

DMAVA Highlights

August 12, 2010 Volume 12 Number 30



Barclays PGA Tour golf tournament looking for military announcers

The Barclays' is looking for a few military men and women with good voices. The PGA Tour golf tournament which is being held at Ridgewood Country Club, Paramus, Aug. 24-29, will have military personnel at the first and 10th tees to announce the golfers before they tee off on Aug. 26-27.

Those who are chosen will need to be in military uniform for the job; active duty, Guard and Reserve of all branches are welcome to apply. Slots are open for a total of eight announcers; morning and afternoon shifts are available.

If you are interested, send an e-mail with your name, rank, branch of service, if you are active, Guard or Reserve, day time contact information, and preference for day and morning or afternoon shift to stephenkupcha@pgatourhq.com



Candidates no longer

New Jersey Army National Guard Officer

Candidate Class #53 graduates



Robert Freeman, left, receives honorary saber and cup from Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General during the commissioning ceremonies for New Jersey Army National Guard Officer Candidate Class No. 53 at a ceremony Aug. 8 at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt. Freeman of Egg Harbor Township was the Distinguished Graduate and winner of the Erickson Trophy. He is deferring his commission. *Photo by Spc. Robert Neal*

The other graduates of the class, their hometown, branch and assignments assignments are:

- **2nd Lt. Joann Luttrell**, Lake Hopatcong, Ordnance, 250th Brigade Support Battalion
- **2nd Lt. Kevin Martin**, Neptune City, Infantry, 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry
- **2nd Lt. Nelson Navarro**, Freehold, Ordnance, 250th Brigade Support Battalion
- **2nd Lt. Glennis Jordan**, Jersey City, Adjutant General Corps, 42nd Regional Support Group
- **Clara Munoz**, Galloway, Deferring Commission
- **2nd Lt. Michael Genchy**, Clifton, Infantry, 2nd Battalion 113th Infantry
- **2nd Lt. John Coy**, Fair Lawn, Infantry, 2nd Battalion 113th Infantry
- **2nd Lt. Joseph Cecere**, Rutherford, Armor, 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry
- **2nd Lt. Elizabeth Donofrio**, Danbury, Conn., Chemical Corps, 50th Chemical Company
- **2nd Lt. Nadia Santos**, Perth Amboy, Chemical Corps, 50th Chemical Company



STEADY AIM -- Spc. Mark Villiacini of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry, locks in a target as National Guard employers and supporters observe training exercise at Camp Smith, N.Y. on Aug. 11. The employers and supporters were flown to Camp Smith as part of a "Boss Lift" arranged by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. *Photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley*

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Homecoming event with job fair, benefit symposium at Caldwell College, Aug. 14

Caldwell College will host the Annual Homecoming Event in honor of OEF/OIF veterans on Aug. 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the college campus, 120 Bloomfield Ave., Caldwell. All military veterans and the family members are invited to attend.

Featured will be a job fair, the Mobile Vet Center, VA Mobile Health unit and information on various Veterans Service Organizations, the Department of Veterans Affairs, colleges, special guests, door prizes and fun for the entire family. Refreshments will be provided by the Salvation Army.

The event is sponsored by the East Orange VA OEF/OIF Transition Unit, Caldwell College and The G.I. Go Fund.

Those who are attending the job fair are asked to bring plenty of resumes.



State offers retirement workshops for employees

All state employees who are members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) or the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and planning to retire before the end of 2011 are invited to take advantage of the retirement workshops scheduled over the next five months.

The workshops are being held at the New Jersey Forensic Science Technology Center in Hamilton Township, Mercer County. During the workshop, representatives will explain topics including retirement benefits, beneficiary options, group life insurance, pension taxes and health benefits during retirement.

Seating is limited, so register early for the workshop date and time of your choice. Go to www.nj.us/treasury/pensions and click on the link for "Retirement Workshops."

Classes will be held at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and are scheduled for Aug. 16, 23; Sept. 9, 15, 24, 29; Oct. 4, 21; Nov. 3, 22, 29; and Dec. 10, 17.

When attending, members must bring along a printed version of their Estimate of Retirement Benefits, which they can get using the Member Benefits Online System. To register for MBOS, go to www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.shtml and follow instructions.

DMAVA Green

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

It is hard to believe but August has arrived and school is just around the corner. Parents will be out in droves shopping for school supplies, new clothes and shoes. Before you toss those sneakers and outgrown shoes in the trash – here is a use for both to keep them out of the landfill.

Nike will take used sneakers – all brands – and grind them up. The ground up sneakers will be used to create sports surfaces, reducing the need for virgin rubber. More than 25 million sneakers have been ground up since 1990. This is what goes into each sports surface: basketball courts – 2,500 pairs, tennis courts – 2,500 pairs, mini soccer fields – 10,000-20,000 pairs, running track – 75,000 pairs, and more. Check out their Web site - <http://www.nikereuseashoe.com/> - for more information. Click on the Get Involved tab where you can find your nearby drop off locations.

If your shoes (dress or casual shoes, sneakers, work boots, dance, flip flops, cleats, sandals, and pumps) are either new or gently worn, you can donate them to Soles4Souls. This organization will take your shoes and give them to those less fortunate around the world who will use them for years to come. Visit www.Soles4Souls.org for more information. Click on the Locations button, enter your zip code and find places to take your shoes.

We are all used to tossing our used soda cans in the recycling bins at home and work. But did you know that by twisting off the little pop tab and saving those, you can do a double recycling effort and help a charitable community effort at the same time.

According to the Ronald McDonald House Web site, <http://rmhc.org/>, "many Ronald McDonald Houses in the U.S. work with local recycling centers to raise money by collecting tabs from aluminum cans."

They collect the tabs because they are pure high-quality aluminum and they are easier to store than whole cans. Look on the tab, "How You Can Help," then click on Other Ways to Get Involved to find out about the program and where you can find local facilities. Maybe your school, community group or church can start a collection.

Keep Green!

Quotes

One can endure sorrow alone, but it takes two to be glad.

--Elbert Hubbard

Someone has tabulated that we have 35 million laws on the books to enforce the Ten Commandments.

--Bert Masterson

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New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

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Wounded Soldier and Family
Hotline
1-800-984-8523

Families

DMAVA Highlights

Come to benefit for Guard family in Cologne, Aug. 21,

A benefit is being held Aug. 21, 6-10 p.m. for Logan Blackledge at the Cologne Fire Hall. The cost is a donation of \$25. per person.

Five days after a routine pediatrician's visit for diaper rash, two-year-old Logan Blackledge was diagnosed with Wilm's Tumor and underwent removal of one of his kidneys. The cancer was in an advanced stage and had required multiple hospitalizations to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. At his point, Logan has undergone extensive radiation therapy and is currently receiving chemotherapy.

Logan is the son of Chip and Melissa Blackledge; Chip is a New Jersey state trooper and Melissa is a Technical Sgt. at the 177th Fighter Wing, N.J. Air National Guard. They have taken extended leaves of absence from their jobs in an effort to provide their Logan and their two other sons, Kyle and Connor with a normal day-to-day existence.

The extended military community invites everyone to the benefit which will have a Chinese auction, 50/50 and more. They are also asking for donations of money or gifts or gift certificates that can be raffled off at the fundraiser. No donation is too small.

Contact one of the following if you have a donation: Kara Kauffman, 856-491-1289, karak1001@sprint.blackberry.net; Jim McCloskey, 609-970-0375, jmccloskey72@comcast.net; Danny Opperman, 856-982-6556, dannyopperman@mac.com; and, Raymond Morales, 856-364-3784, lpp5968@gw.NJSP.org.

Reservations open for Great Wolf weekend, Oct. 22-24

It's that time of year again and ARMS is again planning a trip to Great Wolf Lodge for October 22-24.

For all those that have experienced this before, they will tell you it is a fun weekend. Great Wolf puts together a great Halloween party and trick or treat for that weekend. Everyone can wear costumes for a fun time. For the adults, Mount Airy Lodge, a wonderful casino, is five minutes away. There are only 30 rooms available for this event.

The price has changed a little - \$450 dollars for the two nights or \$250 for Saturday into Sunday. This is the lowest price since the event has begun. This price allows for up to six people in a room and includes park passes. Due to a new rule at Great Wolf, there is a \$50 non-refundable fee that MUST be sent in no later than Sept. 1. The rooms must be paid in full by Sept. 30. Please note that the rooms will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Meals are not included.

Reservations and non-refundable fee (check made out to ARMS) can be mailed to ARMS, 64 Harding Road, Red Bank, NJ 07701. For more information, call 732-890-4914 or e-mail usslibertyhouse@comcast.net.

Joint: The new "buzz" word in family support

By Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith, National Guard Bureau

National Guard officials are willing to help family members around the country, no matter which branch or component their servicemember belongs to, the Guard's top family programs official said Aug. 3.

"Families' needs are the same across the board, and we can't afford to work within just our own service," said Alex Baird, the chief of Family Programs for the National Guard Bureau. "We've got to be joint."

A family's location, financial constraints, limited local information and a need for face-to-face interaction demands that all the services make their support programs accessible to all, he added.

The National Guard has about 40,000 volunteers across the 54 states and territories who support servicemembers and their families, he said.

"I think the biggest success is the way we've been able to use our volunteers," Mr. Baird said. "We're all in the same service together, so we're willing to help anybody."

The Guard has made progress in communicating its family and servicemembers support programs through the Joint Services Support Portal at <http://www.jointservicesupport.org>, Mr. Baird said.

"You can find out who the state family program directors are, the family assistance centers, and connect anywhere into that network, and then they can get you the help that you need," he said.

The guard does not replace the programs and support of other service components, but it augments them, he said, especially for the families of servicemembers, who may be geographically isolated from their units.

"There's a big difference between somebody who can come face to face with you and somebody who is ... halfway across the country," Mr. Baird said.

"The other thing we find is when you've got somebody, let's say, in Kentucky that you're trying to get help ... they don't really know what the services are in Minnesota," he said. "So having somebody who's local, who knows what the local resources are and support services are, is a great advantage."

The other reserve components have also adopted this practice, he said.

"We know (they) never turn any of our families away," he said.

DoD offers interactive education resource for military families

Department of Defense Education Activity's Educational Partnership proudly presents "Students at the Center," an interactive educational resource for everyone involved in the education of the children of our military service members. It has a lot of information for families, military commands, school officials and more. Check out the Web site at <http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/studentsAtTheCenter>.

Et Cetera

PGA golf tournament opens gates to military

Mark your calendar for the Barclays! Golfers from the PGA Tour will descend on the Ridgewood Country Club, Paramus, to participate in another stage of the FedEx Cup, Aug. 24-29.

Again, this year, there will be free admission for active duty, retired and reserve military personnel and their dependents with valid IDs, during the entire tournament. To get your free ticket, go to www.thebarclaysgolf.com and click on "2010 Tickets." Follow the directions. You will need the printed ticket along with your military ID card to get into the event.



There will be a Birdies' Outpost-Hospitality tent for all active duty, retired and reserve military and dependents open Aug. 25-29 with complimentary food and beverages.

Other special events for military personnel are planned during the tournament.

Visit www.thebarclaysgolf.com for more details.

Vietnam Center holds 60s family day Aug. 21

On Aug. 21, the Vietnam Era Museum and Educational Center will host a *1960s Family Day*. The event will include family activities related to the Vietnam era time period that will take place throughout the day. This event will be held at the Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center in Holmdel.

1960s Family Day will mimic a Vietnam era field day. The event is for families to visit together and learn about childhood in the 1960s and 1970s. Weather permitting there will be both outdoor and indoor activities. Outdoor activities will include 3-legged and relay races, an egg and spoon toss, hula-hoops, and tug of war. Winners of races will receive prizes. Inside families can play with toys of the Vietnam era, make tissue paper flowers and love bead necklaces. There will also be coloring activity sheets of 1960s-70s iconic images. Music and films from the era will also be playing throughout the day. Stop by and let the whole family step back in time.

For more information please call 732-335-0033 or visit the website at www.njvymf.org. Regular admission to the Educational Center applies; adult admission is \$5; student and senior citizen admission is \$3; and children under 10 are admitted free. Regular admission is free for veterans and active-duty military personnel.



N.J. Honor Guard program has openings for new members

The New Jersey National Guard Honor Guard Program is looking for new members to serve at funerals of veterans around the state.

Retirees and active National Guard members of the Army and Air Guard can apply for the openings. Retirees with 20 years or more of service from any branch can also apply. The Honor Guard members are men and women, enlisted and officers.

All personnel must meet Army/Air Force height and weight standards of AR 600-9 and their appearance must meet AR 670-1 standards.

Current Guard members are paid one day's active duty pay, but no less than \$50 plus one retirement point for each day's work. Retirees receive \$50 per day.

Many days can find the Honor Guard with more than one mission; but each person registers for the time they are available. Most services take place within a 50 mile radius of their assigned Honor Guard Office; hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Some missions can be done in the evening hours. The Honor Guard provides services seven days a week, depending on the schedule of missions.

The N.J. National Guard Honor Guard Program provides services mostly for Army veterans but has worked at other branch's funerals.



There is an initial training period for all personnel. Everyone will be taught how to perform all assignments and phases of the ceremony. If someone has a special talent such as bugle playing for Taps, it is greatly appreciated.

Anyone interested must contact the program office at 609-530-7090. They will be referred to a local regional team leader to establish an appointment time and location for an interview or in the case of a bugler, an audition.

Unity Day at JT2DC, Sept. 16

Start planning now for the New Jersey National Guard 12th Annual Unity Day celebration on Sept. 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix.

Start the day off with the Fun Walk/Run at 8:30 a.m. Later you can donate blood at the Blood Drive in the Stow Bay Parking Lot, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Spend the day celebrating our ethnic and cultural diversity through food, music, entertainment and giveaways.

For information, volunteer opportunities or questions, contact the following people:

Event POC is Maj. Barbara Brown-Wilson, 609-562-0856, Barbara.g.brown@us.army.mil; Fun Run/Walk POC is Staff Sgt. Christina Ermi, 609-562-0941, Christina.d.ermi@us.army.mil; or, Blood drive POC is Sgt. Geraldo Rodriguez, 609-562-0880, Gerardo.rodriguez@us.army.mil.

Veterans & Military

Organization helps vets, family find new careers

RecruitMilitary is a veteran-owned organization that offers opportunities former enlisted personnel, junior military officers, senior officers, military spouses and transitioning military personnel to connect with thousands of organizations for their next job or career. Through their Web site, you can find dates for expos near you, organizations looking to hire and more.

Go to www.RecruitMilitary.com, where registering on the web-site is free and easy. More importantly, it provides access to open positions posted by thousands of veteran-friendly companies who recognize the value of hiring personnel with a military background. Once registered, veterans have access to these jobs, and equally important, recruiters will have access to them! Encourage anyone you know with a military background to post resumes and submit complete profiles so that recruiters will be more likely to find them.

There will be a RecruitMilitary Veteran Opportunity Expo in Philadelphia on Nov. 11. You can find more information about the expos at <https://www2.recruitmilitary.com/expos/candidates>.

OIF/OEF veterans offered one year scholarships to computer schooling at Rutgers

Visit <http://www.wforce.org/veterans.php> for information on a program that offers a one-year scholarship for OIF/OEF veterans on Certification and Software Development from Rutgers University. Participants work part-time for three months after six weeks of training and then "full-time" for WorkForce Opportunity Services (WOS). Sponsoring companies can also hire prospective graduates.

Veterans with disabilities can get free hunting, fishing licenses

If you are a honorably discharged veteran with a service-connected disability and a New Jersey resident – you are entitled to free New Jersey hunting and fishing licenses, permits and stamps. Your disability must be declared by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to be a service-connected disability of any kind for this benefit.

To find out the procedures needed to get certified, necessary documents and any restrictions, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com/dvinfo.htm. Questions can be directed to Sylvia Hall at 908-637-4125 or Sylvia.Hall@dep.state.nj.us.



Join the 117th Cav for their biennial reunion

From the desk of retired Col. Dennis J. Dougherty, President, 117th Cavalry Association

Are You Ready for the 117th Cavalry Association 2010 Biennial Reunion? The 2010 Biennial Reunion promises to be a great event. Our reunion committee has outdone itself with a program of events that will please all in attendance. All who attend will have their own story and memories to share with friends and fellow troopers. The reunion takes place on Oct. 23, at Gibbs Hall, Fort Monmouth.



I hope to see you all at the reunion, so we as an organization can come together to honor those who have served and those who continue to serve.

We all have friends who we have served in Armor and Cavalry units whose lineage flows through 1-102nd Cavalry. Let them know you are planning to attend the reunion and you would like to share a table and lots of memories with them.

Cocktail hour is 6-7 p.m., dinner begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$45 per person if then money is received before Aug. 20; \$50 per person after that date. Meal choices are Chicken Francaise, prime rib and stuffed flounder.

Send reservations and money by Oct. 15, along with menu choice to:

COL (Ret.) Dennis J. Dougherty
615 Raymond Street
Westfield, NJ 07090

If you have any questions, check out www.117th-cav.org or e-mail doughertydj@comcast.net.

Monmouth University looking for volunteers for veterans program

Monmouth University is looking for volunteers to help launch its Yellow Ribbon Mentorship Program to help student-veterans as they pursue their degrees at the West Long Branch university.

Paul Gaffney, the university president a retired U.S. Navy vice admiral, said he envisions the mentorship program as an extra benefit to students who are attending the school using the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008.

Although the tuition assistance provided under the act is substantial, Gaffney wants the university to also be able to respond to all of the needs of their student-veterans. The volunteers could assist university staff with needs such as job networking, fellowship, and family help.

Gaffney believes students who have served in the military would benefit from having mentors who are veterans. If you live in the general vicinity of Monmouth University, and are interested in volunteering or finding out more...please contact program coordinator Jose Siandre at Jose.Siandre@glacialenergy.com.

Calendar

Survivor picnic at Dix, Aug. 7

Family Programs Survivor Outreach Services invites you to the 2nd Annual SOS Picnic and Reunion on Aug. 7, 12:30-3:30 p.m. The picnic will be held at the Warfighter and Family Readiness Center conference room and picnic area. The center is located on bldg 5201, 8th St and Maryland St., on the Dix section of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Join us to celebrate good food, good friends, and the summer season.

Due to base security, RSVP is required by Aug. 1. Call 1-800-877-2380.

POW/MIA ceremony, Sept. 16

Save the date – The POW/MIA ceremony traditionally held at Lakehurst, will be held on the Dix section of Joint Base McGuire-Dix Lakehurst this year. The event is being hosted by the joint base along with the Navy Lakehurst Historical Society.

The ceremony is scheduled for Sept. 16, 1 p.m. at the Timmerman Center. Guest speaker for the event is former POW, retired Admiral Jeremiah Denton.



Savino golf tourney, Sept. 24

The 14th Annual LTC Dave Savino Memorial golf tournament will be held on Sept. 24 at the Hanover Golf Course, Wrightstown. The tourney begins at 12:30 p.m. with a shotgun start and will be played in a two person scramble format (best ball).

Cost is \$100 donation per person and includes greens fees, cart, refreshments and door prizes. A buffet lunch will be served after the tournament at the course.

Send your payments to 108th WG/MXQ, ATTN: SMSgt Mike Balas, 3333 Wonnacott Blvd., JBMDL, NJ 08641. Make checks payable to LTC Dave Savino Memorial Fund. If you have any questions, call Balas at 609-894-4692.

The course is located at 133 Larrison Road, Wrightstown, 8 1/2 miles west of Great Adventure, just off route 537.

Somerset Patriots host veterans

Operation Jersey Cares is hosting the 8th Annual Veterans of America Day at TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater, on Aug. 29, starting at 4 p.m. There will be a celebration with a parade for the veterans with the guest of honor, Jack Gartenberg.

Gartenberg served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1944-1946 and is a Iwo Jima survivor.

After the celebration, the Somerset Patriots invite everyone to stay and enjoy the game between the Southern Maryland Blue Claws and the Patriots. Veterans can receive free tickets; cost of tickets for friends and family will be \$5. To order tickets, contact Marc Russinoff, Somerset Patriots, 908-252-0700, ext. 215 or e-mail mrussinoff@somersetpatriots.com.

Park promotion for the day is a camouflage Patriots hat to the first 2,000 fans in attendance.

Picatinny softball action, Aug. 14

Come one, come all to Picatinny's softball field #1 on Aug. 14 at 10 a.m. for the battle between Team Picatinny and The Boys of Summer. This high action softball game will be Active Duty military against the 2007 World Champions of over 60 League.

Larry Berra, Jr. (Yogi's son) will be in attendance.

There will be food, drinks and activities for everyone to enjoy. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the day at the field!

There is a fee of \$5 per person attending. All proceeds go to FMWR and the Picatinny Unit Fund.

Soldier Show, Sept. 25

Enjoy a free concert of the 2010 U.S. Army Soldier Show hosted by the Picatinny Arsenal at the Morris Knolls High School auditorium on Sept. 25 at 7 p.m.

All active duty, National Guard and Reservists, along with their families will be given priority and must request tickets by Sept. 3. All other requests will be accepted on a first come, first served basis, including retired military and Picatinny employees. Call 973-724-4014/4186/5515 to reserve your tickets. Tickets can be picked up at Picatinny or will be held at the door on the day of the show.

Veterans Outreach Campaign schedule

The DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign has kiosk displays at malls throughout the state and other special events to help veterans and their family members discover and apply for the benefits they are eligible to receive.

August 29 TD Bank Ballpark, Bridge water**
Somerset Patriots Veterans of America Day

**Outreach events only

Sept. 7*, 8, 9 Willowbrook Mall

Oct. 5*, 6, 7 Brunswick Square Mall

*Medal ceremony 10:30 a.m.



Deadline

Want to place an event or article in DMAVA Highlights?

Deadline for articles is noon Wednesday.

Send submissions to barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us.