

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



JUNE 9, 2011

Airman finds luck on Friday the 13th



Airman 1st Class Olivia Roberts, center, poses with Tech. Sgt. Anthony Winfield and John Buckley in front of the Youth Challenge Academy building at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Roberts was driving home from a dentist appointment on Friday, May 13,

when she lost control of her vehicle on Route 537 in North Hanover Township. Buckley, a registered nurse, and Winfield, an Airman at JBMDL, risked their lives when they pulled Roberts from her overturned vehicle. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA/PA)

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

It was a Friday the 13th, a day many consider unlucky. But Airman 1st Class Olivia Roberts believes it was her most fortunate day. She survived a horrific car crash. And then two fellow Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst employees risked their own safety in a mad scramble to pull her out from an overturned car.

"It was my luckiest unlucky day," said Roberts, an Airman with the 87th Logistical Readiness Squadron. "What they did for me is beyond amazing."

The afternoon sky was cloudless as Roberts made her way down Route 537 in North Hanover Township on her way home from the dentist on May 13. Tech Sgt. Anthony Winfield, an Airman with the 421st Combat Training Squadron, was on an outing with his wife and son, heading the opposite direction on Route 537. He saw Roberts's car make a sudden, sickening swerve, leave the road, go

over a small hill and end up several hundred yards away on its side on Sykesville Road, just off the intersection with Route 537.

John Buckley, a registered nurse with the New Jersey Youth Challenge program, was heading down Sykesville Road, on his way to his daughter's high school lacrosse game when he came across Roberts's 2007 Daytona Challenger with the driver's side down. Winfield had just called 9-1-1 and was inspecting the car.

"One of the tires was still spinning," Buckley said. He pulled over and both men began tearing at the Challenger's sunroof. Roberts was still buckled up and motionless inside. In an explosion of glass, the roof gave way. Buckley climbed inside. From the way Roberts's head was turned, it was unclear if she was breathing.

Buckley realized two things. The first -- if Roberts needed CPR,

SEE, **ROBERTS**, PAGE 2

ROBERTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he couldn't deliver it in the car. The second: If she was still alive, she might not stay that way if she was not moved. Buckley undid her seatbelt, and he and Winfield carefully pulled Roberts through the sunroof opening.

Roberts regained consciousness almost immediately after being pulled from the car.

"I had no idea where I was or what happened," Roberts said. "All I knew is that these guys kept telling me I would be OK and I believed them."

The ambulance arrived. Buckley, now sure Roberts was going to be OK, left for his daughter's game. Winfield rode with Roberts in the ambulance to the hospital. Roberts's fiancé, Senior Airman Sean Watkins of the 87th Logistics Support Squadron, met her at the hospital.

Roberts's uniform was covered in blood. It wasn't hers. Both Buckley and Winfield had both cut themselves tearing open the

sunroof.

"We were going on adrenaline," Winfield said. "We even tried to push the car back to its tires before going for the sunroof."

Roberts was not found at fault for the crash. Although she was behind the wheel of a muscle car, she wasn't driving it like one.

Police accident investigators calculated her speed at the time she left Route 537 to be between 41 and 43 mph – well below the 50 mph limit.

Although a medical evaluation continues, doctors told Roberts it's likely she lost consciousness due to a drop in blood sugar. She had major dental work done 10 days before the crash and had been unable to eat much. She returned to duty four days after the crash.

Although she loved car, which was totaled, Roberts knows that's not what matters.

"What matters is that I'm alive," she said. "And people helped me when I needed it most."

Buckley said his first thought when he saw Roberts's face was that she bears a striking resemblance to his oldest daughter.

"Every parent hopes that if their kid is in the same situation, somebody stops to help," he said.



Above, Divya Patel, center, information technology specialist-webmaster at DMAVA, is presented the employee of the first trimester 2011 award at the Lawrenceville Armory on June 3 by Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, left, the Adjutant General, and Warrant Officer David S. Snedeker, right, Chief Information Officer at DMAVA. Photo right, Rieth presents Patel with the Seven Seals Award from the New Jersey Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (Photos by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)



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Military Appreciation Night

Join the Lakewood BlueClaws in honoring the men and women who proudly serve and protect our great nation on Military Appreciation Night on Tuesday, June 14 at BlueClaws Ballpark in Lakewood, N.J.

In addition, a picnic outing will be hosted by the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets for the picnic can be purchased at www.runwithdennis.org and include a picnic on the first base line. Tickets cost \$30 per adult; \$20 per child (under 7 free) and include game admission, hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks and sides.

The Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund has a mission to continue to serve and assist returning men and women who were wounded in service by sponsoring programs for injured soldiers and to fund scholarships to Lt. Zilinski's alma mater. The Fund provides support to improve the morale and welfare of members of the United States Armed Forces and their families.

The BlueClaws play the Hagerstown Suns (an affiliate of the Washington Nationals) starting at 7:05 pm.

For more information please call Caroline Calt at 732-542-9100 ext. 121.

Wounded Heroes Baseball Classic is coming to Lakewood, NJ

Hope4Heroes invites you to the next Wounded Heroes Baseball Classic game at the Lakewood BlueClaws' stadium, First Energy Field, in Lakewood, N.J. on June 17 at 7 p.m.

For just \$10 you can watch MLB legends play service members from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

In addition, a free kids' clinic with MLB legends will be held there at 3 p.m., followed by free autographs at 5 p.m.

The Wounded Heroes Baseball Classic was created to give our wounded heroes from all generations an opportunity to play America's favorite past time with legends of Major League Baseball in cities across the country. The Classic pits military heroes against MLB legends in an All-Star game format. The game is an opportunity for the local community to show their support and watch the heroes and legends play their favorite sport in a fun family atmosphere while showcasing the talents of our nation's Heroes to employers and companies coast to coast.

Proceeds from the game will benefit enlisted programs at JB-MDL.

To get your tickets, please visit www.woundedheroesbaseball.com.



Veterans Outreach Schedule



June 2011

Wildwood Convention Center
4501 Boardwalk, Wildwood, N.J. 08260

OUTREACH EVENTS ONLY

Elks State Convention: June 2-3, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

American Legion State Convention: June 8-10, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

VFW State Convention: June 15-17, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

NJNG to celebrate Unity Day

The New Jersey National Guard will host its 13th Annual Unity Day Celebration on Thursday, June 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Joint Force Headquarters in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Come celebrate the ethnic, cultural, and organizational diversity of the New Jersey National Guard through food sampling, music, entertainment, educational displays, and dessert contest and giveaways.

Fun activities and community service projects will include a Zumba class; fun walk/run; and a blood drive and bone marrow registration.

Registration for these activities will be required:

Zumba – registration at 7:30 a.m. at JFHQ drill floor.

Fun walk/run – registration at 8:30 a.m. at front of JFHQ.

Blood drive and bone marrow registration – at the rear of JFHQ building from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The point of contact for the event is Army Maj. Barbara Brown-Wilson, state equal employment manager. Brown-Wilson can be contact via phone at 609-562-0856 or via E-mail at Barbara.g.brown@us.army.mil.

The Joint Force Headquarters building is located at 3650 Saylor's Pond Road in JB MDL.

**E-mail your Highlights submissions to
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HIGHLIGHTS



Photo left, employees from Vineland Veteran Memorial Home activities department received the team award for the third trimester 2010. Center left, members of the 108th Wing snow removal team received the team award for the first trimester 2011. Center right, Margaret V. Petrangeli, financial manager at NJANG U.S. Property and Fiscal Office, received employee of the year 2010 award. Bottom left, Sgt. James Nelson, a Soldier from the 50th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, is coined by Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, for being selected as New Jersey 2010 Outstanding Soldier. Bottom right, Charles Rissmiller, Northern regional supervisor, received employee of the third trimester 2010 award. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)

