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July 24, 2025



DMAVA

**Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs**

Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

Commissioner's Corner



New Jersey Korean War Memorial

124 Park Place, Atlantic City, NJ

The Korean War

A solemn corner of the Atlantic City boardwalk stands in silent vigil to more than half a million lives lost in the Korean War, 1950-1953, including 837 New Jersey service members. Dedicated on November 13, 2000, the [New Jersey Korean War Memorial](#) was created to ensure that future generations remember and honor the pride and dedication of those who served, the legacy they continued, and the freedom they preserved.

July 27 marks the 72nd anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement, which brought the cessation of hostilities between the fighting powers of the United States, United Nations, North Korea, and China. Since that hard-fought day in 1953, the United States and Republic of Korea have stood together to maintain the Armistice

and set the conditions for stability and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula.

The Department will host a ceremony at the Memorial on Friday, July 25 at 11am, commemorating the anniversary. All are encouraged to participate in remembrance of “The Forgotten War.” Service organization attendees at the event will include the Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans-Department of New Jersey, Korean War Veterans of America, and the American Legion.

Since 2023, the Korean War Memorial is one of three [DMAVA-stewarded monuments](#) which have benefited from more than \$1 million in capital improvement projects. Together with the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel and World War II Memorial in Trenton, investment toward maintenance on the grounds, lighting, and stonework is a small price to pay for the sites’ appropriate attention to detail. These projects are a tangible means of preserving the memory of New Jersey Veterans and ensuring future generations understand the cost of freedom.

As we look to the future, may we uphold the legacy of our Korean War Veterans at home and abroad through bravery, honor, and courage, and strive for our common goals of peace, prosperity, and freedom.

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.

Brigadier General Yvonne L. Mays
Adjutant General & Commissioner



Featured Events

The image shows the New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City. It features a large bronze statue of a soldier in the foreground, a relief sculpture of soldiers on a stone wall, and a dark wall with names in the background. The sky is blue with some clouds.

**Please join the New Jersey Department of
Military & Veterans Affairs and the Korean War
& Korean Defense Veterans, Department of New
Jersey to commemorate the 72nd Anniversary
of the signing of the Korean War Armistice.**

*July 25, 2025, 11 a.m.
New Jersey Korean War Memorial
124 Park Place, Atlantic City, NJ 08401*



VETERAN TOWN HALL & CLAIMS CLINIC

Hear from VA leadership on VA updates for southern NJ and learn more about VA health care. Veterans resources available on site will include, Eligibility, filing Claims, PACT Act, Women's Health, Homeless Program and many more.

July 31st, 2025

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Doors open 4:30 p.m.

**May's Landing VFW Post 220
1209 Route 50
May's Landing, NJ 08330**

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Wilmington VA Medical Center

Choose 

For more information please contact:

Patrick "Mick" Devlin / Cell: (302) 304-5509 / E-mail: patrick.devlin2@va.gov

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.

- July 25 | Ocean City
[Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)
- July 25 | Monroe Twp
[State Medal Ceremony](#)
- July 25 | Atlantic City
[72nd Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice](#)
- July 25 | Sea Girt
[Lecture: Joshua Hoddy - Monmouth County Patriot](#)
- July 28 | Phillipsburg
[Warren County Senior & Disability Awareness Day](#)
- July 31 | Carneys Point
[Salem County Senior Resource Fair](#)
- August 1 | Sea Girt
[Lecture: The “Basie Boogey” Goes to War: V-Discs and WWII](#)
- August 1-9 | Augusta
[2025 NJ State Fair / Sussex County Farm & Horse Show](#)

Community Calendar

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

[View Full Calendar](#)

NJ National Guard



Exercise "CERBERUS" brings New Jersey and Republic of Cyprus brains together.

Subject matter experts from the Republic of Cyprus National Guard and Police Force Bomb Squad, the U.S. Air Force Reserve 514th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal team, the

Atlantic City Police Department Bomb Squad and the [177th Fighter Wing](#) of the New Jersey Air National Guard work together for training in several New Jersey locations June 1-15, 2025.

The exercise name, "CERBERUS," refers to a 3-headed dog from Greek mythology. The exercise itself provided participants with enhanced tactical EOD capability training as well as the opportunity to enhance the [New Jersey-Republic of Cyprus state partnership](#).



State Partnership Program - Albania

As part of the [State Partnership Program](#), New Jersey Army National Guard aircraft maintainers and aircrew were in Albania working with Albanian Air Forces to maintain aircraft and prepare for search and rescue missions.

They're using the same Black Hawk helicopter that saved lives during Hurricane Sandy rescue operations in 2012 - and working with the same maintenance crew.

Ability to handle shocks like natural disasters is an important part of Allies' resilience - NATO's first line of defense.



63rd Army Band

The New Jersey Army National Guard's [63rd Army Band](#) performed for audiences around the state during the band's summer concert tour, June 26-July 4, 2025.

[View Images](#)



NJ Air National Guard

The Jersey Devil F-16C Fighting Falcons from the [177th Fighter Wing](#) performed at the 2025 Visit Atlantic City "Soar and Shore Festival" Air Show.

During the air show, the Jersey Devils flew over the Atlantic City oceanfront as attendees watched in excitement. The jets flew alongside the [108th Wing](#) KC-46 Pegasus refueling tanker.

Great job from our Airmen!

Join Our Team

100% Free College Tuition
Bonuses | GI Bill
Student Loan Repayment



DMAVA Veterans Services



Joseph G. Bilby - In Memoriam

Joseph G. Bilby, an award-winning historian and longtime curator of the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey, died on Monday.

A proud son of Newark, Joe earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Seton Hall University. He served in Vietnam from 1966-1967 as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army's First Infantry Division.

After a career in public service with the New Jersey Department of Labor, he spent his retirement as an Assistant Curator with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs from 2005 to 2018.

During his tenure, he mentored officers, non-commissioned officers, and civilian professionals. He grew the museum's archives and artifact collection and today that collection ranks among the best in the state. He was dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the rich military history of New Jersey. Above all else, he was rigorous in his insistence on critical thinking and a fact-based approach to understanding both the past and the present.

Joe was the author, editor, or co-author of over twenty books and over 400 articles on Garden State history and folklore, military history, and the outdoors. He was the recipient of the New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal for his efforts to protect and preserve New Jersey National Guard archives and artifacts in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

Among numerous other accolades, he received the Jane G. Clayton Award for contributions to Monmouth County history and the New Jersey Historical Commission's Richard J. Hughes Prize for his lifelong contributions to the study of New Jersey history. He served as a member of the New Jersey Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and a trustee of the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association.

Joe was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Outdoor Writers Association of America, the Society of the First Infantry Division, and the Company of Military Historians. He was predeceased by his wife Patricia and is survived by his children and grandchildren. He was the father-in-law of Lt. Col. Jarett Feldman, Executive Officer of OC/T Operations Group, New Jersey Army National Guard.

Vincent Solomeno is the Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. He served as Command Historian and Curator of the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey from 2010-2014. [Click here to access Joseph G. Bilby's Vietnam War Oral History.](#)



NJ Service Medals

The State of New Jersey awards medals to honorably discharged Veterans of the state who served in various conflicts and combat theaters.

State medals include the Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal,

POW/MIA Medal, Desert Storm Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

[Learn More](#)

Unite Veterans

Get Connected to Resources & Services

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has partnered with Unite Us to connect individuals and families to a wide variety of services and resources.

Unite Us is a coordinated care referral network of health and social service providers. Unite Us can connect our New Jersey military and veteran community to resources to obtain benefits, food assistance, housing, education, transportation, behavioral health services, peer support and more.

[Learn More / Request Assistance](#)

BRINGING VETERANS HOME 

Veteran Homelessness

The mission of Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) is to effectively end veteran homelessness in New Jersey by enhancing existing systems, creating rapid access to housing, and ensuring homelessness becomes rare, brief and non-recurring.

BVH creates a clear path to stable housing for veterans experiencing homelessness through a coordinated network of services and support.

[Learn More / Refer a Veteran](#)

**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



Office of Records and Archives

DMAVA's Administrative Services Division's Office of Records and Archives is the office that receives military discharges from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and occasionally, the Merchant Marines. This applies to both the Active Duty and their Reserves, to include the National Guard.

The DMAVA employees of the Records and Archives Office are some of the busiest people within the Department. They are responsible for the archiving, storage and issuance of copies of military records of all the State's service members and Veterans.

For more information, visit our website at [Request Military Records](#).



Welcome to NJYCA Class 60

The staff and cadre of the [New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy](#) welcomed in Class 60 on July 15, 2025 at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, NJ.

Class 60 "Intake Day" involved check-in, bag drag, haircuts (males only), security check, supply, medical screening and then assignment to one of three platoons: Alpha, Bravo, or Charlie.

Cadets also had a chance to say goodbye to their families until the "Family Day" events halfway through the 22-week program.

The mission of the NJYCA is to train and mentor disengaged teenage youth so they become responsible and productive citizens of their community, state, and country.

Follow their progress on our social media until their graduation in December 2025.

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.



TUITION
FREE

Now accepting applications
for Class 61 - January 2026!

APPLY
NOW!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



njyca.gov/admissions



rpm@dmava.nj.gov



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





**NJ MILITARY FAMILY
ASSISTANCE**

* /njarngfac



**NJNG Child & Youth
Program**

* /njngcyp



Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

DEIB Newsletter

State Partners



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](#)
- [Bringing Veterans Home](#)
- [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](#)
- [Veterans & Spouses Entering the Educator Workforce](#)
- [Journey Through Jersey](#)



Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau

The [Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau](#) will be moving to their new location at 1055 Hooper Avenue in Toms River on July 28, 2025.

Federal Partners





theSITREP Podcast

By: Department of Veterans Affairs
Podcast



VIETNAM



GULF WAR



POST - 9/11

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VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Have questions?

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to speak with someone right away.



The Women Veterans Call Center is Your Guide to VA

Live women representatives, many of whom are Veterans, are standing by to help.

**Call or text 1-855-VA-WOMEN
(1-855-829-6636)
or chat with us online**

Weekdays 8:00 am – 10:00 pm ET
Saturday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm ET



U.S. Department
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VA



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Featured Links

- [National Parks Pass](#)
- [VALife Insurance](#)
- [VA Urgent Care Services](#)
- [VA Caregiver Support Program](#)
- [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](#)
- [VA Resource Navigator](#)

Community Spotlight



Employer Outreach

Soldiers assigned to the 254th Regiment (Combat Arms), New Jersey Army National Guard, hosted servicemembers' employers at

the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, NJ and the Battle Lab on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ on July 12, 2025.

The event gave employers and local stakeholders a chance to see the capabilities of the facilities under the 254th, as well as the demanding training schedule required to maintain the two facility training-focused unit.

The event started in Sea Girt with the a tour through the Regional Training Institute at Sea Girt followed by transportation by Blackhawk to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst to see the Regional Training Site-Maintenance.

The tour was capped off by a overhead view of the USS New Jersey (BB-62), ported in Camden, before returning back to Sea Girt.

[View Images](#)



Servicemember Spotlight



SGT Kristopher Piwowarczyk

Congratulations to Sergeant Kristopher Piwowarczyk, 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, for reaching the finals of the [Army National Guard's 2025 National Best Warrior Competition!](#)

Congratulations to Sergeant Michael Fouts from the Arizona Army National Guard and Sergeant Luke Cloward from the Utah Army National Guard for winning Soldier and NCO of the Year, respectively.



A1C Colin Haniffy

Airman 1st Class Colin Haniffy, an HVAC Technician assigned to the 108th Civil Engineering Squadron, brushes rust off the interior of an air conditioning unit at Lajes Field, Portugal, on July 2, 2025.

108th CE members practiced their skills, and assisted with base-wide repairs during a deployment for training (DFT) exercise at Lajes from June 30 to July 14, 2025.

Veteran Spotlight



World War II veteran celebrates 99 years

Alex Dyer | Star News Group | July 17, 2025

MANASQUAN - The Manasquan Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1838 celebrated World War II veteran Louis Archinal on Saturday, throwing him a 99th birthday bash in recognition of both his service to the country as well as his longevity.

Wall Township resident Archinal, as a private first class in the U.S. Army, aided in liberating a Nazi concentration camp at the end of World War II.

He turned 99 years old last month and was celebrated at the VFW for his contributions by friends, family and several different organizations including the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners, the office of U.S. Representative Chris Smith and the Manasquan Elks.

[Read Full Story](#)

Never Forget



New Jersey Fallen Heroes Memorial

In Honor of all those from New Jersey who gave their lives in the fight against terrorism during Operation Enduring Freedom & Iraqi Freedom.

In humble gratitude, we remember their sacrifice.

Memorial Inscription

"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



Maj. Thomas B. McGuire Jr.

July 25, 1917

The New Jersey National Guard, except for some companies of the 5th Regiment, on guard duty in northern New Jersey, assembled at Sea Girt for World War I duty, and then traveled to Camp McClellan, Alabama, where they were subsequently joined by the remainder of the 5th Regiment.

July 30, 1673

New York and New Jersey, which together were New Netherland until 1664, were recaptured from their British conquerors by a twenty-one ship Dutch fleet, the largest ever seen in North America, without a shot being fired. The colonies were returned to British control, however, in a peace treaty signed in November 1674. A Captain Manning, the commander who surrendered to the Dutch, was subsequently sentenced to publicly having a sword broken over his head.

July 30, 1916

The "Black Tom" ammunition pier on the Hudson River in Jersey City exploded. Although America was still neutral in World War I, large amounts of ammunition manufactured in the United States were shipped to the allies in Europe, and German saboteurs had placed bombs on the pier. A postwar Claims Commission found Germany guilty of sabotage in both Black Tom and the subsequent Kingsland explosion in Lyndhurst, and awarded \$50 million in damages to claimants. World War II intervened, but in 1953 the West German government, without ever

admitting responsibility, agreed to pay the compensation. It was finally paid in 1979.

August 1, 1920

Thomas McGuire was born in Ridgewood. McGuire moved to Florida with his mother after his parents separated in the 1930s, and left Georgia Tech in 1941 to join the United States Army Air Corps. After flying in the Aleutian Islands, he became a Lockheed P-38 Lightning pilot in 1943 and then flew combat missions in New Guinea and the Philippines, where he became one of America's leading aces. McGuire had thirty-eight kills and rose to the rank of major before being killed on January 7, 1945 in an accidental crash on Negros Island in the Philippines while maneuvering in a dogfight.

McGuire, who earned the Distinguished Service Cross, three silver stars, six Distinguished Flying Crosses, fifteen Air Medals and three purple hearts by the age of twenty-four, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. In 1948, Fort Dix Army Air Force Base was renamed McGuire Air Force Base in his honor.

August 5, 1775

The New Jersey Provincial Congress ordered that 54 companies of Minute Men, of 64

men each, be raised and organized into battalions. The Minute Men were required to have “their own firelocks upon their shoulders, 23 cartridges in their cartouch [sic] boxes; the worm, priming wire and 12 flints in their pockets and a pound of powder and three pounds of bullets at home.”



Camp Dix

On July 18, 1917, Camp 13 officially became Camp Dix, named in honor of the War of 1812 and Civil War Veteran, Maj. Gen. John Adams Dix. He also served as a United States Senator, Secretary of the Treasury and Governor of New York.

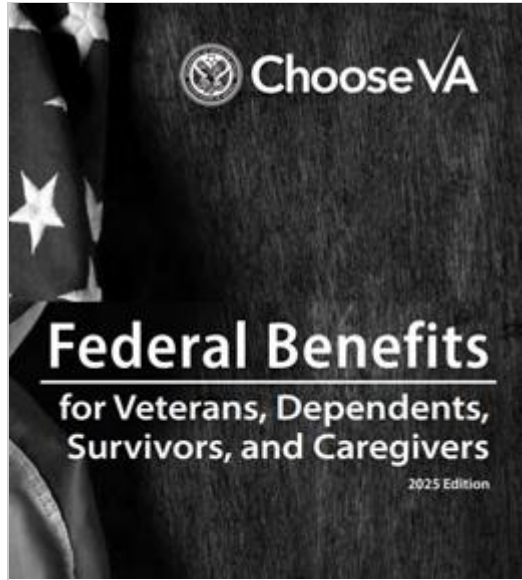
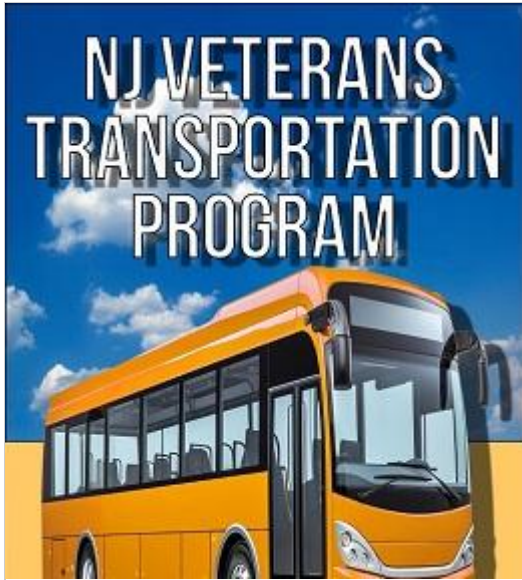
The facility was originally laid out by the forerunners to our namesake [104th Brigade Engineer Battalion](#) as one of 13 camps established for the large influx of draftee soldiers detailed for World

War I service. Camp Dix later became Fort Dix in the run up to the Second World War and continued to serve as a major training hub for many decades after and into today.

After restructuring to combine into [Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst](#), the Army portion of the nation's first tri-service base is now officially Army Support Activity Dix.

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.

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