

View in Web Browser

September 3, 2025



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

Commissioner's Corner



Never Forget

Twenty-four years.

For some of us, that is a lifetime. For others, we remember it like it was yesterday.

On this twenty-fourth anniversary of September 11, 2001, I am reminded of the sudden, terrible change which reverberated through American society as nearly three thousand lives ended in that horrible day. It was an attack not just on key infrastructure, but on our entire American way of life. It was an attack on the bastion of freedom that is our nation.

I am reminded of the feeling of waking up on September 12 into a new and uncertain world, as an era of persistent conflict was poised to transform the very nature of the National Guard from a reserve to a strategic force.

I am reminded of the months-long combat air patrols by the 177th Fighter Wing and the “Bridges and Tunnels” missions that followed. Nearly every Army and Air unit in our New Jersey National Guard was involved in security, recovery, and logistical support missions or military operations connected with the September 11 attacks ([9/11 NJNG Response Timeline](#) | page 7).

I am reminded of the decades of deployments that followed, and continue to follow, as overseas contingency operations and the call to federal service remain a part of life for the 8,400 Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard, our families, and our civilian employers.

But importantly, I am reminded of the resolute and resilient character of our New Jersey family. Together, we have risen to every challenge, honored every memory, and never, ever forgotten what we have sacrificed.

On this day, I ask that we remember not only what has been lost, but the generation that has grown up into the resulting world. Let us teach and guide one another, so that the past may be remembered

and the future remain one of life, hope, and the continued freedom we treasure as Americans.

On this day, I ask that we pause and think about what that freedom means and how we cherish and uphold it in our daily lives.

On this day, never forget.

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



Invitation



Brigadier General Yvonne L. Mays
The Adjutant General of New Jersey

and the New Jersey National Guard
cordially invites you to attend the

Annual Governor's Military Review

Sunday, 14 September 2025, at 10:00 am

National Guard Training Center
Camp Drive and Sea Girt Avenue
Parade Field

Sea Girt, New Jersey 08750-0277

Military: Duty Uniform
Civilian: Business Casual

Featured Events




INAUGURAL VETERANS SHOW & THROW!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH 11AM - 5PM

Hosted by: Glasstown Brewing Company
10 Peterson Street, Millville, NJ 08332





Partial Proceeds will go to the
Veteran Memorial Home - Vineland.

JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED DAY!
CAR SHOW, CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT, VENDORS,
FOOD TRUCKS, MUSIC, CHINESE AUCTION,
50/50 RAFFLE, TROPHIES & MORE!




FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT PLEASE EMAIL
VETERANSSHOWANDTHROW@GMAIL.COM

PLEASE SCAN HERE TO SIGN UP.



SFC Robert H Yancey Sr

STAND DOWN of SOUTH JERSEY

Serving Homeless and At Risk Veterans Since 1996

★ **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025** ★

8:30am - 12:30pm

LOCATION: Cherry Hill Armory, Grove St & Park Blvd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The following Services and Assistance will be available;

VA Benefit Counseling * Meal * PTSD Counseling * Mental Health * Welfare * Social Security *
Food Stamps * Legal Services * Addiction Services * Housing * Medical * Employment *
Unemployment * Haircuts * Clothing * Provisions and more !

Homeless/At Risk Veteran Registration

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

If you are a homeless or at risk veteran wishing to attend for services, please register on our website (or follow QR code). If you can not register online, call 609-238-1452 to register

We do offer 2 Bus Shuttles for the homeless/at risk veterans that may need it.

One shuttle from Trenton City Hall and one shuttle from Camden VA Clinic. Complete details on website.

Veteran ID/Proof of Service will be required prior to entry.
Veterans only - no family/children

Volunteers & Service Providers :

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

To Register as a Volunteer, fill out our online registration form on our website.

To Apply to have a Service Provider Table, fill out our online application form on our website. Limited space, first come, first serve.



WWW.STANDDOWNSOUTHJERSEY.ORG

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.

- September 4 | County College of Morris
[Medal Ceremony & Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)
- September 5 | Trenton
[Resource Fair Hosted by Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson](#)

- September 6 | Mullica Hill
[Annual Veterans Picnic](#)
- September 9 | Wrightstown
[39th New Jersey's Mission of Honor Ceremony](#)
- September 13 | Jersey City
[Bergen Square Day](#)
- September 14 | Sea Girt
[Annual Governor's Military Review](#)
- September 14 | Millville
[Veterans Show & Throw](#)
- September 18 | Virtual
[Suicide Prevention & Awareness Month Webinar](#)
- September 18-19 | Lawrenceville
[Grant Management Workshop](#)
- September 20 | Tinton Falls
["Brewed to Serve" Helping Homeless Veterans](#)
- September 20 | Paramus
[Bergen County Sheriff's Office Veteran's Appreciation BBQ](#)
- September 20 | Bordentown
[Military Transition / Retirement Seminar](#)
- September 24 | Wildwood
[Veteran's Benefits & Health Fair](#)
- September 25 | Hillsborough
[Older Adults Resource Fair](#)
- September 26 | Cherry Hill
[Stand Down of South Jersey](#)

Community Calendar

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

[View Full Calendar](#)

Spotlight



September is Suicide Prevention Month

Join the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for a special webinar in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This year's session focuses on suicide prevention and the VA's evolving Whole Health model - a proactive, person-centered approach to supporting mental wellness.

The webinar will feature opening remarks by Deputy Commissioner of Veteran Affairs Vincent Solomeno, Chair of the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans,

and Their Families, and training led by Heather Church-Soto, VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

This is a vital opportunity to learn, engage, and support suicide prevention efforts across New Jersey.

The webinar will be held on September 18, 2025 from 10am to 11am. [Learn more and register.](#)

Get additional resources by visiting the DMAVA website at [SaveNJVets.gov](https://www.nj.gov/military/outreach/newsletters/20250903.html).

NJ National Guard



177th Fighter Wing Strengthens Pacific Readiness Through Historic Exercise

SrA Darion Boyd | 177th Fighter Wing | August 8, 2025

The [177th Fighter Wing](#) of the New Jersey Air National Guard participated in exercise Resolute Force Pacific (REFORPAC) 2025, a first-of-its-kind Department Level Exercise (DLE) at Komatsu Air Base, Japan, this July and August. The DLE was designed to demonstrate the armed forces' ability to rapidly deploy personnel, equipment and aircraft to the Indo-Pacific theater of operations.

The DLE series encompasses all branches of the Department of Defense, along with allies and partners, employing more than 400 Joint and coalition aircraft and more than 12,000 members at more than 50 locations across 3,000 miles.

“REFORPAC will help solidify Agile Combat Employment (ACE) concepts and execution among the men and women of the 177th Fighter Wing,” said Lt. Col. Eric Emerson, 119th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander. “Lessons learned from this exercise will have a direct effect on how we train, fight and win our nation’s future conflicts.”

[Read Full Story](#)



Marksmanship Team

The New Jersey National Guard State Marksmanship Team competed at the Marksmanship Advisory Council (MAC) Region 2 at

Fort Indiantown Gap, PA.

They competed against other teams within our Region from Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Virginia.

The Team placed 2nd overall in the Combined Arms Team Match. SFC Joseph Garback from the 1-114th Infantry placed 3rd overall.

Congratulations to all of the competitors.



Join Our Team

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



DMAVA Veterans Services



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

NEW JERSEY
YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY
DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.

YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

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

Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

DEIB Newsletter

State Partners

NEW JERSEY'S 10TH ANNUAL

SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

Building on 10 Years of Progress and Hope

September 10, 2025



Featuring Keynote Speaker

DR. RICHARD MCKEON

*Senior Advisor, 988 and Behavioral Health
Crisis Coordinating Office*

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



This event is free, virtual, and all are welcome.

Save the Date

..... Wednesday, September 17, 2025

NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES'

Opioid Summit 2025

.....

All-Day Virtual Event | Keynotes | Workshop Sessions
Panels | Education Credits available

Funding for this conference is made possible by SAMHSA. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

NJ Healthy Aging Summit: Opioid Safety & Alternatives

9:30am to 3pm
Friday, September 26, 2025

Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino
Huron Avenue & Brigantine Boulevard
Atlantic City, NJ

▶ PLEASE REGISTER
for this important
conference at
NJHealthyAging.org

Why Attend?

New Jersey's aging population has become increasingly vulnerable in the opioid crisis.

- Opioid overdose deaths for people 65 and older are up 300% since 2002
- Emergency department visits by older adults for opioids are up 16%
- 1 in 8 older adults is prescribed opioids every year

Health and Wellness Strategies for the Aging Population

Topics Covered:

- Opioid prescribing and addiction
- Prescribing trends and increased risk of dependency
- Guidelines for safe use, storage, and disposal
- Promoting safer alternatives for pain management
- Accessing resources and services



▶ PLEASE REGISTER at
NJHealthyAging.org

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED





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](#)

Federal Partners



Switch from DS Logon to Login.gov or ID.me by September 30

After Sept. 30, 2025, Veterans will have two secure options to sign in to VA.gov and VA mobile apps - a Login.gov account or ID.me account.

Most Veterans have already made the switch. If you're still using a DS Logon username and password, we want to make sure you're prepared when this option is discontinued by the end of September.

[Learn More](#)



padlet

JB MDL Virtual Message Board



theSITREP Podcast
By: Department of Veterans Affairs
Podcast



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

**WERE YOU EXPOSED TO BURN PITS,
NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CHEMICALS,
AGENT ORANGE, OR OTHER TOXINS
WHILE SERVING IN THE MILITARY?**



**Apply for VA
health care today
at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).**

VA |  U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Have questions?
Call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 0
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
of Veterans Affairs

VA**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

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](#)

In The News



Local Veterans Celebrated at Annual Veterans Appreciation Day

morriscountynj.gov | August 18, 2025

Veterans from across Morris County were honored this week at the second annual Veteran Appreciation Day hosted by local veteran organizations, where more than 100 attendees gathered at Watnong VFW Post 3401 in Morris Plains.

Morris County Commissioners Thomas Mastrangelo and Christine Myers attended to show their appreciation, joined by Morris County Sheriff James Gannon, U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill, Assemblywoman Aura Dunn, Assemblyman Christian Barranco and Morris Plains Mayor Jason Karr.

The event was hosted by Welcome Home Vets of New Jersey, Catholic Charities, NJ SOS Veteran Stakeholders, VFW 3401 and Morristown American Legion Post 59.

[Read Full Story](#)



\$40M affordable housing complex with 80 units for veterans opens in N.J. town

Patti Sapone | NJ Advanced Media | August 22, 2025

A \$40 million affordable 80-unit housing community for veterans and their families called Valor Pointe has opened in Middlesex County. The development on Cranbury Half Acre Road in Monroe Township includes a computer lab and smart card laundry center.

Valor Pointe has already leased more than half of its units to military veterans since opening on July 31, according to [a statement from Conifer Realty](#).

Of the 80 apartments, 37 will be dedicated specifically to veterans. The 43 remaining apartments at Valor Pointe will have a waitlist with a preference for veterans.

[Read Full Story](#)

New Jersey veterans heal at Salvation Army sleepaway camp

Jim Vasil | PIX11 News | August 19, 2025

PITTSTOWN, N.J. (PIX11) — For veterans hoping to find peace, some find it in the rolling hills of Hunterdon County once a year.

“This is something that’s so special and dear to my heart that I look forward to every year,” said Gregory Backer, a 12-year Army veteran from Bergen County.

Here, Backer is among veterans whose wounds can’t be seen.

“I suffer from PTSD, depression, all that stuff, anxiety,” said Backer. “For me, doing this clears my mind.”

[Full Video Story](#)

Employee Spotlight



Eric Rodriguez

The [177th Fighter Wing](#) welcomes Mr. Eric Rodriguez, 177th Fighter Wing Personal Financial Counselor, to the Wing!

Mr. Rodriguez's services are open to Airmen and their families with resources provided by the Department of Defense. His services include financial counseling, financial support services, financial trainings, and financial workshops.

[Find a Personal Financial Counselor](#)

Did You Know?



Public Use of Facilities

Through an active community relations program, DMAVA strives to be a good neighbor and community partner. As a result, many of the facilities maintained by DMAVA are available for public use.

Our facilities have been used by the public for everything from fitness competitions to wedding receptions. Potential users can inquire about availability and obtain a no obligation cost estimate by phone or email.

Use of Facilities

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



SS Morro Castle anchored off Sea Girt.

September 8, 1934

The SS Morro Castle, a cruise ship bound from Havana to New York, caught fire off the New Jersey coast. The ship's controls burned out off Sea Girt, where it dropped anchor and chaos ensued as lifeboat launches failed and people jumped into the ocean. Governor A. Harry Moore, in his summer residence at Sea Girt, deployed the African-American soldiers of the First Separate

September 16, 1940

Governor A. Harry Moore traveled to the Philadelphia Navy Yard to address a crowd of workers, naval officers and government officials assembled to celebrate initiation of construction on the battleship USS New Jersey.

September 17, 1862

The Battle of Antietam was fought near Sharpsburg, Maryland between the Confederate Army of

Battalion training there at the time to assist survivors and took off in a plane from the parade ground to direct rescue ships to the area. Later that day, a Coast Guard cutter began to tow the burned out hulk north, but the towline snapped off near Asbury Park and the Morro Castle drifted into the beach by Convention Hall

September 11, 1944

Philip A. Brodziak from Denville, NJ assigned to the 38th Bomber Squadron, 30th Bomber Group Heavy. Missing In Action on this date. Lost in the Pacific during a bombing run over Marcus Island from Saipan aboard the B-24 *Pistol Packin' Mamma*.

September 15, 1864

Theodore Edwards from Morristown, NJ assigned to the 1st New Jersey Cavalry. Missing while on a scout mission, August 29, 1863. Died in Libby Prison in Richmond, VA on this date.

September 16, 1823

President James Monroe selected US Senator Samuel Southard of New Jersey to be Secretary of the Navy.

Northern Virginia under General Robert E. Lee and the Union Army of the Potomac under Major General (and future New Jersey governor) George B. McClellan. It was the first battle for the Thirteenth New Jersey Infantry regiment, a unit recently organized at Camp Frelinghuysen in Newark. The Thirteenth lost ten men killed, including Captain Hugh C. Irish of Paterson, twenty-three wounded and one missing in action. Captain Irish's statue, waving a sword, is on top of the NJ monument at Antietam.

September 17, 2013

Declared "Harold Gantert Day" in Parsippany, NJ. On April 29, 1944, as a flight navigator, Lt. Harold Gantert took off on a bombing mission when his plane was shot down over Germany forcing him to parachute down. He was captured four days later and spent the next year as a POW in Stalag Luft III. After a grueling march the prisoners of war were forced to endure, they were liberated by the Allied troops in 1945.



NJ Militia Musket Model 1808

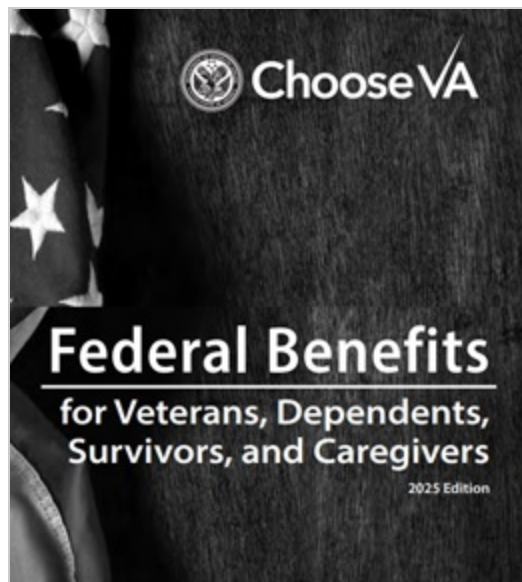
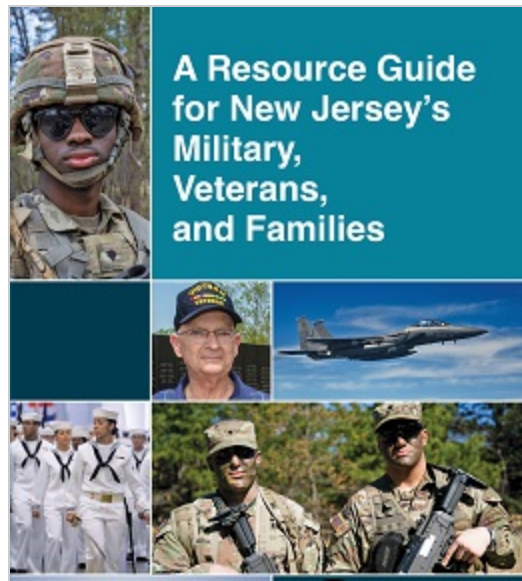
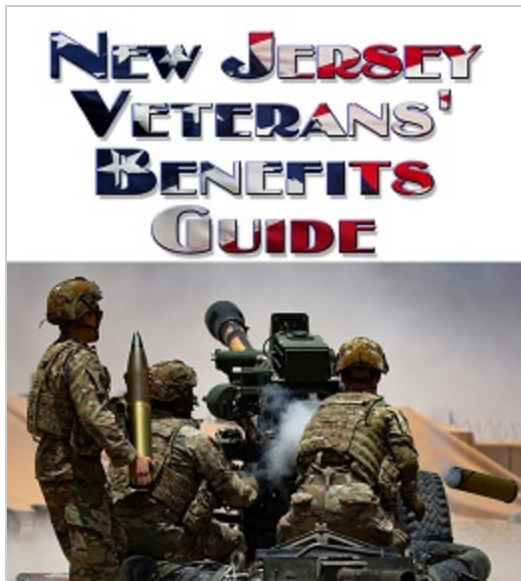
On display at the [National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey](#) in Lawrenceville is a newly donated model 1808 Contract Musket.

The Militia Act of 1808 required Congress to provide arms and equipment for the militias across the country. The \$200,000 provided annually over a five year period of arming the militias was furnished to 19 contractors for just over 85,000 total muskets.

This artifact was built by the Evan's brothers of Evansburg, PA and eventually issued to the Salem Brigade, as marked on the stock.

Thank you to Mr. Timothy Murphy for another rare piece of NJ military history.

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.

Contact DMAVA

Please email us at outreach@dmava.nj.gov with feedback and comments regarding the newsletter. If you would like to contribute with an item of interest to our subscribers, please email us your proposal.

Visit the [DMAVA archives](#) to view previous editions of our newsletter.

Forward to a friend

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nj.gov/military

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