



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED  
APRIL 2012

# Veteran Journal



# 2012 NJDMAVA OUTREACH SCHEDULE



**April 24, Wyckoff Family YMCA Veterans Breakfast And Expo**  
 Outreach event only  
 691 Wyckoff Ave., Wyckoff, NJ 07481



**April 17\*, 18, 19, Livingston Mall**  
 Medal Ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on April 17  
 112 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston, NJ 07039

**May 7, New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial**  
 New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day Ceremony at 11 a.m.  
 A DMAVA medal ceremony will be included in this ceremony  
 DMAVA will have an outreach table with VSO present  
 PNC Bank Arts Center, Garden State Parkway Exit 116  
 Holmdel, NJ, 07777



**May 21, Battleship New Jersey**  
 DMAVA medal ceremony only at 11 a.m.  
 Ceremony will be held on ship (front or "aft" area)  
 62 Battleship Place, Camden, NJ, 08103



**June, Wildwood Convention Center**  
 Outreach events only  
 Elks State Convention: May 31 – June 1  
 American Legion State Convention: June 6 – 8  
 Veterans Of Foreign Wars State Convention: June 13 – 15  
 Wildwood Convention Center  
 4501 Boardwalk, Wildwood, NJ 08260



**New Jersey awards five service medals – the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal, New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal, New Jersey Korean Service Medal, New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal and the New Jersey POW-MIA Service Medal. Anyone interested in applying should call 1-888-8NJ-VETS (1-888-865-8387) and press 7, to request an application.**

# The DCVA's message

Dear Veterans,

One of the things that makes my job easier is the fact that the veterans' community in New Jersey is one of the most vibrant and dedicated in the nation.

You are an amazing group of men and women who epitomize selfless service, helping fellow veterans and serving as leaders in your communities.

With all that you give, it's difficult for me to ask you for more. Yet, here goes.

Whenever you can, share your story of your time in uniform with someone who doesn't know much about the military. Talk about why you served and how it shaped your life.

Here's why that's important. The number of Americans serving in our armed services is at its lowest point in America's modern history; fewer than one percent of Americans have a family member in uniform and only one in five members of Congress are military veterans.

James Sheehan, a prominent Stanford University historian, wrote recently that this disconnect between the American public and the military that serves it has begun to subtly change the way people think about what it means to be an American.

"Citizenship now has much more to do with rights and entitlements than with duties," Sheehan wrote. "...The American military is something that we should be proud of. It shouldn't be seen as something being done by someone else."

As veterans, we have the opportunity to start to close that widening gap.

An increased awareness among our fellow Americans about the value of military service and the contributions made every day by people who have served in it will pay dividends on many fronts.

In the short term, a public with a fuller appreciation for our military and the kinds of people who serve just might lead more employers to seek to hire veterans. The importance of this can't be understated. Right now, the veterans' unemployment rate in New Jersey is in excess of eight percent and the majority of those looking for work are young people who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As veterans, we can do our part by helping people understand that service in the military tends to create attributes every employer seeks, such as loyalty, dependability and dedication.

Here's another reason to share your story. It is a part of history.

In this issue, you'll read about the work undertaken by Carol Fowler at the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey. Over the past decade, Fowler has worked tirelessly to create oral histories that preserve the service experiences of a great cross section of New Jersey veterans. She's interviewed more than 400 veterans for the project and her work continues. Please consider participating in this worthy project.

No matter where your story is told, it has the power to instruct, inspire and reveal fundamental truths about what it means to be an American.



Gov. Chris Christie addresses veterans commanders at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt on Oct. 2, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

VeteranN  
Journal

Chris Christie  
Governor

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Adjutant General

Raymond L. Zawacki  
Deputy Commissioner for  
Veterans Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer 3  
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Staff Writer/Photographer

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Staff Writer/Photographer

The VeteranN Journal is an official publication of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and is intended to serve New Jersey's veterans, their families, friends and concerned individuals and groups. All correspondence should be sent to: Veteran Journal Editor, NJDMAVA/PA, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340.

## Cover: Final honors

A ceremony for the remains of 12 veterans was held at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery on August 4, 2011. This ceremony was part of the New Jersey's Mission of Honor for Remains of American Veterans whose mission is to locate, identify and inter the orphaned and abandoned cremations of veterans. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA Public Affairs)

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# Keeping the memory alive

By Spc. Sherwood Goodenough, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In the early summer of 2001, with only a borrowed camcorder and a donated VHS tape, an intern at National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey began taping the stories of veterans.

A decade and more than 400 interviews later, that internship evolved into the life's work for Carol Fowler, now the museum's assistant curator and director of its Center for U.S. War Veterans Oral Histories.

The project, which began as collaboration between the Library of Congress and regional partners, collects and records stories of veterans in their own words. For Fowler, who conducts interviews from the museum's headquarters in Sea Girt, this cataloging of memories is important not only for its value to historians, it's become a way for veterans to tell personal stories that would otherwise go untold.

The Middletown resident speaks in nearly breathless excitement and confesses to getting chills as she recounts the unimagined outcomes that evolved from choosing to add a human voice to nearly every conflict since WWII.

"The key is to listen," she said. "It's inspiring."

The project has taken her to the offices of former Gov. Brendan Byrne, where she interviewed the WWII veteran about his service as a B-17 navigator. She's formed friendships with women who were the first nurses in occupied Okinawa and a soldier who helped Marilyn Monroe take off her boots in Korea. These first-hand accounts provide an intimate human perspective that might otherwise disappear between the major headlines.

Although the numbers of Iraq and Afghanistan participants are growing,



Carol Fowler, right, director, Center for U.S. War Veterans Oral Histories at the National Guard Militia Museum interviews a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (NJDMAVA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven)

the vast majority of stories come from WWII-era soldiers, Fowler said.

"They're at the point where they're reflective in their senior years," she said. "Many have never talked about it before and now they feel it's time."

While the interviews are simple, fluid, and conversational, they have led to unexpected reunions of old comrades, closure for bereaved loved ones and have helped in the healing process of those still suffering from the trauma of war.

Bob Silverman, a retired research engineer and former Army Signal officer from Long Branch, NJ, is one of the museum's volunteer docents. He considers her work significant because of the new life it gives the legacy of those who served.

"Capturing soldiers' memories for the generation that is coming to the end of their lives is important," he said. "We need to remember what they've seen and heard."

Fowler began her work three months before the tragic events of

Sept. 11, 2001 so as she nears the 10 year anniversary of her work she's reminded of how Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, Commander of the NJ Air National Guard, ended her interview.

"I ask at the end of each interview if the veteran has a message of peace for tomorrow's generation," Fowler said. "Some give the answer to go into the military."

"Maria Falca-Dodson had a unique answer. She said nowadays you see everyone texting and emailing and we've lost that personal face-to-face communication."

Falca-Dodson's comments made her realize the importance of the work she does as new generations of warriors are minted daily.

"The oral history project will never die and hopefully there will always be someone here to do this," Fowler said.

Veterans may schedule an interview by contacting Ms. Fowler at (732) 974-5966 or visiting [www.nj.gov/military/museum/oralhistory.html](http://www.nj.gov/military/museum/oralhistory.html).

# Vets Haven gets a hand up

Photo by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA Public Affairs

Volunteers from Norix Furniture, the American Legion of New Jersey and cadets from the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy, pass chairs up the three-story stairwell at Veterans Haven in Winslow Township, N.J. on July 19, 2011. The furniture donation was Robert Looby's 2010 American Legion of New Jersey Commander's Project. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA Public Affairs)



# Furniture delivery

Story by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, Photos by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA Public Affairs



*The volunteers from Norix Furniture, the American Legion of New Jersey and the New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy cadets.*

With the generosity from the American Legion of New Jersey and assistance from Cadets from the New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy, the Veterans Haven in Winslow Township, N.J. received on July 19, 2011 much needed furniture for their nearly completed addition.

Volunteers unloaded the furniture and then carried it up several flights of stairs to their final destination inside the Veterans Haven.



Veterans Haven assistant superintendent, Sean P. VanLew, was extremely grateful for the donated furniture and help during the unloading of the furniture.

The furniture donation was Robert Looby's 2010 American Legion of New Jersey Commander's Project .

“The Cadets were respectful, polite, motivated and well prepared,” said VanLew in an e-mail. “They assimilated themselves into the existing work detail, and attacked the project with a vigor and voraciousness that it seems only Challenge cadets bring to the table. They represented themselves and the academy very well. I am proud of them, and grateful to them for their hard, back breaking work.”

New Jersey has among its homeless population an estimated 7,000 to 8,000 veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

The Veterans Transitional Housing Program (Veterans Haven) is a New Jersey State operated facility for homeless veterans. After being medically evaluated at a VA Medical Center, eligible veterans must agree to a long-term program focusing on psychological, social and vocational rehabilitation.

Veterans admitted to Veterans Haven come to a 55 bed, addiction-free program with a staff that are sensitive to the multiple needs they present.

With the new addition to the facility, the Veterans Haven will expand its program by an additional 44 beds.



# TUSKEGEE AIRMAN EARNS PAGE IN NEW JERSEY'S HISTORY

By Col. Roger Pharo and retired Tech. Sgt. John Carothers; illustration by Chief Master Sgt. Donald Taggart

Although just 29 years old when he died in an aircraft mishap, 1st Lt. Thomas E. Williams had secured a place in history by helping usher in the civil rights movement.

Following his graduation from West Philadelphia High School in 1942, Williams enlisted in the United States Army Air Force and entered into the Army Air Force Pilot Training Program at the Tuskegee Army Airfield, Ala.

Following his separation from active duty in August 1946, he served in the Air Force Reserves while pursuing higher education.

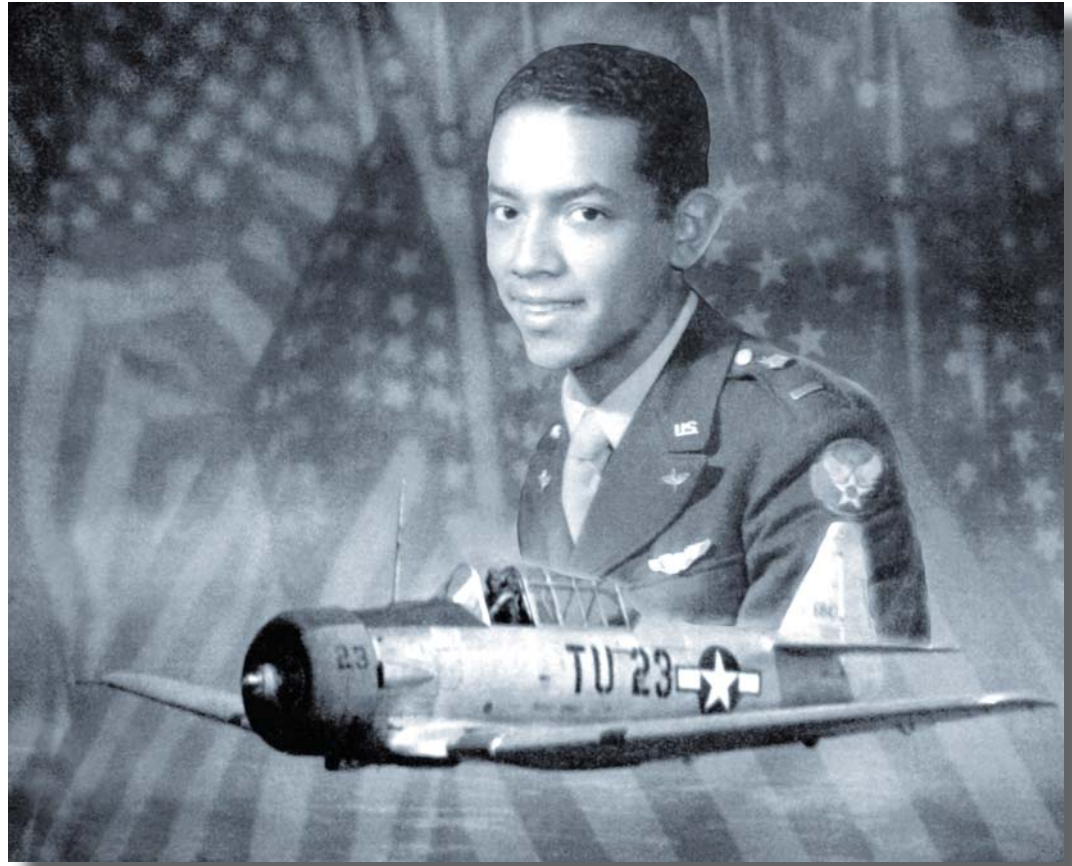
During the Korean War, Williams returned to active duty and volunteered for combat duty. While serving he attended Basic Instructor's School at Craig Air Force Base, Selma, Ala.

On June 23, 1953, while commuting in full service dress from Eglin Field, Fla., back to Selma, Williams politely declined to yield his seat -- third from the back of the bus -- and move to the extreme rear of the bus. This action resulted in his being charged under the Jim Crow laws. In a Crestview, Fla., courtroom, Williams challenged this charge as violation of his Constitutional rights. The Florida judge decided that his court could not hear such a challenge and referred the matter to a higher court, releasing Williams pending the new trial.

Williams met with the NAACP's special counsel, Thurgood Marshall. Marshall requested that the Air Force allow Williams to return to active duty, but Williams declined and instead opted to join the New Jersey Air National Guard on May 7, 1954.

His entry into the NJANG was paved in February 1948, by Governor Alfred Driscoll who ignored federal policy mandating segregation and ordered the full integration of the New Jersey National Guard months before President Harry Truman's Executive Order 9981.

On May 7, 1954, Williams became a member of the New Jersey Air National Guard and was assigned to the 141st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 108th Fighter-Bomber Group, McGuire Air Force Base. That day Williams not



only became the first African-American to serve in the New Jersey Air National Guard but in the entire Air National Guard as well.

On May 13, the Eighty-Third Congress convened hearings before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. First Lieutenant Thomas E. Williams was the first witness called. His testimony was instrumental in the passage of a bill to amend the Interstate Commerce Act prohibiting the segregation of passengers in interstate commerce on the basis of color or race.

Eighteen months later, on Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks also refused to move to the back of the bus.

During a routine training mission on Jan. 15, 1955, Williams' F-86A Sabre aircraft entered into an unrecoverable spin. During the ejection sequence, the jettisoned canopy struck Williams' helmet fatally injuring him.

Maj. Arthur E. Martone, Commander, 141st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, wrote to Williams' sister, Mrs. Hilda Picou, "Thomas has been with us just a short time and during the period he lived up to the standards and traditions of the Air Force and New Jersey Air National Guard."

*Historical research provided by retired Master Sgt. Michael Stowe and retired Staff Sgt. Stephan Clanton. Historical information courtesy of the Williams and Picou families.*

# New Jersey's medals

## New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal

The New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal was originally issued in 1858 for those who had distinguished themselves in the New Jersey Militia, but was infrequently used until re-authorized by Governor Kean in 1988. It is New Jersey's highest military award.

Eligibility criteria:

~ combat veteran as defined by law.

~ current New Jersey resident.

~ a state resident at the time they entered into military service.

~ honorably discharged.

~ proof of service in combat theater while on active duty during wartime. No one shall be entitled to more than one award of the medal and ribbon.

Oak Leaf Cluster - Those recipients whose service was recognized by the award of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal or equivalent medal will receive a N.J. Distinguished Service Medal with an oak leaf cluster.

## New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal

Eligibility criteria:

~ current New Jersey resident.

~ on active duty in any branch of the armed forces of the United States in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos or Cambodia or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after December 31, 1960 and on or before May 7, 1975.

~ meet one of the following four "in country" requirements:

(a) were attached to or served for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations.

(b) were attached to or served for one or more days aboard a United States Naval vessel directly supporting military operations.

(c) participated as a crew member in one or more aerial flights into airspace above Vietnam and contiguous waters directly supporting military operations.

(d) served on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in Vietnam or contiguous areas, except that this time limit may be waived for persons par-

ticipating in actual combat operations.

## New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal

This medal is awarded to combat veterans who were not New Jersey residents when they entered the military service, but who are current New Jersey residents and have resided in the state for the previous five years. All other qualifications are the same as for the Distinguished Service Medal.

## New Jersey Korean Service Medal

Eligibility criteria:

~ New Jersey residents on active duty in the armed forces in Korea, Japan, or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after June 23, 1950 and on or before January 31, 1955, and

~ were attached to or served for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations; or

~ were attached to or served for one or more days aboard a United States Naval vessel directly supporting military operations; or

~ participated as a crew member in one or more aerial flights into airspace above Korea or contiguous areas, except that this time limit may be waived for persons participating in actual combat operations; or

## New Jersey POW-MIA Service Medal

Presented to individuals who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Armed Forces in a combat theater of operations during time of war or emergency, was taken prisoner and held captive and/or listed as missing in action.

Eligibility criteria:

- New Jersey resident

- Resident of New Jersey upon entry on active duty

- Served in a combat theater and was officially listed as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the Department of Defense.

- Received an honorable discharge.

Each of these awards can be presented posthumously to the surviving spouse or immediate family member of any state resident meeting the requirements for the medal who was killed while on active duty or who died after receiving an honorable discharge.



Photo by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA Public Affairs

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS  
APPLICATION FOR AWARD / PROGRAM**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Print or type information. • Attach a copy of DD Form 214 or WD Form 53 • Attach a copy of death certificate (if applicable)
- **Mail to:** NJ Dept of Military & Veterans Affairs, ATTN: DVS-VBB (Awards), PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340
- For further information - Phone 609-530-7035
- **Any missing information your request will not be processed**

**Program or Award Requested: (Check all that apply)**

- NJ Distinguished Service Medal**     
  **NJ Vietnam Service Medal**     
  **NJ POW/MIA Service Medal**  
 **NJ Meritorious Service Medal**     
  **NJ Korean Service Medal**

**VETERAN'S INFORMATION**

1. Name ( <i>Last, First, Middle Initial</i> ) .....	2. Service Number / SSN .....	3. Rank/Grade Held Upon Honorable Discharge .....
4. Address: Street: ..... Apt ..... City: ..... State ..... Zip Code ..... County ..... Home Phone: (.....) ..... Business phone: (.....) ..... Cell Phone: (.....) ..... E-Mail Address: .....		5. Residency Upon Entry on Active Duty:  City: .....  State: .....

**MILITARY SERVICE INFORMATION**

6. Branch of Service ..... (*Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine*)
7. War Time Service (*Check all that apply*)  
 World War I   
  World War II   
  Korean War   
  Vietnam War   
  Desert Shield/Storm   
  Enduring Freedom   
  Iraqi Freedom
8. Type of Combat  
 Ground     
  Air     
  Sea
- 8a. Theater of Operations: (*Check all that apply*)  
 European-African-Middle Eastern   
  Asiatic Pacific   
  North Atlantic   
  American   
  Southeast Asiatic   
  Southwest Asiatic
9. What Veteran's Organizations do you belong to? (If any).....

**POSTHUMOUS AWARD**     **YES**     **NO** (*If YES - Complete the following*)    **(Attach copy of Death Certificate)**

10. Name of Person to Receive Award (*Last, First, Middle Initial*)      Relationship to Deceased Veteran  
 .....      .....

11. Address  
 Street ..... City ..... State ..... Zip Code .....  
 Home Phone: (.....) ..... Business Phone: (.....) ..... Cell Phone: (.....) .....  
 E-Mail Address: .....

12. Presentation Ceremony Requested  <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SIGNATURE .....	Date .....
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**For Use by Approving Authority: NJ Dept of Military & Veterans Affairs:**

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

<b>NJ Distinguished Service Medal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in time of war or national emergency in a combat theater of operation.</li><li>-Current or past resident of NJ for a minimum of 20 years.</li><li>-Resident of NJ upon entry on Active Duty.</li><li>-Posthumous award authorized.</li></ul>
<b>NJ Vietnam Service Medal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Current Resident of NJ.</li><li>-Served on Active Duty on or after Dec. 31, 1960 and on or before May 7, 1975 in Vietnam; Thailand, Laos, Cambodia (or contiguous waters or airspace).</li><li>-Posthumous award authorized.</li></ul>
<b>NJ Meritorious Service Medal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in time of war or National emergency in a combat theater of operation.</li><li>-<b>Non-Resident</b> of NJ upon entry on Active Duty.</li><li>-Current Resident of NJ, having resided in NJ for at least the past 5 years.</li><li>-Posthumous award authorized.</li></ul>
<b>NJ Korean Service Medal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Current Resident of NJ.</li><li>-Served on Active Duty on or after June 23, 1950 and on or before January 31, 1955 in Korea, or contiguous waters or airspace thereof; and.</li><li>-Posthumous award authorized</li></ul>
<b>NJ POW/MIA Service Medal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Current resident of NJ</li><li>-Resident of New Jersey upon entry on Active Duty</li><li>-Served in a combat theater and was officially listed as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the US Dept of Defense.</li><li>-Posthumous award authorized</li></ul>

**NOTE: An honorable discharge is a mandatory requirement for any New Jersey state award.**

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Complete and sign application on front side of this form.

Provide a copy of: **(DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS)**

- Proof of residency (Any document showing name and home address)
- DD Form 214 indicating Honorable Discharge
- Evidence of active duty service in qualifying areas or contiguous waters or airspace
- Evidence of status as POW or MIA

Submit completed application and documents to:

The Adjutant General  
New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs  
ATTN: DVS-VBB (Awards)  
PO Box 340  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

# The Veterans History Project

The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

The Project collects first-hand accounts of the following wars:

World War I (1914-1920)

World War II (1939-1946)

Korean War (1950-1955)

Vietnam War (1961-1975)

Persian Gulf War (1990-1995)

Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present)

In addition, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) are also invited to share their stories.

The Veterans History Project (VHP) is a congressionally mandated program created in 2000 within the Library of Congress American Folklife Center that collects, preserves and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans.

The Project is primarily an oral history program that collects and preserves the first-hand interviews of America's wartime veterans. The project relies on volunteers, both individuals and organizations, throughout the nation to contribute

veterans' stories to VHP. In addition to audio- and video-recorded interviews, the Project accepts memoirs, collections of original photographs and letters, diaries, maps and other historical documents from World War I through current conflicts.

Once processed, the veteran's service history will be available online and the interview (or other materials) will be available to researchers and the general public. Some collections are also used by the Library of Congress in presentations, exhibitions, publications and events to promote the Veterans History Project.

For those who are interested in interviewing veterans for the project, a field kit is available online that contains all the tips, guidelines, and tools you need to conduct an interview of a veteran. A fifteen-minute field kit explains the VHP interview process from beginning to end, including special tips that help contributors navigate the field kit.

The Veterans History Project Information Center is located in Room LM-109 of the Madison Building and is open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, and is closed on all federal holidays.

Collections are not served to researchers or to the general public in the VHP Information Center. Please make an appointment with research staff to view your own or any other collections.

For more information about the Veterans History Project go to their website at [www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html](http://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html).

## Paramus gets multi-purpose room

*A ribbon cutting ceremony for a \$2.6 million multi-purpose room at the Paramus Veterans Memorial Home was held on Aug. 9, 2011. The creation of the 7,900 square-foot addition will enhance the quality of life for the more than 300 residents by creating a dedicated space for events. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA Public Affairs)*



# NO ONE IS FORGOTTEN

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment; photos by Sgt. William Addison, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**The American military follows this simple credo: No one is forgotten on the field of battle.**

In New Jersey, this tradition was extended to the more than 43,000 graves at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery. At 5 p.m. on Friday, May 27, more than 900 Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Brownies fanned out across the 234-acre cemetery in Wrightstown and placed an American flag on every grave. No one is forgotten.

Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno who participated in the event said there is powerful symbolism in the event, which officially began New Jersey's observance of Memorial Day.

"The young people who volunteer their time to perform this valuable service represent America's future," Guadagno said. "And the selfless service and sacrifices made by the veterans who are laid to rest at Doyle Cemetery helped preserve the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans."

On Saturday, May 28 at 10:30 a.m., Gov. Chris Christie was joined by representatives from more than 30 Veterans service organizations at the state Memorial Day Ceremony at the Doyle Cemetery. Christie was the keynote speaker. Other highlights in-

cluded a flyover by several New Jersey Air National Guard F-16 fighter jets, a 21-gun salute and a performance by the New Jersey Army National Guard's 63rd Army Band.

"Memorial Day is a time to honor the men and women who wore this nation's uniform and made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of liberty," Christie said. "The ceremony at the Doyle Cemetery is a fitting tribute."

New Jersey is home to more than 460,000 veterans. The state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs provides services to veterans from the time they leave military service until they are laid to rest.

The Doyle Cemetery is the busiest state Veterans cemetery in the United States, averaging nearly 3,000 interments each year. In addition to the cemetery, DMAVA operates three Veterans Memorial Homes; Paramus; Menlo Park and Vineland as well as a transitional housing program for homeless veterans in Winslow Township. DMAVA also maintains a state-wide network of Veterans Service Offices who work to ensure all of the state's Veterans receive the federal and state entitlements earned through their service. The DMAVA team of 18 Veterans Service Of-



ficers accounted for the awarding of nearly \$72 million in federal benefits to New Jersey Veterans last year.

Gov. Christie has shown strong leadership in his efforts to support the state's Veterans community and in his role as Commander-in-Chief of the New Jersey National Guard.

In addition to supporting all of the vital programs provided by DMAVA, including a toll-free mental health hotline for Veterans, the governor has signed legislation that strengthens the support network for military families after the death of a service member, as well as a program that awards high school diplomas to Veterans who dropped out to serve in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

**"Memorial Day is a time to honor the men and women who wore this nation's uniform and made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of liberty."**

**Gov. Chris Christie**



# NPRC on the move

**Military personnel records can be used for proving military service, or as a valuable tool in genealogical research. Most veterans and their next-of-kin can obtain free copies of their DD 214 (Report of Separation) and other military and medical records from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), either by mail or via the Internet.**

Currently NPRC is in the process of moving their location to a new facility. The new address for the National Personnel Records Center is 1 Archives Drive, St Louis, MO 63138-1002. Their website has remained the same and can be found at [www.archives.gov/](http://www.archives.gov/)

The majority of personnel have moved to the new location and the military personnel records are in the process of moving. The entire move should be completed by the end of the summer of 2012.

As a reminder, all retirees and honorably discharged veterans should ensure that their family knows the location of their military separation document (DD Form 214 from 1950 to present and WD (War Department) Form 53-55 and other variations prior to 1950). Registering a copy of this document at your county court house may make that document a public record. Furthermore, separation documents issued after 1969 may contain a social security number which could be used for identity theft. Storing the separation document in a safe deposit box may make it difficult to retrieve immediately upon the death of the retiree or honorably discharged veteran. Some better storage locations are a fire-proof safe in a secure location of



## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

the house (not in the bedroom, as this is where most thieves search first), or in a watertight food container in the refrigerator. Most refrigerators are fire resistant. Additionally, a refrigerator is heavy enough to fall through the floor of a building into the cooler part of the fire in the basement and better survive. Finally, a refrigerator is large enough to be easily located in the ash and rubble of a fire or other serious incident. As a bonus, everyone has a refrigerator, not everyone has a fire resistant storage box. Be sure your spouse or next of kin knows the location and has key/combination to the safe, and inform your spouse and relatives where to locate your separation document - and any other important papers.

Please note the preferred method of submitting a request to the NPRC is via the Internet. Please note that in some cases using a browser other than Internet Explorer may create problems with data entry. As you know,

the NPRC provides copies of documents from military personnel records to authorized requesters. Their web-based application will provide better service on these requests by eliminating mailroom processing time. Also, since the requester will be prompted to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that occur when more information is required, will be minimized. You may access this application at [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/).

This improved on-line request process should be used instead of the use of the Standard Form 180 for requests from the veteran or the veteran's next of kin, if possible. Your assistance with this initiative will allow NPRC, and you, to better serve the needs of veterans. If you do not wish to use the Internet, you should use SF 180. You should print this form as you need it, not in advance, as the form is periodically revised and updated. Updated SF 180 is available at [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html).

Since the SF 180 is updated periodically, it is not recommended that large quantities be printed/photocopied and stocked.

The form will be updated with the new address within six months. The Postal Service will forward mail if requests are mailed to the old location until February 2012.

## RECENT VETERAN'S LEGISLATION IN NEW JERSEY

**S1731: Establishes "Veteran to Veteran Peer Support Program" telephone helpline. \* Bills and Joint Resolutions Signed by the Governor Aug. 19, 2011 Approved P.L.2011, c.116.**

### CHAPTER 116

An Act concerning a veteran peer support telephone helpline, and supplementing chapter 13 of Title 38A of the New Jersey Statutes.

Be It Enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey: C.38A:13-10 Findings, declarations relative to a veteran peer support telephone helpline.

1. a. The Legislature finds and declares that the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, in conjunction with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, has established a veteran to veteran peer support program telephone helpline. The helpline receives and responds to calls from veterans, servicemembers, and their families. It provides them with access to a comprehensive mental health provider network of mental health professionals specializing in post traumatic stress disorder and other veterans issues. All services are free and confidential.

b. Since its inception, the helpline has fielded over 6,000 calls from veterans and their families and based on prior statistics, a 10% increase in calls has been projected.

c. The helpline is funded through an allocation from a State appropriation for post traumatic stress disorder. It is appropriate that the helpline have a separate annual appropriation.

#### C.38A:13-11 Establishment of helpline.

2. a. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall establish, in coordination with University Behavioral HealthCare of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, a toll free veteran to veteran peer support helpline.

b. The helpline shall be accessible 24 hours a day seven days per week and shall respond to calls from veterans, servicemembers and their families. The operators of the helpline shall seek to identify the veterans, servicemembers and their families who should be referred to further peer support and counseling services, and provide referrals.

c. The operators of the helpline shall be trained by University Behavioral HealthCare of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and, to the greatest extent

possible, shall be trained veterans or mental health professionals with military service expertise and (1) familiar with post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and the emotional and psychological tensions, depressions, and anxieties unique to veterans, servicemembers, and their families or (2) trained to provide counseling services involving marriage and family life, substance abuse, personal stress management and other emotional or psychological disorders or conditions which may be likely to adversely affect the personal and service related well-being of veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

d. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey shall provide for the confidentiality of the names of the persons calling, the information discussed, and any referrals for further peer support or counseling; provided, however, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey may establish guidelines providing for the tracking of any person who exhibits a severe emotional or psychological disorder or condition which the operator handling the call reasonably believes might result in harm to the veteran or servicemember or any other person.

#### C.38A:13-12 List of credentialed health care providers.

3. University Behavioral HealthCare of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey shall maintain a list of credentialed military-oriented behavioral healthcare providers throughout the State of New Jersey. Case management services shall also be provided to ensure that veterans, servicemembers, and their families receive ongoing counseling throughout all pre and post deployment events in New Jersey. The continuum of services shall utilize the National Yellow Ribbon guidelines while providing ongoing peer support customized for each branch of military service.

#### C.38A:13-13 Quarterly consultations.

4. In establishing the helpline authorized under the provisions of section 2 of this act, P.L.2011, c.116 (C.38A:13-11) the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and University Behavioral HealthCare of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey shall consult on a quarterly basis with the New Jersey Division of Mental Health Services within the Department of Human Services, the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, the New Jersey Veterans Healthcare Network, at least two New Jersey Veteran Centers, and at least two State recognized veteran groups.

5. There shall be appropriated annually from the General Fund to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs a sum sufficient for the operation of the program.

6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month following enactment, but the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

**A2286: Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns for New Jersey National Guard members and their families in need of assistance. Bills and Joint Resolutions Signed by the Governor Aug. 19, 2011 Approved P.L.2011, c.117.**

CHAPTER 117

An Act concerning voluntary contributions through gross income tax returns for New Jersey National Guard members and their families, supplementing chapter 9 of Title 54A of the New Jersey Statutes.

Be It Enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey: C.54A:9-25.29 "NJ National Guard State Family Readiness Council Fund."

1. a. There is established in the Department of the Treasury a special fund to be known as the "NJ National Guard State Family Readiness Council Fund."

b. Each taxpayer shall have the opportunity to indicate on the taxpayer's New Jersey gross income tax return that a portion of the taxpayer's tax refund or an enclosed contribution shall be deposited in the special fund.

c. Any costs incurred by the Division of Taxation for collection or administration attributable to this act may be deducted from receipts collected pursuant to this act, as determined by the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting. The State Treasurer shall deposit net contributions collected pursuant to this act into the "NJ National Guard State Family Readiness Council Fund."

d. The Legislature shall annually appropriate all funds deposited in the "NJ National Guard State Family Readiness Council Fund" established pursuant to this section to the National Guard State Family Readiness Council for the purposes of providing support to members of the New Jersey National Guard and their families affected by extended deployment during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and apply to taxable years beginning after enactment.

## Traumatic injury benefits now payable for genitourinary injuries

WASHINGTON – Servicemembers who suffer severe injuries to the genitourinary organs will now be eligible for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection, or TSGLI.



"We recognize that these types of injuries are devastating and can have a long-lasting impact on the Servicemember's quality of life," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Eric K. Shinseki. "It is for this reason that it is appropriate to include genitourinary injuries in the list of payable losses specified in the TSGLI program."

Military doctors reported seeing an increase in these types of injuries, many of which are the result of the nature of current warfare and the use of improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, by enemy combatants.

TSGLI provides a one-time payment to Servicemembers sustaining certain severe traumatic injuries resulting in a range of losses, including amputations; limb salvage; paralysis; burns; loss of sight, and other traumatic losses. Genitourinary injuries for male and female Servicemembers, are being added to the TSGLI schedule of covered losses.

VA also provides health care for genitourinary problems, along with disability compensation for cases of service-related injuries or illnesses involving genitourinary organs.

The first payments for genitourinary losses will be made to eligible Servicemembers and Veterans on Dec. 2, eligibility for these new losses will be retroactive to injuries incurred on or after Oct. 7, 2001, the beginning of the Global War On Terror.

For more information on all of the TSGLI eligibility requirements, or to apply for a TSGLI payment, Servicemembers and Veterans should go to [www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/TSGLI/TSGLI.htm](http://www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/TSGLI/TSGLI.htm) or contact their branch of service TSGLI Office (contact information available at above link).

## RISK FACTORS FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETS SIMILAR TO VIETNAM VETERANS

WASHINGTON – Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) researchers from Boston report in the November issue of the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* that risk factors for post-traumatic stress symptomatology (PTSS, short of full-blown posttraumatic stress disorder, or PTSD) in Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans were found to be similar to those observed in Vietnam Veterans.

This suggests that there may be generalized mechanisms and pathways, common to different Veteran populations, through which risk factors contribute to PTSS.

“This research underscores the vital importance of VA’s outreach to Veterans, and their families, in helping them cope with post-traumatic stress,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

The study subjects were a national sample of 579 (333 female and 246 male) Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans exposed to combat operations who had returned from deployment in the 12 months preceding the study. Using data from mailed surveys, the researchers assessed, as predictors of posttraumatic stress symptomatology, several risk factors which were previously documented among Vietnam Veterans. Examples include exposure to combat, pre-deployment stress exposure, dysfunctional family during childhood, lack of post-deployment emotional support from family and friends, and post-deployment stress exposure.

An interesting finding was that the women Veterans surveyed had new risk factors that were not seen in Vietnam-era women, such as exposure to combat and perceived threat. The authors ascribed that finding to the significantly different experiences of female Vietnam War and Afghanistan and Iraq war Veterans. Women Vietnam Veterans were primarily nurses or clerical staff. In contrast, women Veterans’ roles in Afghanistan and Iraq have substantially expanded, with much higher levels of exposure to combat. Thus, women Veterans in these more recent conflicts may have more in common with their male contemporaries, in relation to PTSS risk, than with their female counterparts from the Vietnam era. However, in terms of post-deploy-



*Korean war veterans render honors during the playing of taps during a ceremony commemorating the 58th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City, N.J. on July 27, 2011. During the ceremony, eight Korean war veterans were awarded the New Jersey Korean Service Medal. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)*

ment readjustment, family relationships during deployment appeared to play a more prominent role in female compared to male Veterans.

“Our findings highlight the impact and role of family disruptions in increasing the risk for posttraumatic stress symptomatology, particularly for female service-members,” said Dr. Dawne Vogt, the paper’s lead author, from the VA Boston Healthcare System. “It is particularly noteworthy that women who experienced relationship problems during deployment, also reported less post-deployment social support.”

## POST - 9/11 GI BILL

### A NEW BILL FOR A NEW CENTURY

Veterans who believe they are experiencing symptoms of PTSS or PTSD may call the crisis hotline number at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and then push 1 on their telephone keypad to reach a trained VA mental health professional who can assist the Veteran 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## **VA SUPPORT PROGRAM EXPANDING TO MORE VETERANS, SPOUSES**

**WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs is implementing a telephone support program to help the spouses of returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans, after a pilot telephone support program showed significant reduction in stress for spouses.**

“Returning to civilian life after living in constant combat readiness can be a shocking transition, and it is the immediate family, the spouses and children, who bear that brunt of that transition with those who served,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “The more support we can provide to the family, the better the outcome will be for our Veterans.”

The spouse telephone support program, which is part of VA’s Caregiver Support Program, builds spouses’ ability to cope with the challenges that reintegration to civilian society can bring, helps them serve as a pillar of support for returning Veterans, and eases the transition for families after deployments. Spouses in the pilot program reported decreased symptoms of depression and anxiety, with an increase in social support.

Spouses participate in 12 telephone support groups over six months. The focus is on problem-solving and communication, relationships, mental health and resilience. A trained, nationwide team of VA medical center staff members, including many caregiver support coordinators, will lead the support groups.

Typical issues spouses and Veterans face after deployment include communication difficulties, the need to renegotiate family roles and responsibilities and the added stress of combat related injury. Spouses of Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have reported feeling overwhelmed, depressed, anxious and frustrated.

“Providing support to family caregivers is the right thing for VA to do,” said Dr. Robert Petzel, VA’s under secretary for health. “A simple series of phone calls can do so much good. Certainly, those who fought for our nation and the spouses who allowed them to make that sacrifice

deserve this support.”

The program is based on research by VA researchers Dr. Linda Nichols and Dr. Jennifer Martindale-Adams, of the Memphis VA Medical Center and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Both researchers developed and studied interventions for family members of Veterans and military personnel. Their work with spouses of post-deployed and deployed military personnel is funded through the Defense Health Program, managed by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

Local caregiver support coordinators are available to assist Veterans and their caregivers in understanding and applying for VA’s many caregiver benefits. VA also has a Web page, [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov), with general information on spouse telephone support and other caregiver support programs available through VA and the community.



*The Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery was the site for the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11, 2011. Third District Congressman Jon Runyan was the keynote speaker joining senior military and veterans' leaders at the ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)*

## OPERATION: STAND DOWN



Above photo: Tech. Sgt. Janeen MacGray, a 108th Contingency Response Group medic takes vital signs from a veteran at the Stand Down of North Jersey at the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Pool and Recreation Center in Newark on Oct. 15, 2011. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs along with several veteran organizations participated in the out-reach program by providing more than 500 homeless veterans with clean clothes, warm meals, medical



and dental care and information about veterans' state and federal entitlements. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA Public Affairs) Photo right: A veteran cringes as Tech. Sgt. Japera Talib-Moore of the 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group draws his blood on Sept. 23, 2011. The South Jersey Stand Down has served as a catalyst that enables homeless veterans to re-enter mainstream society. (Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA Public Affairs)





## Commander's Call held

Al Bucchi, director, Veterans Services, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, was one of the speakers at the Commander's Call, which was held at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt, N.J. on Oct. 2, 2011. The call was followed by the annual Military Review. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



## Counterdrug visits Vineland

Members of the New Jersey Counterdrug Task Force visit with Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland resident Anthony Confalone, left to right, Staff Sgt. Edson Casanova, 1st Sgt. Charlie Bethea, Staff Sgt. Wayne Hassall, Master Sgt. Joseph Prieto, Staff Sgt. Paul Summerfeld and Tech. Sgt. Debra Zygmunt on Nov. 8. The Task Force has been visiting all three Veterans Memorial Homes for the last three years. (Photo by Lois Balurrio)

# FUNDING IS STILL NEEDED FOR THE NEW JERSEY WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL BRONZE RELIEFS



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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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1-888-8NJ-VETS, or go online to:

[www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/index.html)