

View in Web Browser

November 13, 2024



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

## Commissioner's Corner



# Veterans Day

On Monday, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs had the distinct honor of hosting our state's observance of Veterans Day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel. We did so together with elected officials, community leaders, and most importantly, veterans and veteran spouses from across the Garden State. Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way, in her capacity as acting governor, presided over what I found to be a ceremony of joy and celebration of the contributions made by the over 300,000 veterans who call New Jersey home.

Many of us who wear or have worn a uniform are familiar with the phrase, "Thank you for your service." Often, kind folks will stop a service member in a grocery store to express their gratitude for those who protect the United States. When it happens to me, it's important to reply to them with a thank you for caring enough to say so. After four decades in the Air Force, I also know that we owe it to each and every person who has served to turn those words of thanks into action.

On Veterans Day, Lieutenant Governor Way announced the launch of Bringing Veterans Home, the State of New Jersey's expansion of housing services to bring veteran homelessness to functional zero by July 1, 2026. Led by the Department of Community Affairs and supported by DMAVA, we will surge the availability of emergency, short term, and permanent housing vouchers for unhoused veterans and their families. This expansion will be coupled with street outreach and case management services to ensure that once we identify those in need, we support them for the long haul.

This is a bold and ambitious effort. Success will require the support of readers like you. In the days ahead, watch this space for additional information on Bringing Veterans Home and how the

wider community can help as we seek to put a roof over the head of every veteran who needs one.

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](mailto:outreach@dmava.nj.gov).

**Colonel Yvonne L. Mays**  
**Adjutant General & Commissioner**



## Invitation



The pleasure of your company is requested at the ceremony honoring

**Colonel Yvonne L. Mays**  
**The Adjutant General of New Jersey**

on the occasion of her promotion to the rank of

## **Brigadier General**

on Monday, the twenty-fifth of November  
two thousand and twenty-four  
at eleven o'clock in the morning

Lawrenceville Armory  
151 Eggert Crossing Road  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Military: Uniform of the Day  
Civilian: Business Casual

## **Featured Events**

The Bergen County American Legion is pleased to partner with  
The Bergen County Division of Veterans Services for the

# American Legion Stand Down



DIVISION OF  
**VETERANS  
SERVICES**



**Bergen County  
New Jersey  
American Legion**  
"We continue to serve"

Please join us for a day of critical recourses including Veteran outreach,  
benefits, vaccines, food and clothing distribution, and so much more!

**Saturday, November 16, 2024**  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**American Legion Post 170**  
**33 West Passaic Street**  
**Rochelle Park, NJ 07662**

*We are pleased to be hosting the following organizations.*



**NEW JERSEY SOS VETERANS  
STAKEHOLDERS GROUP**



*Bergen*  
**New Bridge  
Medical Center**  
A Clinical Affiliate of **RUTGERS**



  
Catholic Charities  
Diocese of Paterson  
[www.CCPaterson.org](http://www.CCPaterson.org)  
Providing help - creating hope.



# VETERAN APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Organized by Feeding Our Heroes

Friday, November 22, at 12 noon

**American Legion**  
**Joyce Kilmer Post 25**  
4 JF Kennedy Dr.  
Milltown NJ

For more info:

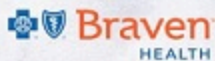
Email

[mgiunta@feedingourheroes.org](mailto:mgiunta@feedingourheroes.org)

or call (732) 769-7951



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Home of the Free Because of the Brave

## 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.

- November 14&15 | Lyons  
[VA Native American Cultural Event](#)
- November 16 | Sea Girt  
[NJARNG OCS Orientation](#)
- November 16 | Sea Girt  
[Month of the Military Family Field Day](#)
- November 16 | Edison  
[State Medal Ceremony](#)
- November 16 | Mountainside  
[Veterans Expo and Luncheon](#)
- November 16 | Rochelle Park  
[Bergen County American Legion Stand Down](#)
- November 17 | Bordentown  
[Reserve & National Guard Transition Benefits Workshop](#)
- November 22 | Milltown  
[Feeding Our Heroes Veteran Appreciation Luncheon](#)
- November 25 | Lawrenceville  
[Promotion of Col Mays to Brigadier General](#)

## **Community Calendar**

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

[View Full Calendar](#)

## Spotlight



## **Governor Murphy Leads Veterans Day Commemoration in the UK**

On Monday, Governor Phil Murphy led fellow Americans and British allies in a Veterans Day observance at the Cambridge American Cemetery during his trade mission to the United Kingdom.

The cemetery is home to 3,811 Americans killed in action in World War II.

The Governor and First Lady Tammy Murphy laid a wreath at the grave of Private First Class Elmer Shinn, 22nd Infantry Regiment. PFC Shinn was a native of Monmouth County.

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## **Acting Governor Tahesha Way Announces Launch of Bringing Veterans Home Initiative**

*News Release | November 11, 2024*

HOLMDEL – Acting Governor Tahesha Way today announced the launch of Bringing Veterans Home (BVH), an initiative led by the

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA). Acting Governor Way made the announcement during the State Veterans' Day Ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum in Holmdel.

More than \$30 million in State and federal funds has been committed to fund services and interventions over a two-year period to help place more than 1,000 homeless veterans in New Jersey in stable housing. This is the first time veteran service organizations in New Jersey will formally partner with the State in the fight against unsheltered veteran homelessness. This effort will be led by DCA's Office of Homelessness Prevention via a dedicated data and project management team in partnership with DMAVA.

[Read Full News Release](#)

## Veterans Day Ceremony



## State Veterans Day Ceremony

The State Veterans Day ceremony was held at the [New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial](#) at Holmdel, NJ on November 11, 2024.

Veterans Day celebrates and honors America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

[View Images](#)

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## We Value Our Veterans Awards

The Veterans Day ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel was the perfect venue to present the prestigious New Jersey's Governor "We Value Our Veterans" Awards for 2024.

Award recipients for 2024 are:

- Community Award: Wildwood Crest and Secaucus

- Employer Award: Cooper University Healthcare and Quecon, Inc.

Each awardee received a certificate signed by New Jersey Governor Philip Murphy.

The “*We Value Our Veterans*” Award provides employers, counties, municipalities, and academia the opportunity to value and honor the sacrifices, patriotism and bravery displayed by our men and women who have worn the military uniform. The award program requires participants to accomplish multiple Veteran friendly tasks to be eligible to receive this award.

We welcome all New Jersey municipalities, counties, employers and academia to apply for this prestigious award by visiting our website at [We Value Our Veterans](#).

Images of the award ceremony can be found at [DMAVA Flickr](#).

## NJ National Guard



## 1-102nd Cavalry Regiment

Soldiers assigned to 1-102nd Cavalry Regiment, [44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#), train alongside members from 1st Company, Syrian Free Army to conduct a training exercise near Al-Tanf Garrison, Syria.

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## 1-114th Infantry Regiment

Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry Regiment, [44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#), deployed in support of [Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve](#), perform a live fire exercise utilizing the M121 120mm mortar system in Northeast Syria, October 16, 2024.

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### **3-112th Field Artillery Regiment**

Army Soldiers assigned to Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery Regiment, and 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry Regiment, [44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#), New Jersey Army National Guard, deployed in support of [Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve](#), perform a live fire exercise utilizing the M777 Howitzer in Northeast Syria, October 16, 2024.



## **1-114th Infantry Regiment**

Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry Regiment, [44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#), along with Syrian Democratic Forces conduct security operations, such as foot patrols, that provide stability for the local population and prevent a resurgence of ISIS in the [Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve](#) area of responsibility.



## Operation Pegasus Dawn

The [177th Fighter Wing](#) Jersey Devils recently deployed to Aviano Air Base, Italy, for Operation Pegasus Dawn, an Agile Combat Employment training mission with the purpose of assisting the [108th Wing](#) transition from KC-135 refueler aircraft to the more advanced KC-46 Pegasus model.

119th Fighter Squadron pilots conducted daily flight missions, playing a vital role in preparing the Air Force for the future of air refueling and proving the New Jersey Air National Guard's ability to operate anywhere in the world!

Great job to all NJANG teams for getting some valuable ACE training; and thank you [Aviano Air Base](#) for hosting.



## 63rd Army Band

The NJ National Guard's [63rd Army Band](#) performed at the Rutgers Football Military Appreciation Game on November 9, 2024.

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## Join Our Team

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



## DMAVA Veterans Services



DCVA Vincent Solomeno speaking before the Neptune Township Veterans Memorial Park anniversary luncheon on November 10, 2024.

### **DCVA Begins 21 County Veterans Tour**

Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Vincent Solomeno is on the road in the month of November for a veterans tour, a series of stops highlighting New Jersey's 21 counties and raising awareness about state delivered veterans benefits, programs, and services. Solomeno's road trip will focus on Bringing Veterans Home, the State of New Jersey's recently announced effort to effectively end veteran homelessness in the Garden State.

Solomeno has made stops in Cumberland, Middlesex, Essex, Monmouth, Union, Salem, and Mercer Counties and will continue his visits throughout the month.

“From High Point to Cape May, New Jersey is investing more, doing more, and achieving more on behalf of our veterans than at any time in our history,” said Deputy Commissioner Solomeno. “This tour is about listening to comrades and taking their thoughts and concerns back to Trenton so that we remain laser focused on driving meaningful change for our community. This is also an opportunity for me to learn about the countless acts of leadership, service, and generosity done by veterans at the local level. This is a beautiful state with incredible people. I am seeing that we have so much to be thankful for.”

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DeAndre Gurley, DMAVA Essex County Veterans Service Officer, Councilmember At Large Rev. Louise Scott-Rountree, DCVA Vincent Solomeno, and veterans advocates Jana Williams and Julio Aponte cut the ribbon on the new VSO at Newark City Hall.

## **DMAVA and City of Newark Open Veterans Service Office**

On Friday, November 8, 2024, DMAVA and the City of Newark formally opened a shared Veterans Service Office located at Newark City Hall. This dedicated point of entry for veterans of New Jersey’s largest city will provide access to local, state, and federal benefits, programs, and services.

Staffed by trained and accredited State of New Jersey veterans service officers, this dedicated space is the result of DMAVA's focus on ensuring that points of entry are accessible to residents of rural areas and urban centers. Earlier this year, DMAVA completed Governor Murphy's expansion of veteran service offices to every county. This new location compliments the work of the state's existing Essex County office.

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## **Menlo Park Celebrates Veterans Day**

Residents of the [New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park](#) welcomed families, members of the community, and local officials to their November 7, 2024 Veterans Day ceremony.

The Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Color Guard presented the colors before the start of the event. Cheerleaders from St. John Vianney High School performed the National Anthem and led a rousing rendition of “God Bless America.”

As part of his 21 County Veterans Tour, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Vincent Solomano served as the keynote speaker

and thanked the veterans and veteran spouses for their service to the United States.

Volunteers from Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL) presented a donation of \$13,000 to support resident recreation activities. Since it was established in 1942, BVL has supported America's heroes with over \$57 million raised to support recreation therapy programs at veterans' hospitals, clinics and community-based counseling centers.

[View Images](#)

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## State Medal Ceremony

Left to right, retired New Jersey Army National Guard Col. Mark A. Preston; retired NJ Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Kryn P. Westhoven; Air Force Col. Yvonne L. Mays, The Adjutant General of New Jersey; and retired NJ Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. Tamika S. Covington have their photo taken after the [New Jersey State Medal](#) Ceremony at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in Lawrenceville, NJ on November 4, 2024.

[View Images](#)



## State Medal Ceremony

On Veterans Day, DMAVA Director of Veterans Services, Esther Chucaralao, presented both the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Vietnam Service Medal posthumously to John W. Lupo, namesake of "[John W. Lupo Memorial American Legion Post 306](#)" in Middlesex, NJ.

Accepting the award was Lupo's brother Raymond Lupo and his wife Debbie. Following the presentation, Post 306 unveiled a "Wall of Honor" that depicts Lupo's life and military service.

John W. Lupu was killed in action on September 25, 1969 in Province of Tay Ninh, Vietnam.

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**Jason Newman, Camden VSO**

Jason Newman is the DMAVA Veterans Service Officer (VSO) working in our office in Camden, NJ.

To contact Jason or one of his colleagues around the state, please visit our website at [Veterans Service Offices](#).

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## 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](#)

### Veteran Service Providers

Do you provide services to Veterans? We would like to get you enrolled in this new online referral network, Unite NJ Veterans. This digital platform connects Veterans to the resources around them quickly. [Learn more and enroll.](#)



**SMS Alerts - Text "NJVets" to 78015**

Opt-in now to receive SMS Alerts from DMAVA! Text "NJVets" to 78015 or scan the QR code above and send. You will be immediately opted-in to receive alerts and important messages from the Division of Veterans Services.

This service is provided free of charge, however, carrier messaging and data rates may apply. To opt-out at any time, simply reply "Stop".

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**VBB@DMAVA.NJ.GOV**



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7 days a week**  
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**NJ Veterans' Benefits Hotline**

**888-865-8387**

**[vbb@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:vbb@dmava.nj.gov)**

Veterans Outreach Schedule

Veterans Service Offices

# DMAVA Departments



## Center for U.S. War Veterans' Oral Histories

The [National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey](#) is the home of the Center for U.S. War Veterans' Oral Histories. It is the Center's mission to collect and preserve the memories of Veterans and Gold Star family members through recorded oral history interviews.

To date, the Center's collection contains over 600 interviews of Veterans of all branches of service from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and other American military campaigns. Over 400 interviews are available online in the [Oral History Archives](#).

# NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

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 [rpm@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:rpm@dmava.nj.gov)

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

# NJNG Family Programs

November 2024

Newsletter and More



**Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging**

# DEIB Newsletter

## State Partners



## Morris County Honors Veterans Day 2024

*morriscountynj.gov | November 7, 2024*

Veterans, dignitaries, family members, and friends gathered last night at Morris County's Annual Veterans Day Observance Ceremony, where the Board of County Commissioners presented Morris County Distinguished Military Service Medals to 11 local heroes, who were also honored by state and federal officials.

[Full Story with Images](#)

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### **Salem County Medal Ceremony**

November 7, 2024 was a truly inspiring evening at the Salem County Veterans Military Service Medal Ceremony, where we celebrated the courage, dedication, and sacrifices of our Veterans with gratitude and respect. Heartwarming to present medals to our Veterans who were surrounded by their loved ones.

*Image and caption courtesy [Salem County Veterans Services](#).*

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## **NJ Department of Corrections**

The New Jersey Department of Corrections' Military Service Liaison Committee (MSLC) hosted a military service appreciation event to honor those in our department who serve or have served in the United States Military.

The event also provided valuable resources for veterans and their loved ones.

This year's event featured remarks by NJDOC Commissioner Victoria L. Kuhn, Esq.; Major General Edward J. Chrystal, Jr., Army National Guard; and Sgt. Justin Seguine.

Congratulations to Antoinette Minors-Ferguson and Kevin Harkins, co-chairs of MSLC, who received Recognition Awards for their contributions and commitment to the MSLC and the NJDOC!

*Image and caption courtesy [NJDOC](#).*

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## **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](#)
- [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](#)
- [Troops to Teachers](#)
- [Journey Through Jersey](#)

## Federal Partners



### **VA proposes to eliminate copays for telehealth, expand access to telehealth for rural Veterans**

*VA News | November 11, 2024*

WASHINGTON - Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it is proposing to eliminate copayments for all VA telehealth services and establish a grant program to fund designated VA telehealth access points in non-VA facilities, with a focus on rural and medically underserved communities.

These proposed changes would advance VA and the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing efforts to lower costs and expand access to care for all those who served. The proposed grant program, called Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations (ATLAS), would provide funding to organizations - including nonprofits and private businesses - to offer Veterans comfortable, private spaces equipped with high-speed internet access and the technology to

meet with VA providers remotely. Grants would also provide designated funding to train on-site personnel to support the program.

[Read Full Release](#)



**theSITREP Podcast**  
By: Department of Veterans Affairs  
Podcast



**VIETNAM**      **GULF WAR**      **POST - 9/11**

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## The Women Veterans Call Center is Your Guide to VA

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

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



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Featured Links

- [National Parks Pass](#)
- [VALife Insurance](#)
- [VA Urgent Care Services](#)
- [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](#)

## Warrior Spotlight



### **Last Formation**

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. L. Mike LaPoint, Deputy Adjutant General, and Command Sgt. Maj. Johnathan Hicks, held a Last Formation ceremony at the Bordentown Armory on November 2, 2024.

The Last Formation ceremony recognizes Soldiers and their families who are departing or starting a much-deserved retirement

from military service.

[View Images](#)

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## **SSG Daney Reyes**

Staff Sergeant Daney Reyes from Alpha Battery, [3-112th Field Artillery Regiment](#), was presented with an Army Achievement Medal by Lieutenant Colonel David Eckenrode and Command Sergeant Major Angel Rosario in front of her battery leadership and Soldiers.

SSG Reyes stood above her peers from across the battalion and won the NCO of the Quarter Board held in October 2024.



## **Rutgers Medical Student Serves Her Country in the New Jersey Army National Guard**

*Sherrie Negrea | Rutgers.edu | November 8, 2024*

As a medical services officer with the New Jersey Army National Guard, 1st Lt. Rachel Cary is focused on maintaining the medical readiness of more than 7,000 soldiers.

Her work at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J., while attending Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School combines the two passions in her life: military service and medicine.

“In order for soldiers to be activated for a mission, they have to be medically fit to serve,” Cary says. “Our job at Medical Command is to ensure our force is physically and mentally prepared to perform its duties.”

Cary began her assignment with the New Jersey Army National Guard when she started medical school in the summer of 2021. After graduating next spring, Cary plans to become an emergency medicine physician, which she says is needed in the military.

[Read Full Story](#)



## **Rutgers Alumna Promoted to Brigadier General**

*Debbie Meyers | Rutgers Foundation | November 4, 2024*

Cindy Saladin-Muhammad holds several singular distinctions.

She serves as Deputy Commanding General of the 807th Medical Command and recently was promoted to brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserves, one of only a handful of African American females to attain that rank in the medical field of the military.

Saladin-Muhammad NCAS'91, SHP'91, her husband Sayyed Muhammad, who was in Army Special Operations, and her son Air Force Tech Sergeant Reshard Saladin have a combined 75 years of U.S. military service.

In addition, she is a Six Sigma master black belt and a resiliency coach, and has held leadership positions in an international pharmaceutical corporation.

Back at home in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, she also serves on the Rutgers University Alumni Association (RUAA) Board of Directors.

[Read Full Story](#)

## Community Spotlight



### **Scout Jamboree**

The New Jersey Army National Guard is proud to have supported the Jersey 360 Jamboree held at the Sussex County Fairgrounds!



## Air Force Junior ROTC

The Air Force Junior ROTC placed flags at the [Salem County Veterans Cemetery](#) in preparation for Veterans Day.

## In The News

**NJ BRINGING VETERANS HOME INITIATIVE**  
SOURCE: OFFICE OF GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY

- \$30M IN STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING
- 1,000 NJ VETERANS IN STABLE HOUSING OVER NEXT 2 YEARS
- HOMELESS VETERANS CAN APPLY EARLY 2025

**NJ'S PLAN TO FIGHT VETERAN HOMELESSNESS**

5:34  
64°

PIX11.COM

## **New Jersey aims to tackle veteran homelessness in new initiative**

*Jim Vasil | Pix11 | November 11, 2024*

HOLMDEL, N.J. (PIX11) - Not all veterans who've come home from war have a place to call home.

At a Veteran's Day ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel, Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way unveiled the State's new mission to effectively defeat veteran homelessness called the Bringing Veterans Home Initiative.

"It is important that those who sacrificed so much for their fellow Americans never go without secure and stable shelter," said Way.

The initiative already has \$30 million in federal and state dollars earmarked in the State's fiscal year 2025 budget. The State says it will place more than 1,000 of New Jersey's homeless vets in stable housing over the next two years. Starting early next year, veterans experiencing homelessness can apply online, by phone, or by visiting housing providers.

The State also says it will be forming outreach teams to seek out veterans who may be living in homeless encampments, or otherwise don't have access to a computer or transportation.

[Full Story with Video](#)



## **Vineland High School South Building Renamed to Honor First Lt. Charles "Chickie" Asselta**

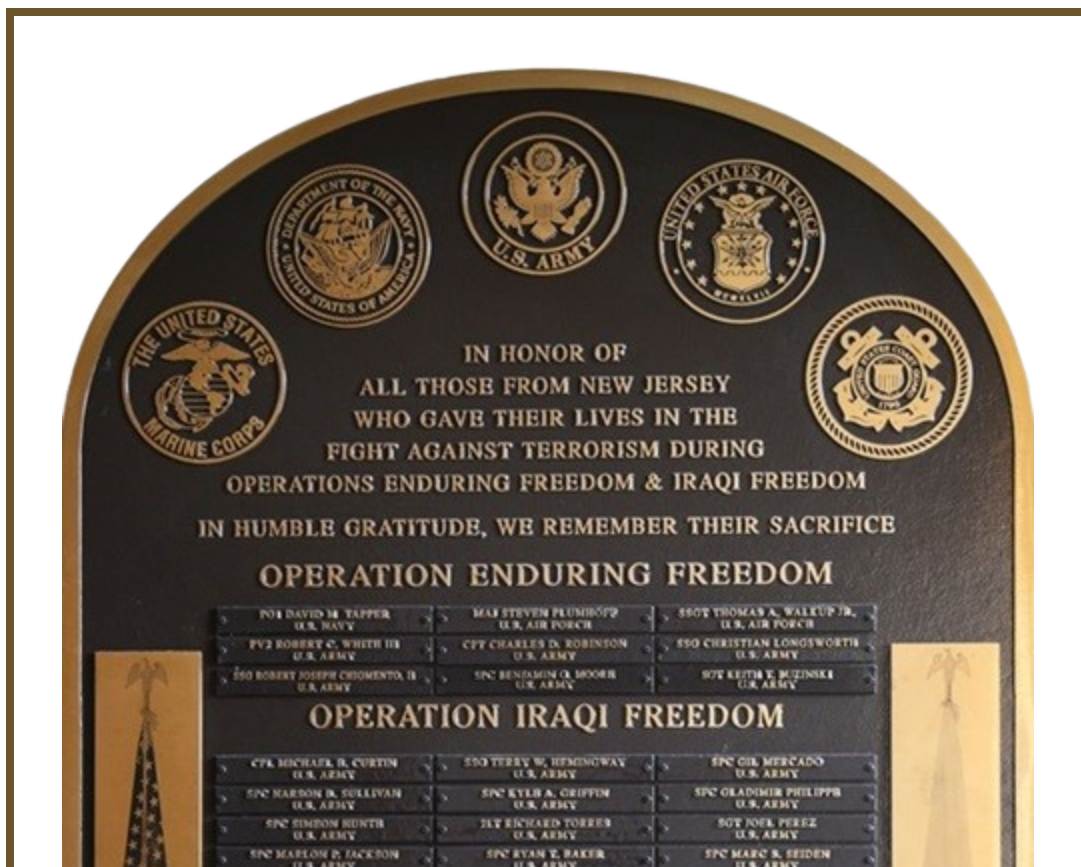
*Vineland Public Schools | November 5, 2024*

On November 4, the Vineland community came together for a heartfelt dedication ceremony at Vineland High School, where the South Building was renamed in honor of First Lt. Charles 'Chickie' Asselta, marking it as the first high school in New Jersey to bear the name of a Vietnam veteran.

As the ceremony progressed, it was evident that First Lt. Charles "Chickie" Asselta's influence extended far and wide. The audience included relatives, friends, and fellow veterans, along with Vineland High School students, staff, and local community members. Each person in attendance had a personal connection to Asselta or had been impacted by his legacy.

A lively atmosphere filled the air outside of VHS as guests arrived. The VHS Marching Band, cheerleaders, and everyone's favorite mascot, Rowdy Rooster, gave attendees a dose of VHS school spirit as they entered the building. In the auditorium foyer, display tables lined one wall featuring mementos of Lt. Asselta's life and time in the military.

## 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.

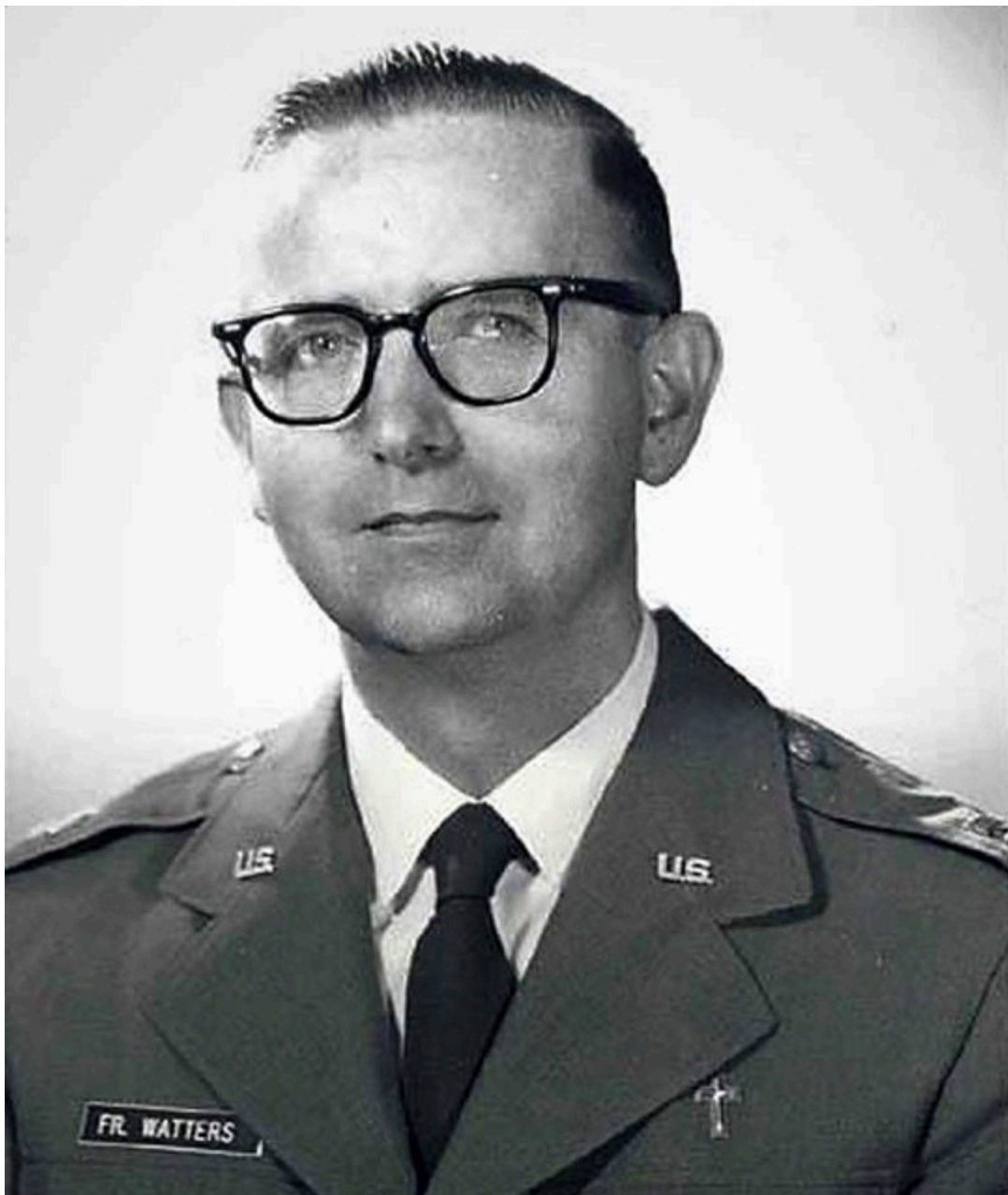
### **Memorial Inscription**

*"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



Chaplain Major Charles J. Watters

**November 11, 1918**

At 11:00 AM the World War I Armistice began, ending active combat for the National Guard soldiers of the New Jersey National Guard in the 29th Division and drafted Jerseymen in the 78th and other divisions and

**November 19, 1967**

U.S. Army Chaplain Major Charles J. Watters of Jersey City, a Seton Hall University graduate and Catholic priest, was killed by "friendly fire" when a mistakenly dropped American bomb landed on his position near Dak To, Vietnam.

New Jerseyans in the USMC and Navy.

### **November 16, 1776**

A British and Hessian force stormed Fort Washington, New York, and captured 2,600 Americans. Morale on the New Jersey side of the Hudson, where soldiers watched the disaster, plummeted, and the Americans evacuated supplies inland as British raiders began to cross the river, isolating Fort Lee.

### **November 16, 1945**

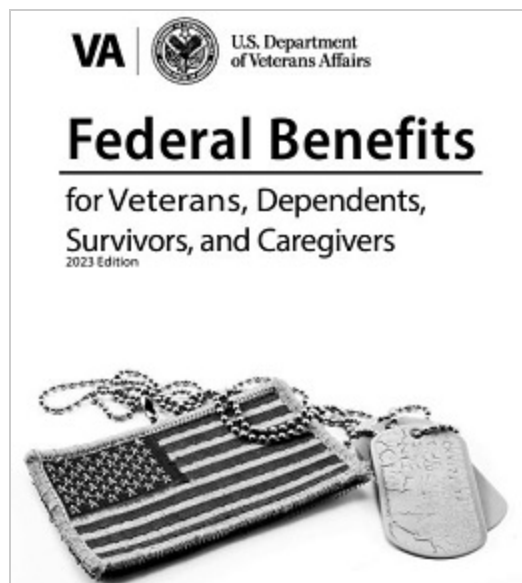
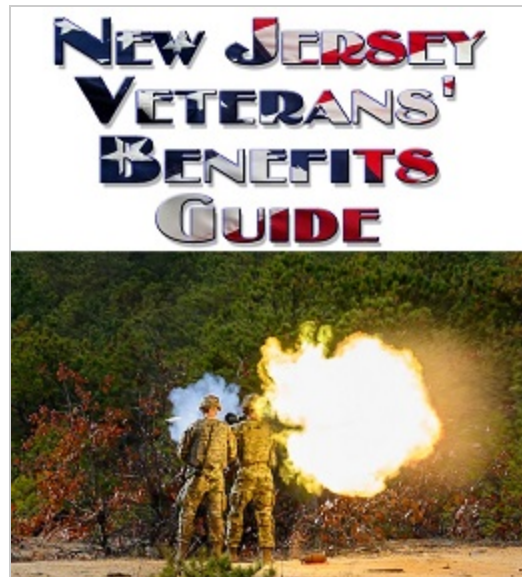
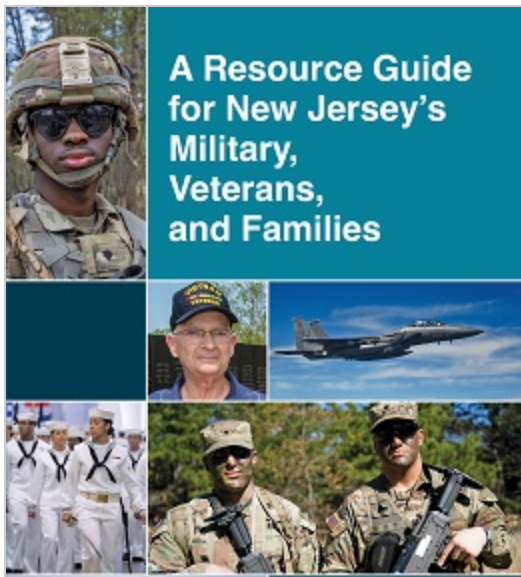
The United States Army Air Force returned control of Convention Hall in Atlantic City, used as a training headquarters since July, 1942, to civilian authorities.

Watters, assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, had repeatedly risked his life retrieving wounded men under enemy fire, and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

### **November 21, 1776**

As the main American Army under General George Washington withdrew across New Jersey, Governor William Livingston ordered his militia to rally to support Washington's retreat and control potential Loyalist uprisings. The initial response was less than stellar, prompting some caustic comments from Washington, but British looting provided an incentive for a militia revival as December dawned.

## **Resources**



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