



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

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July 4, 2014

Fourth of July

HIGHLIGHTS



American Red Cross North Jersey Region volunteer, Mary Carroll, registered nurse, left, was recognized June 24, 2012, for her 25 years of volunteer service. Carroll, who works at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus as Quality Assurance Specialist, was honored by the Red Cross of Norther New Jersey board chair,

Ed Susco, and community chapter executive, Jocelyn Gilman. The Teaneck resident has served veterans for 26 years at the state home in several leadership positions. Carroll is currently a doctoral candidate in nursing practice at Rutgers University, and continues to volunteer with the American Red Cross. (Courtesy photo)

Energy Conservation

Energy Conservation Tip of the Week

Whenever you are making copies or printing, make sure that it is double-sided. Doing so will reduce paper use by 50 percent! You can also save old paper and use it as scrap paper before recycling it. .

Did You Know?

Recycling one ton of paper saves enough energy to power a home for six months; saves 7,000 gallons of water; saves 3.3 cubic yards of space in the landfill, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by one metric ton.

If you would like more information about our energy and water conservation efforts, please contact Christopher Moore, Energy Manager at christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov.





Airman credits team for receiving Silver Star

Story by Master Sgt. David Moore, Joint Force Headquarters
Photo by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, N.J. -- A New Jersey National Guard Airman from the 177th Fighter Wing received here the nation's third highest military award June 28, the Silver Star, for his bravery during combat actions in Afghanistan in 2012.

Master Sgt. Michael F. Sears, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, received the award in front of more than a 1,000 fellow Airmen, family, senior Guard leadership, veterans and friends inside a hangar that normally houses F-16 Fighting Falcons.

"I was asked where would I (sic) like the ceremony to be," Sears said after he received the award. "I was told it could be the Pentagon, New Jersey Department of Veterans Affairs or here. I am glad it's here because I wanted to share the Silver Star with you. This is for all my brother and sisters I serve with. My team taught me more than I could teach them."

Sears was awarded the Silver Star for his actions on the afternoon of Sept. 29, 2012. While working with Polish infantry soldiers, in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, the then technical sergeant was leading a three-man Air Force explosive ordnance disposal team through a successful roadside bomb mission, when they found themselves in the middle of a complex ambush on a dusty road.

Over the course of a two-hour firefight, Sears provided life-saving aid to a fallen Polish coalition soldier; ran five times through a 150-yard open area, which was riddled with enemy machine gun fire, to direct his team in returning fire; and continued on with the fight even after being knocked temporarily unconscious by a rocket-propelled grenade blast.

Ultimately, two Polish attack helicopters arrived with enough firepower to drive the insurgents away and for the team to be evacuated.

Sears credited Tech. Sgt. John Hurley, a fellow member of the 177th Fighter Wing, and Staff Sgt. Josh Jerden, an active duty Airman, with putting down continuous suppressive fire that allowed all of them to survive that day.

"I want everyone to know Sergeant Hurley saved me more than once while we were in Afghanistan," Sears said.

"What would make a person step from behind a rock or a vehicle and rush into such a dangerous situation where one could be harmed?" was a question posed by several dignitaries at the ceremony.

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cuniff, the Adjutant General of the New Jersey National Guard, spoke of Sears's family and their willingness to serve. His father, Ward, served as a Navy Seabee from 1968 to 1971. His brother, Dan, is a Marine Corps master sergeant with 22 years of service. Sears himself served in the Marines, beginning in 1998 and completed his enlistment with two sea service tours in the Pacific and one tour to Somalia, before he entered the Air National Guard and completed a 2008 deployment in Afghanistan.

Furthermore, Cuniff called today's generation of service members 'The Next Greatest' Generation.

"Master Sgt. Sears's courage and bravery inspires all of us," said Cuniff. "He and his team did their job with upmost professionalism on September 29th, 2012. And much like the heroes from D-Day inspired the world during World War II, Master Sgt. Sears and his team inspires those who yearn for freedom today."

New Jersey Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno opined about the courage shown by Sears during his actions on that fateful day.

"Many of us have heard the quote 'Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear'," said Guadagno of the Ambrose Redmoon writing. "What you did is almost impossible to believe...You served the people of the United States and sent the message freedom is what you fight for."

Sears, currently living in Pittsburgh, is married to Jennifer and has three children, Michael, Alexis, and Mikaela. He continues to serve with the 177th Fighter Wing, Civil Engineer Squadron. As a civilian, Sears works as an EOD specialist with Homeland Security.

HIGHLIGHTS



Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA

Army veteran, Joseph Postorino, left, celebrated his 102nd birthday last month, and his dream was to attend a live horse-racing event. The dream turned into reality June 28, as Joe left the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland in a new Mustang convertible for a day trip to Delaware Park, Wilmington, Delaware.

The Second Wind Dreams program event was sponsored by the Home's Sunday volunteers, a core group of individuals who dedicate their time weekly to providing fellowship and assistance to the Home's residents so they can attend church services at the Home.

Rich Hughes, assistant housekeeping supervisor, was Postorino's chauffeur for the trip that was escorted by dozen of motorcyclists to Delaware Memorial bridge where the First State troopers picked up the escort to the track.

Not only will he be attending the race, the first race of the day was named the "Joe Postorino Trophy Race" and Postorino, a former Toms River resident, awarded the winning jockey and horse owner their prizes in the winner's circle.

Postorino served as a staff sergeant during World War II and lost his leg during the Battle of the Bulge.



Band concerts 2014

The New Jersey Army National Guard's 63rd Army Band Summer concert series will musically light up several Independence Day festivities around the state.

July 2nd @ 7 p.m.

Bordentown / High School Performing Arts Center,
318 Ward Avenue, Bordentown Township, NJ

July 3rd @ 7:30 p.m.

Toms River / Ocean County Library
101 Washington Street, Toms River, NJ
(No rain site)

July 4th @ noon

Moorestown / Fourth of July Celebration Parade
(No rain site)

July 5 @ 7 p.m.

Avalon / Veteran's Plaza
21st Street and Dune Drive
Avalon, NJ
(Rain Site- Community Hall)



HIRING OUR HEROES®

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

**2014 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event – Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 316TH ARMY RESERVE OPERATION SUSTAINMENT WARRIOR
The Navy Hanger, Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 64
3370 Wonnacott Ave, Joint Base MDL, NJ 08641
Monday, July 28, 2014**

**EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS: 9:00AM - 11AM;
11:00AM - 1:00PM; 1:00PM - 3:00PM**

HIRING FAIR: 9:00AM – 4:00PM

A University of Phoenix-sponsored Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair for all veterans, military members and spouses will be proudly hosted in conjunction with the 316th U.S. Army Reserve Operation Sustainment Warrior. This job fair is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the New Jersey Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion, Goodwill Industries International, NBC News, and other local partners.

EMPLOYERS

Must register for **FREE** at HiringOurHeroes.org

JOB SEEKERS

Register for **FREE** at HiringOurHeroes.org
to guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.

Three workshops for veterans and other military job seekers that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 9:00AM, 11:00AM and 1:00PM. To register for the Hiring Our Heroes Employment Workshops, visit HiringOurHeroes.org.

For registration questions, please contact us at hiringourheroes@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5807.



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our powerful tools and resources at your fingertips.**



HIGHLIGHTS



More than 100 Citizen-Soldiers from the 150th Engineer Company, New Jersey National Guard, received a hero's welcome July 1, 2014 at a Welcome Home Ceremony at the Hammonton Armory. Led by the Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cuniff, senior NJNG leadership, friends and family, the Soldiers were greeted with cheers, applause and hugs from family at the ceremony. The Soldiers had spent the last nine months in Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, deconstructing U.S. military bases to its original state so they may be returned to Afghan forces. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



Col. Christopher Schrieks, center, is pinned his colonel epaulets by his wife and daughter at a promotion ceremony July 2, 2014 at New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs main office in Lawrenceville, N.J. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

HIGHLIGHTS



HIRING OUR HEROES®

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

2014 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event – Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 316TH ARMY RESERVE OPERATION SUSTAINMENT WARRIOR
The Navy Hanger, Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 64
3370 Wonnacott Ave, Joint Base MDL, NJ 08641
Friday, August 1, 2014

**EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM;
11:00 AM - 1:00PM; 1:00 PM - 3:00PM**

HIRING FAIR: 9:00AM – 4:00PM

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our powerful tools and resources at your fingertips.



Fireworks Safety Urged for Fourth of July Celebrations

By American Forces Press Service

Shooting-off fireworks on Independence Day is becoming more hazardous, according to a Consumer Product Safety Commission study issued June 26.

In 2013, there were eight deaths and an estimated 11,400 consumers who sustained injuries related to fireworks, the CPSC study said. This represents an increase from 8,700 injuries in 2012. Sixty-five percent, or 7,400, of the injuries in 2013 occurred in the 30 days surrounding July 4, 2013.

Fireworks malfunctions and improper use are associated with the most injuries, according to the study, which is based on the review of fireworks incident reports from hospital emergency rooms, death certificate files, news clippings and other sources.

Injuries frequently resulted from users playing with lit fireworks or igniting fireworks while holding the device. Consumers also reported injuries related to devices that malfunctioned or devices that did not work as expected, including injuries due to errant flight paths, devices that tipped over and blowouts.

"CPSC works year-round to help prevent deaths and injuries from legal and illegal fireworks," said CPSC Acting Chairman Bob Adler. "We engage the fireworks industry, monitor incoming fireworks shipments at the ports, and enforce federal safety rules, so that all Americans have a safe Fourth of July."

Last year, children under age 5 experienced a higher estimated per capita injury rate than any other age group, according to the study. Past reports indicate that consumers sometimes feel comfortable handing off to children fireworks devices perceived to be less powerful, such as sparklers and bottle rockets. In 2013, sparklers and rockets accounted for more than 40 percent of all estimated injuries.

According to the study, fireworks incidents become deadly when banned, professional and home-manufactured devices are involved. In each of the eight fireworks-related deaths recorded in 2013, the victim was manipulating [or was a bystander to someone who was handling] a banned, professional or home-manufactured device.

CPSC enforces the mandatory fireworks requirements in the Federal Hazardous Substances Act and the Consumer Product Safety Act, by working with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the U.S. Department of Justice. Together, these agencies monitor products entering the country, stop illegal use and distribution of fireworks and prosecute violators of the federal requirements.

CPSC and CBP staff sampled and tested a select number of imported fireworks in 2013. Of those tested, 33 percent were non-compliant with federal regulations. Violations most often involved overloaded report composition and failure to meet fuse burn-time requirements. These devices never reached the shelves of American stores or fireworks stands.



Consumers who decide to purchase legal fireworks are urged to take the following safety steps:

- Make sure the fireworks you want to buy are legal in your area before buying or using them;
- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers. Parents may not realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit -- hot enough to melt some metals;
- Always have an adult close by to supervise fireworks activities if older children are allowed to handle devices;
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper, which is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and could pose a danger to consumers;
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks;
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap;
- Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away;
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person;
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move away from them quickly;
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers; and
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding the device to prevent a trash fire.

ATF encourages the public to report the manufacture or sale of illegal fireworks to local law enforcement agencies or to the ATF hotline at 1-888-ATF-BOMB (1-888-283-2662).

DMAVA Highlights is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. e-mail at pao@njdmava.state.nj.us.

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