

MAY 17, 2023



READY TO SERVE ★ PROUD TO HAVE SERVED

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



Memorial Day 2022

Approximately 1,000 New Jersey Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, and family members placed more than 41,000 American flags on graves at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery at Wrightstown, N.J., May 27, 2022.

Never Forget

Team,

We are more than halfway through the month of May and as usual the Department is buzzing this time of year.

Memorial Day is again upon us and although many view Memorial Day weekend as the unofficial start of summer, it is much more than that and we must preserve the true meaning and significance of this solemn day to remember the sacrifice of all who have worn the uniform of this great nation and in doing so made the ultimate sacrifice.

The history of Memorial Day dates back to the American Civil War and is a sad but noble day viewed as a time of honor and remembrance of those who paid the ultimate price for the hard won freedom we so richly enjoy today. Celebrating Memorial Day weekend is the perfect opportunity to take a step back and remember those who made possible the life we enjoy.

The enduring and unshakeable legacy of the brave soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and coastguardsmen is one to be honored and revered by every American as each of them are real-life heroes who walked among us. Let us be proud and forever grateful for the ultimate sacrifice of those who died in service to the United States of America. May their courage and dedication never be forgotten and may their sacrifice bring us peace and hope for a better tomorrow.

Whether you attend a backyard BBQ with friends and family or spend time at the Jersey shore, it is my sincere hope that you take some time to commemorate and educate on the importance and

true meaning of the day this great nation set aside to honor our fallen heroes from all wars. Perhaps a visit to a cemetery or memorial, proudly hang the flag, attend a ceremony or service, view a parade, observe a moment of silence, or even wear a red poppy as a symbol of the fallen.

I'll leave you with these words from President Harry S. Truman: "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

I wish you and your family a safe and happy Memorial Day!

We invite 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



MEMORIAL DAY



Brigadier General Lisa J. Hou
The Adjutant General
New Jersey Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs

cordially invites you to attend the

Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

on

Saturday, the 27th of May 2023 at 11:00 am

at the

Brigadier General William C. Doyle
Memorial Cemetery
350 Province Line Road
Wrightstown, New Jersey 08562

Dress

Military: Service Uniform

Civilian: Business Casual

GUARD EVENT



SGT SAM NUTTER INC.
Working For Our Veterans

**19TH ANNUAL
5K NUTTER RUN**
JUNE 17TH, 2023

STARTS 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
REGISTRATION: [RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/NJ/SEAGIRT/SGTNUTTER5K](https://runsignup.com/race/NJ/SEAGIRT/SGTNUTTER5K)

SCAN ME!

VIRTUAL RUN OPTION AVAILABLE

OUR 2023 HONOREE



STAFF SERGEANT JESSE SMITH OF THE NJ ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING CENTER, 100 CAMP DR SEA GIRT, NJ 08750
ocssgnutterrun@gmail.com
www.sgtnutterrun.org

Google Maps

UNION NATIONAL GUARD

NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

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DMAVA EVENTS



**THE MOVING WALL
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL**
IS COMING TO THE
TOWNSHIP OF UNION
MAY 17 - 22 2023



**May 18, 2023
4:00pm - 8:00pm**

**May 20, 2023
8:00am - 2:00pm**

DMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

F. Edward Biertuempful Memorial Park

1300 Winslow Avenue
Union, NJ 07083

DMAVA will have a Veterans Service Officer present to help and assist any Veteran or family member.

For more information contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at vbb@dmava.nj.gov.



**May 19, 2023
11:30am**

DMAVA MEDAL CEREMONY

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

Council Oak Steaks & Seafood Restaurant
1000 Boardwalk
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

For more information contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at vbb@dmava.nj.gov.



**May 20, 2023
9:00am - 2:00pm**

TRANSITION / RETIREMENT MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

Joint Military & Family Assistance Center

1048 US Highway 206
Bordentown, NJ 08505

This is an informational day to walk through and visit 30+ vendors at the Bordentown Armory. Servicemembers and Retirees of all military branches are welcome. There will not be any briefings.

[Learn More and Register](#)

**CAPE MAY COUNTY
COAST GUARD
COMMUNITY FESTIVAL**

**May 20, 2023
9:00am - 4:00pm**

DMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Training Center Cape May

1 Munro Ave
Cape May, NJ 08204

DMAVA will have a Veterans Service Officer present to help and assist any Veteran or family member.

For more information contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at vbb@dmava.nj.gov.

[Learn More](#)



NJ VET2VET

JOIN OUR **IN-PERSON** SUPPORT GROUP

NJ Vet2Vet will be hosting an **in-person** veteran support group for anyone who can attend.

| DATES: | LOCATION: | TIME: |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 2/18/23 | NJ Vietnam Veteran's Memorial | 12:00 PM |
| 3/18/23 | | 2:00 PM |
| 4/15/23 | | |
| 5/20/23 | | |
| 6/17/23 | Vietnam Era Museum | |

Veterans Service Officer present to help and assist any veteran.
Call (866) 838-7654 for more information.



JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY

POWER IN THE PINES

AIR & SPACE OPEN HOUSE

FEATURING THE U.S.A.F. F-16 VIPER DEMO TEAM & THE U.S. ARMY GOLDEN KNIGHTS PARACHUTE TEAM

MAY 20&21

GATES OPEN AT 9AM

Celebrating Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst's public service and military might from air, land and sea.

STAY UP TO DATE!
Download the JB MDL APP

iPhone Android



www.JBMDL.JB.mil

DMAVA will have a Veterans Service Officer present

VETERAN INFORMATION SESSION

The Wilmington VA Medical Center and Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) Outreach Specialist will be hosting a presentation on information regarding enrollment, eligibility, services, and programs offered. The Sessions offer general information and how to navigate VA. Q & A and one-on-one information will be provided for all Veterans, their families, and caregivers in attendance.

Please contact the VA Outreach Specialist a VA provider or staff member if you would like to attend. (Seating is limited and based on availability)

UPCOMING SESSIONS

4th Monday of every month

10:00 AM

(or scheduled by request with Outreach Specialist)

WHERE

Cape May County CBOC
3801 Route 9 South
Rio Grande, NJ 08242



VA OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Jacqueline Hinker
302-304-5509

CLINIC STAFF

PACT Team
Nurse Manager
Behavior Health
AMSA Supervisor
AMSA
Physical Therapy

DMAVA

VSO
Alicia Kagan
609-441-3060
Or
CMC Veteran
Services Office
David Louderback
609-886-2762

DMAVA will have a Veterans Service Officer present

VETERAN INFORMATION SESSION

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Please contact the VA Outreach Specialist a VA provider or staff member if you would like to attend. (Seating is limited and based on availability)

UPCOMING SESSIONS

4th Tuesday of each month

11:00 AM

(or scheduled by request with Outreach Specialist)

WHERE

Cumberland County CBOC
79 W. Landis Avenue
Vineland, NJ 08360



VA OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Jacqueline Hinker
302-304-5509

CLINIC STAFF

PACT Team
Nurse Manager
Behavior Health
AMSA Supervisor
AMSA

DMAVA

VSO

DMAVA will have a Veterans Service Officer present

VETERAN INFORMATION SESSION

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Please contact the VA Outreach Specialist a VA provider or staff member if you would like to attend. (Seating is limited and based on availability)

UPCOMING SESSIONS

4th Thursday of every month

11:00 AM

(or scheduled by request with Outreach Specialist)

WHERE

Atlantic County CBOC
1909 New Road
Northfield, NJ 08225



VA OUTREACH SPECIALIST
Jacqueline Hinker
302-304-5509

CLINIC STAFF
PACT Team
Nurse Manager
Behavior Health
AMSA Supervisor
AMSA

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

CONTACTED BY PHONE

DMAVA will have a Veterans Service Officer present



May 25, 2023
9:00am - 3:00pm

DMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Columbus Farmers Market

2919 US-Route 206
Columbus, NJ 08022

DMAVA will have a Veterans Service Officer present to help and assist any Veteran or family member.

For more information contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at vbb@dmava.nj.gov.



May 25, 2023
10:00am - 3:00pm

DMAVA MEDAL CEREMONY AND VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Ocean County Mall

1201 Hooper Avenue
Toms River, NJ 08753

Medal Ceremony at 11:00am

DMAVA will have a Veterans Service Officer present to help and assist any Veteran or family member.

For more information contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at vbb@dmava.nj.gov.



June 3, 2023
9:00am - 1:00pm

TRANSITION / RETIREMENT SEMINAR

Joint Military & Family Assistance Center

1048 US Highway 206
Bordentown, NJ 08505

Half-day presentation on retirement programs, benefits, and entitlements.

DMAVA will have a Veterans Service Officer present to help and assist any Veteran or family member.

[Learn More and Register](#)



SAT, 3 JUN 2023, 1300-1630
RESERVE & NATIONAL GUARD,
“TRANSITION BENEFITS
WORKSHOP” (TBW)



Are you leaving the Reserves or National Guard? ETS, Medical, “ALL” discharge types (within the next 4 months or less), AND ALL Retirements (Within next 18 months or less)

Have you been briefed on the “NUMEROUS” benefits you have earned or have “Not” earned during your time in service? Are you a “Veteran” and can you file for a VA Disability Claim? What benefits do you have in the state you live in? Are you eligible for Tricare coverage after you get out? Let us answer these and MANY other questions you have “BEFORE” you get out.

To attend this event, please scan our QR code -or- [e-mail](mailto:egraham@gapsi.com) Mr. Ed Graham, RCTAA at egraham@gapsi.com.

Registration is “Required” to attend as seating/materials are limited SUTA/Split Train letter is available at workshop!

DOD Contractor



Tricare Options for ETS & Retirees

Federal & State Benefits

VA Disability Q&A

Employment & Education Help



Workshops held at:
Bordentown NG Armory,
1048 US Rt 206 South,
Bordentown, NJ, 08505



June 7, 2023
10:00am

STATE MEDAL CEREMONY FOR WOMEN VETERANS

Wildwoods Convention Center

Ballroom C
4501 Boardwalk
Wildwood, NJ 08260

The ceremony is open to all Honorably Discharged New Jersey Women Veterans. Medal application suspense date is May 26, 2023.

[Learn More | Medal Application](#)



June 12-13, 2023
9:00am - 4:00pm

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

Lawrenceville Armory

151 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

DMAVA and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop.

This training is for grant seekers across all disciplines. Attend this class and you'll learn how to find the funding sources and write winning grant proposals.

[Learn More](#)

FEATURED EVENTS



OCEAN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE BUREAU COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM



Monday, May 22

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

At the

Beachwood Community Center

147 Compass Ave, Beachwood, NJ 08722

We invite Veterans and their dependents to come to an informational event to discuss Veterans Compensation, Pension and HealthCare Benefits, DD-214 Upgrades, and other veteran benefits.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at

732-929-2096

We look forward to seeing YOU at this event!

A Day for Our Great Veterans and their Families

WE

Save the Date!



Challenging Obstacle Course Competition

Fun 'Field Day' Competition

Family Fun
Food
music
and more!

VETS

Sponsorships available
Vet owned
Business & Organization
Vendors Wanted!
contact Anissa Esposito
Aesposito@njleg.org

Saturday June 3, 2023
11 am-3 pm
On the grounds of the Freehold Family YMCA
470 East Freehold Road
Freehold, NJ 07728





**TOP GUN
IGNITE YOUR FUTURE**



"SPEED INTERVIEW"
WITH VETERAN FRIENDLY & HIRING EMPLOYERS

June 12th, 2023

**Bordentown Armory
1048 US-206 0900 - 1200 hours
Bordentown, NJ 08505**

ALL MILITARY & DEPENDENTS WELCOME



EMPLOYERS & CANDIDATES

**REGISTER AT:
www.BridgingtheGap.vet/
info@bridgingthegap.vet**

UPCOMING EVENTS

DMAVA & Community Calendar

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

[View Full Calendar](#)

NJ NATIONAL GUARD



Best Warrior

New Jersey National Guard's Best Warrior Competition Winner SPC Laura Grieco talks about her experience in the competition which was held April 25-27, 2023 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

[Watch Video](#)
[Read Full Story](#)



Dedication Ceremony

On May 7, 2023, the 177th Fighter Wing commander, Col. Derek B. Routt, hosted a dedication ceremony for the Convair F-106 Delta Dart static display.

Former pilots, aircraft maintainers and Airmen of various other disciplines attended the ceremony which was symbolic of the 106th anniversary of the 119th Fighter Squadron.

The 119th Fighter Squadron was established in 1917 and has been assigned here at the 177th Fighter Wing since 1958.



CATALIST

New Jersey National Guard Airmen and Soldiers with CATALIST Cohort 003-2023 tour the 254th Regional Training Institute's Battle Simulations Group on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., May 7, 2023.

Cultivating Agile and Transformational Air Guard Leaders through Inspiring and Structured Training (CATALIST) is a New Jersey Air National Guard program that focuses on strengthening the development of future military leaders.

CATALIST students toured weapons simulators, simulated indoor urban environments, and received a sharpshooting demonstration from the staff.

[View Images](#)



44th IBCT Prepares for JRTC

One hundred eighty-five Soldiers with the New Jersey Army National Guard's [44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#), loaded tactical vehicles onto a rail car at the Morrisville Yard in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, May 15, 2023.

More than 800 vehicles and pieces of equipment are being sent by train to Fort Polk, Louisiana, to participate in an exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center prior to the unit's deployment next year.

[View Images](#)

Join Our Team

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



DMAVA VETERANS SERVICES

NEW JERSEY VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE

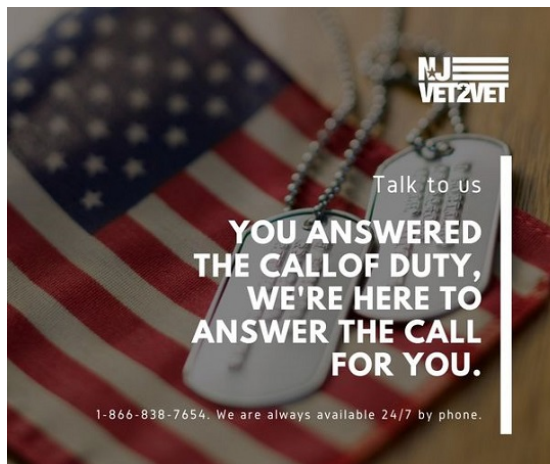


**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**



The Benefits Guide has been updated
effective March 2023.

Get Current Edition



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

Veterans Outreach Schedule

DMAVA DEPARTMENTS



National Nurses Week

During National Nurses Week, Brig. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and New Jersey State Command Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Leonard visited the nurses and residents of the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, Edison, New Jersey, May 9, 2023.

New Jersey's three Veterans' homes celebrated National Nurses Week, which recognizes and honors the nurses who provide care and comfort for the residents.

[View Images](#)



NJ Youth Challenge Academy Docuseries

Are you ready for the Challenge?

In this nine-part docuseries, experience the 22-week residential program of [NJ Youth Challenge Academy](#)'s Class 55, from the first day at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, NJ to graduation in the summer of 2023.

- [Episode 1: Intake](#)
- [Episode 2: Acclimation](#)
- [Episode 3: Academics](#)
- [Episode 4: Physical Training](#)
- [Episode 5: Family Day Part I](#)

NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.



Now accepting applications
for Class 56 - July 17, 2023.

**APPLY
NOW!**

**TUITION
FREE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

 rpm@dmava.nj.gov

 njyca.org/admissions



Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

DEIB Newsletter

May 2023

STATE PARTNERS



Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day

"The State of New Jersey and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will partner with all citizens of this great State and Nation to remember and honor our Vietnam Veterans, as well as their families, for their patriotism, courage, and sacrifice; NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim: May 7, 2023 as VIETNAM VETERANS REMEMBRANCE DAY in New Jersey."

New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day ceremony was held at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel, New Jersey, May 7, 2023.



Assembly Testimony

On May 11, 2023, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Vincent Solomeno testified before the New Jersey Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs Committee regarding the mental health support state government provides to Service Members, Veterans, and their families.

WE ARE HIRING

Please bring
your resumes

NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE
JOB FAIR

Government Agencies, Colleges, and Universities Represented:

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casino Control Commission Civil Service Commission Commission of the Blind/Visually Impaired Department of Agriculture Department of Children and Families Department of Community Affairs Department of Corrections Department of Education Department of Environmental Protection Department of Health Department of Law and Public Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Department of State Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Motor Vehicle Commission New Jersey State Parole Board New Jersey State Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Office of the Public Defender State of New Jersey Judiciary Stockton University |
|--|---|

*Additional Agencies will be on Site

Wednesday, June 14th

9am - 1pm

Mercer Community College
1200 Old Trenton Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550
Location: Fitness Center

Register Now

<https://forms.office.com/g/K6LnBn0Yib>

Sponsored by Civil Service Commission
Office of Diversity Programs | diversityoffice@csc.nj.gov



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](#)
- [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](#)



FEDERAL PARTNERS



Veterans and survivors have filed more than 500,000 toxic exposure-related benefits claims under the PACT Act

WASHINGTON — On April 26, 2023, VA announced that Veterans and their survivors have filed more than 500,000 claims for toxic exposure-related benefits under the [PACT Act](#) since President Biden signed it into law Aug. 10, 2022. To date, VA has awarded more than \$1 billion in earned benefits to Veterans and survivors who filed PACT Act-related claims.

VA also announced that more than 3 million Veterans have received VA's new [toxic exposure screenings](#) since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law, with approximately 42% reporting a concern of exposure. More than 215,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care during that timeframe, a 15% increase from the same timeframe the year before.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Veterans have access to acute suicide care, but who is eligible?

Some Veterans discharged under other than honorable conditions are eligible.

Eligible veterans and some former service members can now go to any VA or non-VA hospital for emergency health care during an acute suicidal crisis, and it will be paid for by VA.

This includes ambulance transportation, related prescriptions, up to 30 days of inpatient or crisis residential treatment, and up to 90 days of outpatient care at no cost to them.

The new benefit is saving lives and supports one of VA's top clinical priorities—preventing veteran suicide.

[Learn More at VA News](#)

Military Records

In this episode of *theSITREP*, the hosts cover how to get military records from the National Personnel Records Center and what NPRC is with Scott Levins, Director of NPRC in St. Louis.

[Watch Video](#)

Survivor Benefit Plan Open Season

Congress provided for a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Open Season in the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. The SBP Open Season began on December 23, 2022 and ends on January 1, 2024.

The SBP Open Season allows for retirees receiving retired pay, eligible members, or former members awaiting retired pay who are currently NOT enrolled in SBP or RCSBP (Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan) to enroll.

The SBP Open Season also allows eligible members and former members who are currently enrolled in either SBP or RCSBP to permanently discontinue their SBP coverage.

[Learn More](#)

New National Parks Pass

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.

[Learn More at VA News](#)

VA Life Insurance

Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) provides guaranteed acceptance whole life coverage of up to \$40,000 to Veterans with service-connected disabilities. Lesser amounts are available in increments of \$10,000. Under this plan, the elected coverage takes effect two years after enrollment as long as premiums are paid during the two-year period.

All Veterans age 80 or under with a VA disability rating of 0 to 100% are eligible for the VALife program and have no time limit to apply.

[Learn More](#)

Featured Links

- [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 Women's Health Reengagement Training](#)
- [VA and FCC make it easier for Veterans to get internet access](#)
- [13 places that offer free wills or trusts for Veterans](#)
- [Simplifying the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill application process](#)
- [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](#)

PACT ACT SPECIAL HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT PERIOD

Visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) to learn more!

Did you serve in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War?
—OR—
Did you serve in combat against hostile forces after November 11, 1998?
—AND—
Were you discharged or released between 09/11/2001 and 10/01/2013?

**ENDS
SEPTEMBER
30**

It's free, no annual costs, and your health care may be free as well!

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

#VetResources

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

Subscribe

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



C.A.R.E. Day

On May 4, 2023, the 177th Fighter Wing hosted the 2023 Community Assistance & Resiliency Engagement Day, or "C.A.R.E." Day.

Many of our community partners came to the 177th FW to participate, including the [The Humane Society of Atlantic County](#), [Cardiff VFW Post 8098 and Auxiliary](#), [The Veteran Coffee Company](#), [RDT Physical Therapy](#), [Deborah Heart and Lung Center](#), [Project Refit](#), [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#), in addition to other organizations from across New Jersey.



41st Annual Legislative Breakfast

Brig. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., the Adjutant General and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, along with several additional DMAVA personnel and members of other Veterans Service Organizations, joined the [Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.](#) and Ladies Auxiliary, Department of New Jersey, for its 41st Annual Legislative Breakfast, May 7, 2023.

The JWV-NJ honored Congresswoman [Mikie Sherrill](#), 11th Congressional District, New Jersey, as their Legislator of the Year and the [New Jersey Veterans Network](#) as its Organization of the Year in recognition of their support to Veterans and their families.



Our Community Salutes

On May 9, 2023, the 15th Annual *Our Community Salutes of South Jersey High School Enlistee Ceremony* was held in Voorhees, NJ. The event honors graduating high school seniors in Southern New Jersey who plan to join the military after high school graduation.

Over 400 people were in attendance, including local, state, and national leaders. Among the guest speakers was Rutgers graduate and Medal of Honor Recipient Col. Jack Jacobs (USA, Ret.). View images at [Camden County Flickr](#).

Our Community Salutes ceremonies were also held at [Fairleigh Dickinson University](#) and at Middlesex College.

Learn more at [OurCommunitySalutes.org](#).



Groundbreaking Ceremony

What a phenomenal turnout on May 15, 2023 for the upcoming veterans housing project in Mountain Lakes, NJ. It was wonderful to see our local, state, county, and federal officials come out to support this in a wonderful town and community. It was also great to see American Legion Post 59 out of Morristown. The community and our partners are ready to welcome these veterans with open arms! We can't wait to see you for the ribbon cutting!

Image and caption courtesy [NJ SOS Veterans Stakeholders Group](#).



Day at the Beach

On May 12, 2023, after waiting 3 long years, we had the pleasure of hosting our Vineland Veterans for lunch. The special treat was taking them to the beach with a police escort afterwards! What a great day! We love that they are able to be out and about again. There was also a visit by Mayor Desiderio.

Special thanks to everyone who made this possible through donations and volunteering.

Image and caption courtesy [VFW Auxiliary 1963 Sea Isle City](#).



ICYMI

The Fourth Annual Virtual Women Veterans Symposium was held on March 11, 2023.

A collaboration between [Operation Sisterhood](#) and the Department of Veterans Affairs Newark Regional Office, the program kicked off with greetings from Senator Cory Booker, Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill and an intimate, inspiring chat with Executive Director, Center for Women Veterans, Office of the Secretary, Lourdes Tiglaio.

[Watch Video](#)

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.

May 18, 2010
Operation Enduring Freedom
Col. John M. McHugh
U.S. Army
West Caldwell, New Jersey

May 29, 2007
Operation Iraqi Freedom
Ssg Joseph M. Weiglein
U.S. Army
Audubon, New Jersey

May 19, 2006
Operation Enduring Freedom
Ssg Christian Longworth
U.S. Army
Newark, New Jersey

May 29, 2009
Operation Iraqi Freedom
PV2 Bradley Iorio
U.S. Army
Galloway Township, New Jersey

May 20, 2010
Operation Iraqi Freedom
SPC Stanley J. Sokolowski III
U.S. Army
Ocean, New Jersey

May 30, 2003
Operation Iraqi Freedom
SPC Kyle A. Griffin
U.S. Army
Emerson, New Jersey

May 27, 2012
Operation Enduring Freedom
PFC Leroy Deronde III
U.S. Army
Jersey City, New Jersey

May 31, 2011
Operation Enduring Freedom
SPC Richard Emmons
U.S. Army
Woodstown, 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

HISTORY



The 12th New Jersey monument at Gettysburg.

May 21, 1777

The force under George Washington's direct command encamped at Morristown reported 7,363 officers and men "fit for duty and on duty." Arms and ammunition were arriving in large quantities from France, including 19,000 muskets and 1,000 barrels of gunpowder during the month of March alone.

May 22, 1958

A disastrous accident at the Middletown Nike anti-aircraft missile base ended the lives of six regular army soldiers and four civilian technicians. Eight missiles exploded while being worked on in what was called at the time "the world's worst missile disaster."

May 23, 1943

The battleship USS New Jersey was commissioned. The New Jersey subsequently served in the Pacific during World War II and then in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East. It is currently a floating museum located in Camden.

May 26, 1668

The first New Jersey Assembly met in Elizabethtown, with fourteen members from East New Jersey and two from West New Jersey. During a five day session, the body passed militia legislation requiring men between the ages of

May 26, 1886

The Gettysburg battlefield monument to the Twelfth New Jersey Infantry was dedicated on Cemetery Ridge. Marked "buck and ball" to commemorate the combination of buckshot and round balls fired in the regiment's obsolete yet deadly at short range smoothbore muskets, it was the first New Jersey monument erected at Gettysburg and was privately funded by veterans of the regiment.

May 30, 1924

A sixty-five-foot obelisk was dedicated to commemorate Bergen County's Camp Merritt, the troops who passed through there during World War I and, most importantly, the fifteen officers, four nurses, 558 enlisted men and one civilian who died, mostly from influenza, while serving their county there. New Jersey Governor George S. Silzer presided over the ceremony and General John J. Pershing was the guest of honor. The widow of Civil War Major General Wesley Merritt, for whom the camp was named, joined 20,000 spectators attending the dedication.

May 31, 1926

Famed sculptor Gutzon Borglum's massive bronze Wars of America statue, representing every conflict the United States participated in from the Revolution to World War I and composed of figures of forty-two humans and two horses, was unveiled in Newark's Military Park.

sixteen and sixty to train for "at least four days in the year."

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SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Frank Albanese

CW5 Frank Albanese, the outgoing State Command Warrant Officer of the New Jersey Army National Guard, celebrated his retirement with family, friends and fellow Soldiers at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt on May 13, 2023.

CW5 Albanese's military service began in 1983, as a Calibration Specialist. He became a Warrant Officer in 2001 and later deployed to Afghanistan and served in a variety of leadership positions before being appointed as the 8th State Command Chief Warrant Officer for the New Jersey Army National Guard in December 2018.

[View Images](#)



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Janelle Atwell

Please join us in congratulating our very own CW2 Janelle Atwell for completing her Masters Degree in Human Resource Management from Rutgers University.

Not only must Warrant Officers excel in their military education, they must also continue their pursuit of higher learning. Ms. Atwell is a prime example of a dynamic and well-rounded Warrant Officer capable of balancing life and career.

Outstanding job, Chief!

Image and caption courtesy [New Jersey Warrant Officer Facebook](#).

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



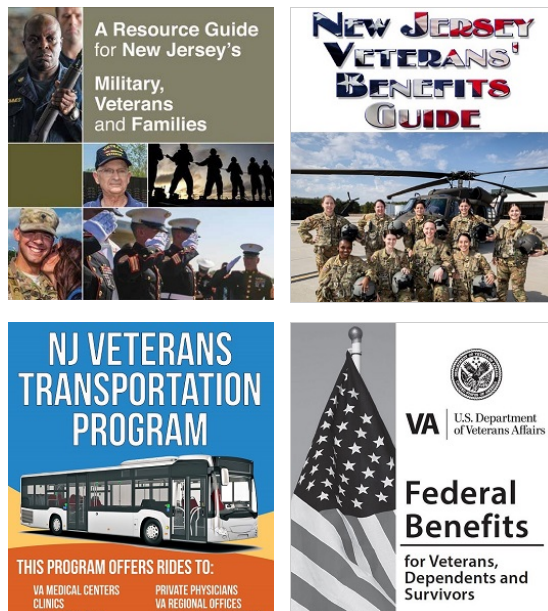
Angel Vargas

DMAVA Nurses have a special bond with their patients. Meet Angel Vargas, a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland, N.J.

LPNs work under the supervision of registered nurses, doctors and other providers. As a direct link between a patient and their family, they provide basic medical care. Hear how Mr. Vargas provides comfort to a resident.

We celebrate and honor all of the nurses throughout all three veterans homes in New Jersey. Thank you for "serving those who have served"!

RESOURCES



DMAVA CAREERS



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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.

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