tour of the base while providing JROTC cadets history and information on the National Guard.

[View Images](#)

In The News



NJ veterans visit local cemeteries and pay tribute to those who lost their lives in service

Nick Iadonisi | 6ABC | May 27, 2024

MEDFORD, New Jersey (WPVI) -- This group of South Jersey veterans gathered at local cemeteries to honor the sacrifices of fallen soldiers throughout time.

The Medford Township Veterans of Foreign Wars saluted them with ceremonies including prayer, taps, and a firing squad.

"It's important that everybody remembers those that served this country, served this nation. They gave their lives for us. And so this

is in remembrance in honor of them and their families," said Mark Preston, Commander of Medford VFW Post 7677.

[View Video Story](#)



Residents of Glassboro, NJ fill the streets to honor service members on Memorial Day

Nick Iadonisi | 6ABC | May 27, 2024

GLASSBORO, New Jersey (WPVI) -- From marching bands to a flyover from the Air Force, residents of Glassboro were given a spectacular parade this morning.

All of this was to honor service members who lost their lives for the holiday today.

It was one of over 100 Memorial Day Parades for the borough over the years.

"Glassboro has a strong, tight commitment to our veterans and the fallen heroes...The whole parade just means so much to me. Just being out and about with the residents of Glassboro is everything," said Mayor of Glassboro Borough, John E. Wallace III.

[View Video Story](#)



After Princeton graduation, ROTC students are commissioned as U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force officers

Rebekah Schroeder | Princeton Univ. | May 29, 2024

Nine members of Princeton's Class of 2024 became commissioned officers in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force on May 28 during a ceremony led by Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli, a Class of

1987 alumnus who was commissioned through Princeton's ROTC program more than 30 years ago.

Cavoli is NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe and commander of the U.S. European Command. He is a recipient of Princeton's Woodrow Wilson Award, the University's highest undergraduate alumni honor. The ROTC Commissioning was held in the Faculty Room of Nassau Hall a few hours after Princeton's Commencement.

[Read Full Story](#)

Servicemember Spotlight



Fini Flight

Col. William Liess, former commander of the 108th Operations Group, completed his final flight at the [108th Wing](#) on May 29, 2024. His family and teammates celebrated his return and honored his 33 years of service.

Never Forget

In Honor of all those from New Jersey who gave their lives in the fight against terrorism during Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In humble gratitude, we remember their sacrifice.

June 4, 2004

Operation Iraqi Freedom

**SSG Frank Timothy
Carvill**

U.S. Army

Carlstadt, New Jersey

June 5, 2004

Operation Iraqi Freedom

**SSG Humberto F.
Timoteo**

U.S. Army

Newark, New Jersey

June 4, 2004
Operation Iraqi Freedom
SPC Christopher M. Duffy
U.S. Army
Brick, New Jersey

June 14, 2007
Operation Iraqi Freedom
SPC Farid Elazzouzi
U.S. Army
Elizabeth, New Jersey

June 5, 2004
Operation Iraqi Freedom
SGT Ryan Edward Doltz
U.S. Army
Mine Hill, New Jersey

June 18, 2007
Operation Iraqi Freedom
SGT Eric L. Snell
U.S. Army
Trenton, New Jersey

*"But on the battlefield their feet stood fast, and in an instant at the height of their fortune, they passed away from the scene, not of their fear, but of their glory."
~ Pericles*

NJ Fallen Heroes Memorial

History



June 6, 1780

Hessian General Wilhelm Von Knyphausen crossed from Staten Island to Elizabethtown with 6,000 British and Hessian troops at midnight, intending to push through Hobart's gap to Morristown the following day.

June 6, 1862

The First New Jersey Cavalry was ambushed in the Shenandoah Valley and suffered forty casualties, including Colonel Percy Wyndham, who was captured, and Captain Thomas Ryerson Haines, son of former New Jersey governor Daniel Haines, who was killed in action.

June 6, 1878

John P. Holland of Paterson tested his first submarine design in the Passaic River. Although he claimed it seaworthy, the U.S. Navy rejected his plans.

June 8, 1944

The men of the New Jersey National Guard's 102nd Cavalry, who had floated offshore for two days, landed at Omaha Beach on D-Day plus two, as the beachhead had been expanded enough to accommodate the unit's vehicles. In the following weeks, Sergeant Curtis Culin of Cranford and the 102nd devised the "Rhino Plow," a device that, attached to the front of tanks, cut through the hedgerows of Normandy, vitally assisting the allied armies in breaking out of their beachhead. In the ensuing months, the 102nd fought its way across Europe, on the way gaining the honor of being the first United States unit to enter Paris in August 1944.

June 9, 1922

The Princeton Battle Monument, created by sculptor Frederick MacMonnies and architect Thomas Hastings to commemorate General George Washington's January 3, 1777 victory over the British, was dedicated by President Warren Harding. The sculpture depicts Washington leading his troops to victory and the mortal wounding of General Hugh Mercer, for whom Mercer County was later named.

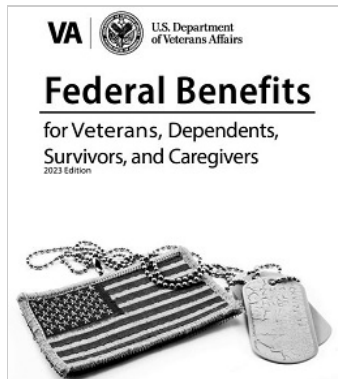
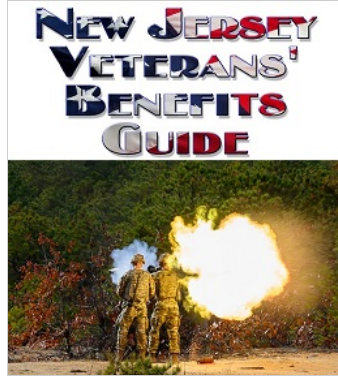
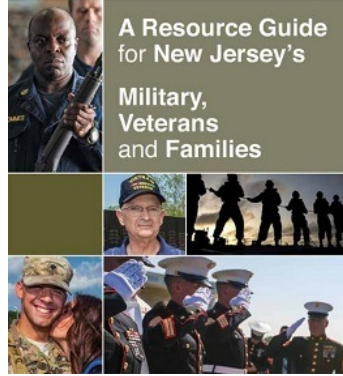
June 14, 1917

Two months after the United States entry into World War I, the first troop transports headed for Europe left Hoboken, which became the leading port of embarkation for American soldiers for the duration of the war. Of the approximately 2,000,000 American troops who sailed to Europe, 1,600,000 left from the Hudson County port city.

June 15, 1864

The Twenty-second United States Colored Infantry, a regiment composed mostly of New Jersey African-American soldiers, was part of a force that broke through the Confederate defenses of Petersburg. The Twenty-second captured an enemy fort and artillery pieces, but their army corps commander, Major General William F. "Baldy" Smith, halted the victorious advance. When Confederate reinforcements arrived, Petersburg was saved and a ten month siege of the critical rail junction began.

Resources



DMAVA Careers

We Are Hiring!

At the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs we take our work in support of Veterans, Servicemembers and their families very seriously. Whether supporting our Veterans with nursing care, transitional housing, or assisting them in navigating access to their Veteran benefits, the Department provides valuable services and can offer rewarding career opportunities to members of the public.

We also have opportunities in facilities management and program management. In addition, we have job openings for members of our military to serve in AGR and Federal Technician roles.

Subscribe to [DMAVA Jobs Bulletin](#) to stay updated on job openings.

Vacancies

Stay Connected



We hope you enjoy receiving our newsletter and find it both educational and engaging. If you have questions about our department, our programs or your benefits, please visit our website at nj.gov/military to get contact information.

Contact DMAVA

Please email us at outreach@dmava.nj.gov with feedback and comments regarding the newsletter. If you would like to contribute with an item of interest to our subscribers, please email us your proposal.

Visit the [DMAVA archives](#) to view previous editions of our newsletter.

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