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Lt. Governor Guadagno Thanks Military Retirees for Dedicated Service at Joint Retiree Appreciation Day

Saturday, April 25, 2015 • Tags: [Other](#)



Trenton, NJ - This morning, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno joined the leadership of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst for the first Joint Retiree Appreciation Day recognizing retirees from all branches of service. Throughout the day, more than 700 retirees had opportunities to network and access services like identification card renewal and medical checkups. The event also featured speakers on subjects of key interest to military retirees, including updates on retiree benefits and privileges.

"The scope of experience, sacrifice, camaraderie and strength present today is incredible. Each of you served your country honorably, and I thank you with the utmost affection and admiration," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "New Jersey must always strive to be as military friendly as possible to improve the lives of our service members and their families and to help our bases and communities build stronger supportive relationships. We are here to serve you in recognition of your lifetime of service to your country, state and community."

In her remarks, Lt. Governor recognized three veterans present at the Appreciation Day who all began their military service during World War II. Lt. Col. Robert Hansen, USAF (Ret), served as an active duty pilot for 30 years before starting the Retiree Activity Program at McGuire, which he directed for another 30 years. Sergeant First Class Robert Yancey, Sr., US Army (Ret), served in WWII's Pacific Theater, in the Korean War, and in the Vietnam War. Electrician's Mate Howard Brooks, USN, served in the South Pacific during WWII and, after spending three days in the water when his ship was attacked, labored on the Burmese Railway as a prisoner of war for 3 1/2 years.

Previous Retiree Appreciation Days have been branch-specific, but today's joint event included retirees from New Jersey and the surrounding region from all branches of service, including the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, the Reserves of all service branches, Army and Air National Guard and the uniformed US Public Health Service.

Photos from today's event are attached.

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