

Office of the Governor

NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES MAILING OF PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENTS TO DISABLED VETERANS

Gov. Christie Whitman today announced the distribution of \$5 million in property tax reimbursements to eligible disabled war veterans who paid taxes although their properties should have been exempt. The Governor said the Department of Treasury's Division of Taxation began mailing checks today to 397 veterans who qualified for the reimbursement.

"There is no greater sacrifice than risking your life for your country," the Governor said. "New Jersey deeply appreciates the sacrifice of all its veterans. One way we show our appreciation of veterans disabled by wartime injury or illness is with local property tax exemptions."

Gov. Whitman said New Jersey voters in 1947 approved a property tax exemption for New Jersey veterans who became totally disabled by wartime injury or illness, but many eligible veterans did not claim the exemption.

"The reasons are varied," she said. "Some didn't know they were eligible. Others may not have received the needed documentation until years after taxes were paid. Whatever the reason, we are here today to right a wrong, and restore the recognition these veterans deserve."

The reimbursements were made from a \$5.5 million appropriation the Governor included in the 1998 Fiscal Year budget to provide a one-time reimbursement to eligible disabled war veterans.