

NOVEMBER 30, 2022



READY TO SERVE ★ PROUD TO HAVE SERVED

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



NJ Delegation to the Cyprus Embassy

September of this year, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security announced that the Republic of Cyprus was paired with the New Jersey National Guard to participate in the [National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program](#). Our partnership with Cyprus will be our second as we have been partners with Albania for more than twenty years.

The announcement of the partnership with Cyprus was one of many steps required to move forward with our partnership and this past week The Adjutant General and the Director of the Joint Staff traveled to Washington to meet with the Cypriot Ambassador to the United States, Marios Lysiotis. This meeting was another milestone in the process to get our partnership underway.

The Adjutant General and her senior leadership team from the Army, Air and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will close out the week with a year end Town Hall and a ceremony to rename the main street on the Lawrenceville campus in honor of our Gold Star families and at the same time dedicate trees that were planted in memory of five New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our state and nation. We will never forget!

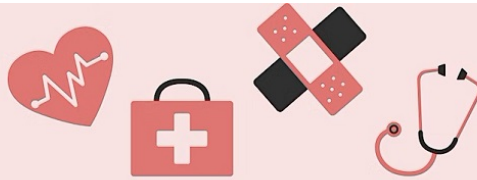
Thanks for reading. We look forward to continuing the conversation.

We encourage you to share ideas, events and feedback. Please email our team at outreach@dmava.nj.gov.

Brigadier General Lisa J. Hou, D.O.
The Adjutant General & Commissioner



FEATURED EVENTS



FIRST AID/CPR/AED CERTIFICATION

for infants, children, and adults

TRAINING DATES

4 DEC | 5 FEB | 30 APR | 4 JUN

Sundays | 9:30 am-3:30pm

Bordentown Armory

Two-year Certification Upon Completion

DOES NOT INCLUDE BLS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

**FREE | OPEN TO MILITARY FAMILIES AND CYP
VOLUNTEERS | AGES 13 & UP**

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!



SCAN TO REGISTER



For more information contact the Child & Youth Coordinators

Kimberly Jordan | 609-496-9260 | kimberly.n.jordan2.ctr@army.mil

Melissa Nicolato | 609-496-9261 | melissa.k.nicolato.ctr@army.mil

REGISTER NOW!
WWW.VETERANSHAVENRUN.ORG

VETERANS HAVEN RUN
TAKING STRIDES TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS
AMERICAN LEGION POSTS OF ALL 50 STATES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022
8 AM REGISTRATION | 9 AM START
CERTIFIED 5K RUN
CHRIST THE KING CHURCH
HADDONFIELD, NJ

8TH ANNUAL 5K RACE / 1 MI WALK
Presented by American Legion Posts
17, 38, 68, 281, 286, 372, 473

MEDALS AWARDED TO OVERALL WINNERS, MALE AND FEMALE

Awards as follows:
1st Overall: 18 and under (Top 3); 14-19 (Top 3)
20-29 (Top 3); 30-39 (Top 3); 40-49 (Top 3)
50-59 (Top 3); 60-69 (Top 3); 70 and over (Top 3)

All proceeds to provide financial support for Veterans Haven in Winslow, NJ, a transitional facility for homeless and unemployed veterans.
Together, we've raised over \$73,000 in 7 years. Join us, today.

LEARN MORE

VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Wilmington VA Medical Center

Suicide Prevention Peer Team Kick Off

December 14th, 2022 | 4:00PM - 6:00PM
Somers Point Fire Station #1
447 Bethel Rd. Somers Point, NJ 08244

In Partnership with:



Hope Exists Foundation
Rowan University

South Jersey
Medical Centers

Atlantic & Cape May County
Prosecutors Offices

Join Us:

Wilmington VA Medical Center will be standing up a first of it's kind, Suicide Prevention Peer Team. This team is only possible with the assistance of our community partners and our Veterans. Please join us in celebrating the creation of our new team.

Questions

Contact Us:



Phone: Patrick Carney (302)358-9736 | Matt Jacobs (302)300-6570
Email: patrick.carney@va.gov | matthew.jacobs5@va.gov

NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH
PROGRAM & FAMILY PROGRAMS

WINTER *wonderland*

MUSIC
MOVIE
HOT COCOA
POLAR EXPRESS
SANTA CLAUS

16 DEC

BORDENTOWN JMFAC
1048 US HIGHWAY 206
BORDENTOWN, NJ 08505

6-8 PM

PAJAMAS OR
HOLIDAY OUTFITS
ENCOURAGED



REGISTRATION
REQUIRED



THE STAFF AND CADETS OF THE NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY FOR

CLASS 54

Thursday, December 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Patriots Theater @ The War Memorial
1 Memorial Dr
Trenton, NJ 08608

RSVP by Monday, December 12, 2022:
victoria.ragucci@dmavanj.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS

DMAVA Calendar

DMAVA will have a Veterans Service Officer present at some of these events. Check details to confirm.

- December 4, 2022 | Bordentown, NJ
[First Aid/CPR/AED Certification](#)
- December 7, 2022 | Bordentown, NJ
[Transition / Retirement Seminar](#)
- December 8, 2022 | Paterson, NJ
[Career & Resource Fair](#)
- December 11, 2022 | Paramus, NJ
[Bergen County Police Chiefs Holiday Wreath Ceremony](#)
- December 16, 2022 | Bordentown, NJ
[Child & Youth Programs / Family Programs Winter Wonderland](#)
- December 17, 2022 | Toms River, NJ
[Survivor Outreach Services Holiday Party](#)
- December 18, 2022 | Bordentown, NJ
[Reserve Component Transition Benefits Brief](#)
- December 19, 2022 | Rio Grande, NJ
[Veterans Information Session](#)
- December 22, 2022 | Trenton, NJ
[NJ Youth Challenge Academy Class 54 Graduation](#)

Community Calendar

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

[View Full Calendar](#)

SPOTLIGHT

WARRIORS WELCOME

A PEER-RUN
SUPPORT & DISCUSSION GROUP
FOR U.S. VETERANS

★ 1st and 3rd Fridays @ 6:00pm ★

Warriors Welcome is a no-cost, judgment-free, veteran-facilitated zone.



An open forum for any discussion topics brought by members of the group.

Meeting ID: 893 8115 9546
Passcode: 387490
bit.ly/WarriorsWelcomeNJ

Call-In Option:
1.929.205.6099

What's said here stays here.

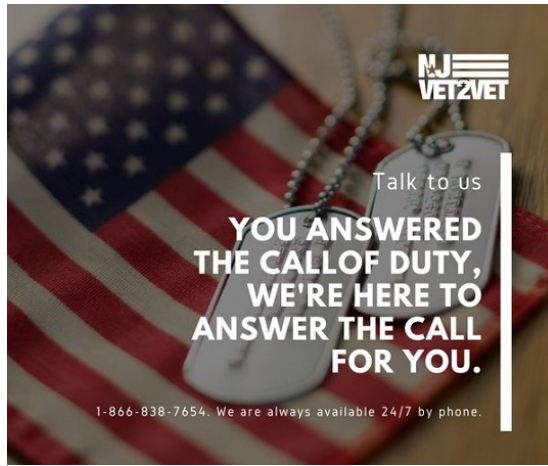
 Mental Health Association in New Jersey, Inc. For more information, contact Jaime Angelini: jangelini@mhaj.org

VETERANS SERVICES



Veterans Service Officer

Trejen Strickland is our newest Veterans Service Officer (VSO). Her office is located at the Lawrenceville Armory. You can contact Trejen and her VSO colleagues around the state by visiting the DMAVA website at [Veterans Service Offices](#).



NJ Veterans' Benefits Hotline
888-865-8387
vbb@dmava.nj.gov

ALWAYS READY, ALWAYS THERE

NJ National Guard



Combat Medics Train with Albanian Counterparts

Albanian Armed Forces Soldiers took part in training with New Jersey National Guard combat medics at the Land Forces Headquarters in Zall-Herr, Albania, November 16, 2022.

[View Images](#)

NJ Army National Guard



63rd Army Band

The New Jersey National Guard's 63rd Army Band performed with the Albanian Armed Forces Band to mark the 78th Liberation Day of Tirana in Tirana, Albania, November 17, 2022. Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard are also working with Albanian counterparts on cyber defense, medical training and military readiness as part of the Department of Defense's [State Partnership Program](#).

[View Images](#)

NJ Air National Guard



NJ Grand Master leads Airmen in PT alternative

Though professionally known as, Staff Sgt. David E. Correa, a network systems operator of the 140th Cyber Operations Squadron, he is both Airman and Grand Master. As a 7th degree Black Belt in Taekwondo, a black belt in Hapkido and Judo, and a brown belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Correa now shares his expertise and passion of martial arts with the 108th Wing.

[Read Full Story](#)

Join Our Team

100% Free College Tuition
Bonuses up to \$20,000
Student Loan Repayment



DMAVA DEPARTMENTS



Sailors Visit Sea Girt Museum

Sailors assigned to the USS New Jersey (SSN-796) visited the [National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey](#) in Sea Girt, NJ and toured the rest of the National Guard Training Center on November 18, 2022.

The Sailors got to tour the state's previous namesake, The Battleship New Jersey in Camden, before seeing the museum's Civil War-era submarine, [The Intelligent Whale](#), which seemed to have much cozier confines than the Navy's new Virginia-class attack sub.

The Sailors also made a special visit to talk with the Cadets of the [New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy](#) about their experiences in the Navy.

[View Images](#)

NEW JERSEY
YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.

YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

TUITION FREE

Now accepting applications for Class 55 - January 23, 2023!

APPLY NOW!

For More Information:
njyca.org/admissions
rpm@dmava.nj.gov
(800) 997-5587

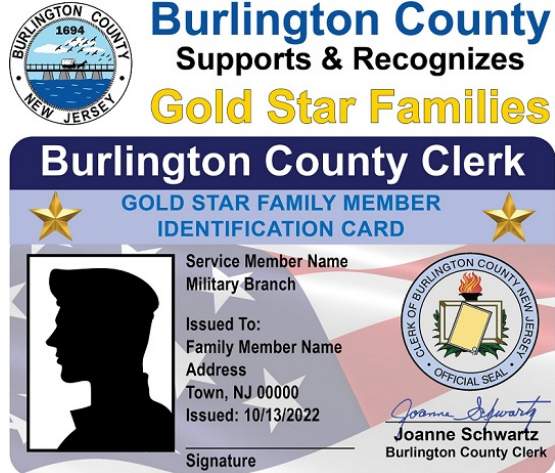
STATE PARTNERS



Camden County Honors Veterans

In honor of Veterans Day, the Camden County Board of Commissioners and the Camden County Veterans Advisory Committee held the Padre Peter Molnar Appreciation Breakfast at the Collingswood Ballroom on November 11, 2022. The event included a roll call of military services and a medal ceremony, where ten Camden County Veterans were honored.

[View Images](#)



Burlington County Offering Gold Star IDs

The Burlington County Clerk's Office is now issuing Gold Star Family identification cards to the spouses, domestic partners, civil union partners and children of military members who died while serving on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces.

[Learn More](#)

NEEDED: Volunteer Veteran Mentors!
Help a Fellow Veteran Undergoing Life-Changing Rehabilitation, Counseling and Treatment!

The Cape May County Prosecutors Office operates a **Veterans Diversion Program (VDP)** which offers Veterans charged with crimes an alternative to trial and sentencing. The program offers **Veterans treatment and assistance** for mental health, substance abuse and other issues which may have contributed to their arrest and criminal charges.

Instead of **Incarceration**, the program helps Veterans with:

- Treatment and Rehabilitation
- Community services and assistance
- Veterans Affairs counseling and benefits
- Mentoring support & coaching

VETERAN MENTORS are a vital part of the program, offering a frontline source of guidance and support for the participants...and MORE are needed in our community!



**ARE YOU READY TO
LEND A FELLOW VET A
HELPING HAND?**

PLEASE CONTACT:

David L. Shutter
SPC-4, US ARMY – LCDR, USNR
VFW-386, Cape May, NJ

Veterans Diversion Program Coordinator
Cape May County Prosecutors Office

dshutter@cmcpfos.net
609-465-1135





OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR
County of Atlantic



WILLIAM E. REYNOLDS
Atlantic County Prosecutor

4997 Unami Boulevard, Suite 2
P.O. Box 2002
May Landing, NJ 08530
609-909-7800 – Fax 609-909-7802

ERIK M. BERGMAN

First Assistant Prosecutor

RICHARD E. MCKELVEY

Executive Assistant Prosecutor

MARIO C. FORMICA

Chief Counsel to the Prosecutor

BRUCE K. DESHIELDS

Chief of County Detectors

PATRICK F. SNYDER

Acting Deputy Chief of Detectors

RAYMOND G. ROYSTER

Director of Community Outreach

ATTENTION VETERANS,
FAMILY MEMBERS and SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

The Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office **Veterans Diversion Program** is available to certain veterans of the armed services who have pending non-violent criminal charges in Superior Court.

ACPO is seeking veterans willing to serve as **VOLUNTEER MENTORS** to become trained by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in working with fellow veterans through the diversion process.

For more information, please contact Detective Chris Southard at southard_c@acpo.org / (609) 909-7965, Detective Hannah Piatt at piatt_h@acpo.org/609-909-7859, or Executive Assistant Prosecutor Rick McKelvey at mckelvey_r@acpo.org / (609) 909-7722.

Defendants who have served and are currently pending criminal charges in Superior Court should consult with their attorney or visit <https://www.acpo.org/resource-page/55>.



NJ State Agencies

- [Vote For Valor](#)
- [Career Connections for Veterans](#)
- [Tax Resources for Military/Veterans](#)
- [Educator Certification for Military Spouses and 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](#)
- [Veteran and Disabled Veteran-Owned Business](#)
- [Division of Consumer Affairs Military Outreach & Support](#)
- [Professional & Occupational Licenses for Veterans and Spouses](#)
- [Military and Overseas Voting](#)



FEDERAL PARTNERS

The new PACT Act

- » Expands toxic-exposed Veterans access to VA care
- » Extends health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 era combat Veterans
- » Adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War toxins, and burn pit exposures

EXPANDED VA CARE & BENEFITS

Learn more at VA.gov
1-800-MyVA411 (800-498-2411)

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA opens health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, post-9/11 Veterans under PACT Act

Washington — On October 1, The Department of Veterans Affairs will expand and extend eligibility for VA health care for certain Veterans of the Gulf Wars and post-9/11 era.

This expansion will increase health care eligibility for hundreds of thousands of toxic-exposed Veterans. Additionally, VA has already expanded health care eligibility for certain Veterans of the Vietnam War. More detailed information about this expansion can be found on VA.gov/PACT.

President Biden signed the bipartisan PACT Act into law August 10, authorizing one of the largest expansions of VA health care and benefits in U.S. history. Veterans can go to VA.gov/PACT to apply for health care or learn more about what this bill means for them and their families.

[Read the full press release.](#)

THE 2022 PACT ACT

makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied. You don't need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Learn more at VA.gov/PACT
1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Eligibility Extension on VA Family Caregivers Program

Washington — 10/1/2022

VA's [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers](#) is expanding to include eligible Veterans and family caregivers of all eras.

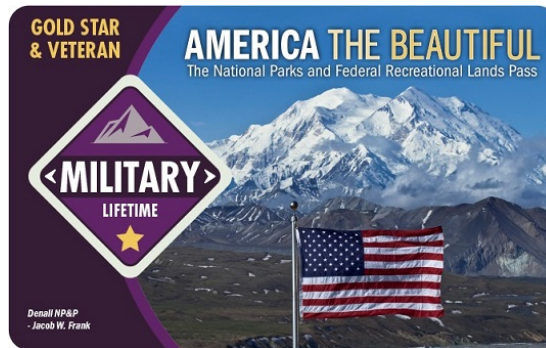
Previously, PCAFC was only available to eligible Veterans who served on or after Sept. 11, 2001. This expansion opens the program to eligible Veterans who served after May 7, 1975, and before Sept. 11, 2001.

PCAFC provides caregivers of eligible Veterans with resources, education, financial assistance, health insurance, beneficiary travel, peer support and more. The program is a cornerstone of VA health care, ensuring that Veterans get the world-class care they deserve

and that caregivers get the comprehensive support they need. [Read the full press release.](#)

VA Disability Claims for Burn Pits, Agent Orange and More

If you served in Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan or select locations, in the past 60+ years, the PACT Act established new, presumptive conditions for those exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, radiation, and more. In this episode of *theSITREP*, the hosts chat with leadership in Washington, DC about how many Veterans are affected by the PACT Act and how to prepare for submitting a new or supplemental claim for VA Disability Compensation. To watch the short video please go to [#theSITREP](#).



New National Parks Pass

Just announced. A new lifetime pass for National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands, called America the Beautiful.

This new lifetime pass for Gold Star Families & Veterans is being offered to demonstrate the country's immense gratitude and respect for those who have served and defended our country.

The Interagency Military Pass has been part of the America the Beautiful – The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Series since 2012. On December 27, 2021, President Biden signed into law S. 1605 “The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022” (NDAA). Section 641 of the NDAA makes Gold Star families and Veterans eligible for lifetime passes to federal recreational lands.

[Learn More at VA News](#)



VA Life Insurance

Important changes are coming to VA Life Insurance programs. Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) is launching on Jan. 1, 2023, as a new guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance program for service-connected Veterans. VA's current offering for service-connected Veterans—Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance (S-DVI)—closes to new enrollment after Dec. 31, 2022. Veterans currently enrolled in S-DVI may keep their coverage or switch to VALife.

While both VALife and S-DVI cover Veterans with any level of service-connected disability (0-100%), there are key program differences to consider before deciding which program is right for you.

So, what is the difference between VA Life Insurance and Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance? Read more at [VA News](#).

ANNUAL **2023**
Benefits Enrollment
November 14 - December 12

FEDVIP Open Enrollment

Sponsored by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), FEDVIP is a voluntary, enrollee-pay-all dental and vision insurance program. It replaced the former TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP). In general, retired uniformed service members, their families, and survivors are eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage and, if enrolled in a TRICARE health plan, FEDVIP vision coverage. Please note: Opportunities to enroll outside of open season are limited.

The Federal Benefits Open Season is your annual opportunity to enroll in, change, or cancel a FEDVIP dental and/or vision plan. This year, open season runs from November 14 through December 12, 2022, with coverage effective January 1, 2023.

[Learn More](#)

Virtual Benefits Fair

The Virtual Benefits Fair is an online health fair that houses 2023 FEDVIP plan information in a single location, allowing military families to browse exhibits, download plan brochures, [register for educational webinars](#) and chat with BENEFEDS and FEDVIP representatives. [BENEFEDS](#) is the secure online portal to enroll in FEDVIP.

Log in anytime during the Federal Benefits Open Season, from November 14 to December 12, 2022. Representatives will be available to take your questions during live chat days:

Thursday, Dec 1, 2022 10 am-5 pm ET

Thursday, Dec 8, 2022 10 am-5 pm ET

[Learn More and Register](#)

FOR ACTIVE-DUTY FAMILIES AND MILITARY RETIREES*

Get Ready for TRICARE OPEN SEASON **11/14/22-12/13/22**

All your TRICARE Prime benefits plus more at \$0 cost!



- ENHANCED VISION BENEFITS
- PREVENTATIVE DENTAL BENEFITS
- GYM REIMBURSEMENT BENEFIT

Call us to hear your options so you can
make the best healthcare decision

1 (800) 241-4848 option #3
www.usfhp.net



*Military Retirees and eligible family members under age 65.
TRICARE is a registered trademark of the Department of Defense, Defense Health Agency. All rights reserved.

USFHP

The Uniformed Services Family Health Plan (USFHP) @ Saint Vincents is a TRICARE® Prime military health plan sponsored by the Department of Defense (DoD). [Lunch and Learn briefings](#) are now scheduled in New Jersey.

[Learn more about USFHP](#) from Roberta McNeill, Chief Medical Officer at USFHP @ Saint Vincents.

Featured Links

- [VA and FCC make it easier for Veterans to get internet access](#)
- [13 places that offer free wills or trusts for Veterans](#)
- [Fast facts about new toxic exposure screening for Veterans](#)
- [Simplifying the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill application process](#)
- [VA extends delay of upcoming electronic health record deployments to June 2023](#)
- [Free legal services for Veterans, service members](#)
- [VA Health and Benefits Mobile App - six essential facts](#)
- [Women Veterans Call Center](#)
- [Preserve Your Loved Ones Story with Veterans Legacy Memorial](#)
- [Million Veteran Program](#)

#VetResources

Subscribe to #VetResources to receive a weekly newsletter from the VA for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Subscribe

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



112th Field Artillery

The [112th Field Artillery Association](#) visited the [National Museum of the United States Army](#) in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, November 16, 2022. The trip was planned specifically to view the memorial plaque for New Jersey's 112th Field Artillery Regiment and to view the newly opened museum which tells the entire US Army story.

[View Images](#)

Catholic  Charities
representatives are
at the Carlton R.
Rouh Veterans Center
**Every 2nd &
4th Thursday**
11:00am - 2:00pm

NO Appointment Necessary



**Carlton R. Rouh
Veterans Center**

"A Place for Our Heroes"

777 Blackwood Clementon Road
Lindenwold, NJ 08021



VETERANS
“COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS”
EVERY
Thursday
10:00am-12:00pm
777 Blackwood Clementon Rd Lindenwold, NJ 08021
SPECTRA
Care
FOUNDATION

IN THE NEWS



Montgomery's Brigadier General Reports for Duty

Barbara Preston | Montgomery News | Nov. 10, 2022

More than 100,000 U.S. troops are supporting NATO allies in European countries that surround Ukraine, according to “Face the Nation.” Montgomery Township’s Brigadier General John Walker Lubas is one of them.

Lubas hails from Belle Mead, N.J. where his family still lives. A baseball field on Route 601 is named for his grandfather, Theodore J. Lubas, who served as mayor of Montgomery Township at one point.

Brig. Gen. Lubas landed in Romania with the 101st Airborne Division in October – on the edge of NATO territory. He appeared on “Face the Nation” in a Black Hawk helicopter somewhere near the border of Ukraine, over the Black Sea Coast.

[Read Full Story](#)



Veterans Day Is Just One Day on New Jersey Man's Trek Across US to Help Homeless Veterans

USAToday.com | Nov. 11, 2022

For all its sacrifices, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a trigger for many to discover new dreams. For Tommy Pasquale, that's meant a journey that seemed impossible when it first crossed his mind during the lockdown.

On Sept. 19, the native of Morris County, New Jersey joined friends and family on a Jersey Shore beach to start the adventure of a lifetime. He's walking 3,000 miles across the continent, pushing a shopping cart spray-painted red, white and blue to raise money for homeless veterans.

"They all thought I was a little bit crazy, and I guess that is understandable," the 24-year-old said last week from Tennessee, where he's currently trundling along the back roads and byways of America.

Pasquale, who grew up in Randolph, N.J., and lives in Manasquan, N.J., has raised \$15,000 so far, in a trip he's documenting on various [social media feeds](#). To date, he's made his way 925 miles through Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. He plans to end his journey seven months from now in Venice Beach, California.

[Read Full Story](#)



National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey offers treasure trove of history

Leah Kahn | CentralJersey.com | Nov. 16, 2022

The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey, housed in a contemporary-looking building at the New Jersey National Guard complex at the Lawrenceville Armory is a treasure trove of the history of the state's militia.

The museum is in a 6,000-square-foot building that opened in October 2021 at 151 Eggerts Crossing Road. It tells the story of the state's militia and National Guard, from its earliest days under the Dutch, Swedish and British colonization in the 17th century and up to the present.

The [National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey](#) in Lawrenceville is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is closed on Sunday. Docents are available to guide visitors and answer questions. Admission is free.

[Read Full Story](#)

NEVER FORGET



In Honor of all those from New Jersey who gave their lives in the fight against terrorism during Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In humble gratitude, we remember their sacrifice.

December 3, 2004
Operation Iraqi Freedom

SPC David P. Mahlenbrock

U.S. Army
Maple Shade, New Jersey

December 10, 2005
Operation Iraqi Freedom

SGT Clarence L. Floyd, Jr.

U.S. Army
Newark, New Jersey

December 4, 2007
Operation Iraqi Freedom

SGT Eric J. Hernandez

U.S. Army
Waldwick, New Jersey

December 11, 2011
Operation Enduring Freedom

SPC Ronald H. Wildrick Jr.

U.S. Army
Blairstown, New Jersey

"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

VETERANS' ORAL HISTORIES



John Boylan
World War II



Frederic Varlese
Cold War / Vietnam War

HISTORY



Air Force Ace Donald Strait with Governor Driscoll

December 5, 1944

Major Donald Strait, US Army Air Force, flying a P51 Mustang, shot down two German Focke-Wulf 190s, officially qualifying as an Ace. He ended the war with thirteen and a half kills. Born in East Orange in 1918, Strait was an enlisted man in the New Jersey National Guard's 119th Observation Squadron before the war, and one of only two prewar National Guardsmen to become Aces. Strait rejoined the New Jersey Air National Guard after the war and rose to the rank of major general before retiring in 1978.

December 3, 1918

New Jersey National Guard Sergeant William O. Nicol of Jersey City was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for "extraordinary heroism...in action near Verdun, France" while serving with Company A of the Twenty-ninth Division's 111th Machine-Gun Battalion. His citation noted that "Sergeant Nicol's section was caught in a hostile barrage, by which two of his men were killed and five wounded. Sergeant Nicol led the rest of the section to shelter and then returned under shell fire and rescued the wounded." Nicol, a Jersey City police officer in civilian life, retired from the New Jersey National Guard in 1947 as a major.

December 7, 1942

The Imperial Japanese Navy attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Army sergeant George Schmersahl of Bloomfield was killed in action that day, perhaps the first New Jerseyan to die in World War II.

December 7, 1942

Governor Charles Edison spoke a few words and then his wife Carolyn smashed a champagne bottle on the ship's bow at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard launching ceremony for the battleship USS New Jersey. The ship was commissioned in 1943 and subsequently served in the Pacific during World War II and in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East. The New Jersey, now a floating museum in Camden, became the most decorated American battleship in history.

December 8, 1941

The United States declared war on Japan in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attack. Around 560,500 New Jerseyans, including 10,000 women and 360,000 draftees, served in all branches of the armed forces during World War II. A total of 10,372 of them, including ten of the state's seventeen Medal of Honor awardees, made the ultimate sacrifice and were killed in action or died of wounds or other causes.

December 13, 1776

American General Charles Lee, a former British officer, was captured while dallying at Basking Ridge as the British army crossed New Jersey in pursuit of the retreating Americans.

December 13, 1862

Most of the New Jersey regiments in the Union Army of the Potomac were present at the disastrous Civil War battle of Fredericksburg. Some units suffered heavy losses, including the Twenty-fourth New Jersey regiment, with 136 casualties, and the Twenty-eighth New Jersey regiment, with 193.

Governor Murphy Announces \$25 Million Investment into New Jersey's Historic Sites

Titusville — 11/29/2022

Governor Phil Murphy today announced a \$25 million investment towards New Jersey's Revolutionary War historic sites in preparation for the United States of America's Semiquincentennial anniversary. The Semiquincentennial anniversary, which will take place in 2026, will mark the signing of the Declaration of Independence and our nation's 250th year of independence.

"New Jersey's contribution to our nation's independence is undeniable. From the battlefields where the tide of the American Revolution turned, to the many other sites where our nation's identity was forged, New Jersey was arguably more deeply involved in the cause of independence than any other state," said Governor Murphy. "As we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary, it is important that our historic sites are prepared to welcome the hundreds of thousands of visitors that will undoubtedly travel from around the world to witness these sites in person on such a momentous occasion. This investment will allow us to revitalize our historic sites and make sure we are prepared when they come."

[Read Full Press Release](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



The First Muster

The history of the National Guard began on December 13, 1636, when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony ordered the organization of the Colony's militia companies into three regiments: The North, South and East Regiments.

The colonists had adopted the English militia system which obligated all males, between the ages of 16 and 60, to possess arms and participate in the defense of the community. The early colonial militia drilled once a week and provided guard details each evening to sound the alarm in case of attack. The growing threat of the Pequot Indians to the Massachusetts Bay Colony required that the militia be in a high state of readiness.

First Muster, a National Guard Heritage Painting by Don Troiani, courtesy the National Guard Bureau.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Family Assistance Centers

Brenda Irwin of the Sea Girt [Family Assistance Center](#) represented Family Programs on November 17, 2022 at the Military Appreciation Night at the Flight Community Center, Lakehurst.

DMAVA QUICK LINKS



Veterans Service Offices



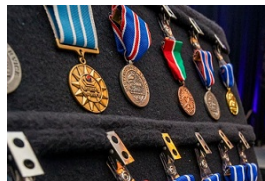
[Request Military Records](#)



[Family Programs Office](#)



[Veterans Memorial Homes](#)



[NJ State Medals](#)



[DMAVA Homepage](#)

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.

Stay updated on job openings by subscribing to our [Jobs Bulletin](#).

[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](#)

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

To view previous editions of our newsletter, please visit the [DMAVA archives](#).

Forward to a friend

[Subscribe](#)



nj.gov/military

NJ Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
101 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
[Privacy Notice](#)

Disclaimer: The appearance of any non-DMAVA information or hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement of the products or services on the part of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.