

# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

## Decorating his way to “Cake Boss” status

By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th WG/PA

“In my senior year of high school, I had a commercial baking class,” said 21 year-old Rashawn Robinson. “The first day of class I picked up the spatula and started decorating cakes.”

And for the past three years he has been mastering the art of cake decorating in his civilian life and during drill weekends at the 108th Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

“I fell in love with the art and have been doing it ever since,” said Robinson, a senior airman with the 108th Force Support Squadron.

“You can definitely tell he takes pride and enjoys what he does,” said Master Sgt. Lauren Holba, base service manager at the 108th Wing, and Robinson’s supervisor.

With the use of icing, frosting and other edible decorative elements to make otherwise plain cakes more visually interesting, the art of cake decorating has become very popular in this reality-TV driven culture.

There’s the show “Ace of Cakes” on the Food Network; “Amazing Wedding Cakes” on WeTV and New Jersey’s own “Cake Boss” on the cable network TLC.

And recently, Robinson, a Browns Mills native currently residing in Brooklyn, N.Y., accepted a job at the famous bakery in Hoboken, Carlo’s Bakery, and the set for “Cake Boss”.

“I will be a cake decorator,” said Robinson. “I will cut, fill,

and stack numerous cakes. Then decorate them with sugar flowers or any other sugar decorations.”

“Cake Boss” follows Buddy Valastro, star and owner of the bakery, and his family as they operate their business, which mainly focuses on how they bake and decorate cakes for all types of occasions and events.

Holba said Robinson had talked about how much he enjoyed baking and decorating.

So much he decided to take a chance and drive to Carlo’s Bakery and hopefully receives a try out for the show.

Robinson was well aware of the opportunities that an internship at the “Cake Boss” would open to him. Thus, armed with his portfolio, he met with Buddy’s right-hand man, Mauro “Chef Mario” Castano, and was given a tryout, which he passed with flying colors.

Consequently, he was first offered a 30-day trial period to bake for the show and displayed his decorating skills.

During his internship, he was able to network with different people and meet new

friends, said Robinson. “The experience alone is an amazing opportunity.”

Yet Robinson has maintained a humble approach to his military career and personal life.

“The environment in the show is really fun, and a little crazy with cameras everywhere and people screaming all the time,”



said Robinson. “My friends bombard me with a million questions about the show, and I gladly answer them with a smile on my face.”

“We keep looking for him on TV,” said Holba.

Cake deco-

rating was not originally in his career plans, said Robinson. “I never went to culinary art school.”

But Robinson said he always listened to what his parents had to say. “My mother and father have always been supportive of what I decide to do. They always say ‘just do what you love and everything else will follow.’”

And now he finds himself on television and having his work displayed for the world to see.

But this would not be happening if he hadn’t picked up the spatula back in high school,

and then hone his skills later in the military.

And those skills were honed because of his choice to enter the services career field with the New Jersey Air National Guard in May of 2008.

“I wanted the experience to be part of something that was bigger than me and to have the ability to afford to go to school,” said Robinson.

In the services career field, Airmen are trained to manage and direct services programs, operations and retail operations, which include food service activities, lodging, recreation and fitness.

With his career goal of getting a bachelor’s degree in hospital-ity management and opening his own shop one day, Robinson also realizes the opportunities the military can open up for him. Being a veteran would allow him to obtain a veteran-owned small business enterprise, which provides the business owner with various incentives and benefits designed to ease the economic disadvantages of being a small business owner.

“The military is a great career choice,” said Robinson. “But I haven’t decided what I will do when my enlistment is up. It all depends on where I am in life.”

Being that a famous baker thought highly enough of Robinson’s work that he hired him for his show, the 108th Wing members are hoping that their own celebrity Airman will bake and decorate those exquisite cakes at the dining facility for a long time.

JOIN US ON

facebook

FOLLOW US ON

twitter

U.S. Senator Robert Menendez  
& The Atlantic County Office of Veterans Services Present:

## VETERANS & INFORMATION DAY & JOB FAIR

(Hosted by the Atlantic County One Stop Career Center)

Please join us for a panel discussion with VA officials and other community leaders on issues facing Southern New Jersey's Veterans.

Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
3:30 – 6:30pm (panel discussion begins at 5:30pm)  
Atlantic Cape Community College, Walter E. Edge Hall (Building C)  
5100 Black Horse Pike, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

- ★ Ask questions and express concerns to local leaders and VA representatives ★
- ★ Learn more about the many federal, state, and local veterans benefits ★
- ★ Connect with potential employers looking to hire veterans ★
- ★ Enroll in the VA Health Care System ★
- ★ And more ★

Participation includes representatives from:  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Wilmington Medical Center  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Philadelphia Regional Office  
New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (Atlantic County One Stop Career Center)  
Office of State Senator Jim Whelan  
and others...

To RSVP or if you have questions:  
email [Richard.Locklear@menendez.senate.gov](mailto:Richard.Locklear@menendez.senate.gov) or call (856) 757-5353

This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

## Veteran opportunity expo in NYC

RecruitMilitary, a top full-service military-to-civilian recruiting firm, in cooperation with the American Legion are sponsoring a veteran Opportunity Expo in New York City on Sept. 22 at the Manhattan Center.

Veteran-friendly employers, franchisors, and educational institutions will be in attendance to offer a variety of opportunities to all veterans, transitioning military personnel, and military family members.

The free event will be held at the Manhattan Center, which is located at 311 West 34th Street, New York on Thursday, Sept. 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To register for the event, please visit RecruitMilitary's candidate information Web page at <http://recruitmilitary.com/expos/386-New-York/candidates/information> or contact Dana Kenyon, marketing coordinator, at 513-683-5020.

**DMAVA Highlights** is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. e-mail at [pao@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:pao@njdmava.state.nj.us).

## Legion Riders to host Memorial Ride for veterans foundation

The American Legion Riders will host the first New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Ride on Sunday, Oct. 16 to benefit the New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Foundation and the Vietnam Era Museum and Education Center.

This event will take place rain or shine.

All participants should assemble at the New Jersey National Guard's headquarters at 101 Eggert Crossing Road in Lawrenceville.

The cavalcade destination will be the New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial on the grounds of the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel. Exit 116 off the Garden State Parkway.

Registration will be at 8 a.m., with a police-escorted departure time of 11:30 a.m.

Registration fee will be \$25 to cover expenses, barbecue lunch and donation for all participants and attendees. Children 12 and under \$10.

For more information on this event, contact the New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial at 732-335-0033 ext. 100 or visit their Website at [www.njvvmf.org](http://www.njvvmf.org).

## Global company looking to hire vets

Transitioning Soldiers and Airmen, a global military-friendly company is looking for military service members interested in technology, consulting and other professional careers to add to their workforce.

Accenture, a global management consulting; technology services and outsourcing company, with more than 223,000 worldwide employees serving clients in more than 120 countries, is eager to hire transitioning service members and veterans because of their strong core values and their ability to adapt their thinking and operations rapidly and continually.

To learn more and apply for open positions visit their website at [www.accenture.com/military](http://www.accenture.com/military).

In addition, please click on this link to view a poster highlighting the benefits of a career with Accenture:

<http://docs.recruitmilitary.com/pdf/Accenture%20Careers%20Poster.pdf>

Safe Helpline  
LIVE 1-on-1 HELP Confidential Worldwide 24/7  
Help is just a Click, Call or Text away!  
For confidential victim assistance visit [www.SafeHelpline.org](http://www.SafeHelpline.org)

## New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth – The Adjutant General

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff

Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer

Air Force Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist

Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist

## Militia Museum opens 9-11 Exhibit

**SEA GIRT, N.J.** – The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey will open an exhibit recalling the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and chronicling the New Jersey National Guard’s response. “September 11: The New Jersey National Guard Response” opens Sept. 6 and runs through Oct. 3 at the main museum in Sea Girt and the museum’s annex in Lawrenceville.

“Within moments of the first plane striking the World Trade Center, elements of the New Jersey National Guard were mobilized in support of security and recovery operations,” said 1st Lt. Vincent Solomono, historian of the New Jersey National Guard and the museum’s curator. “Ten years on, our state’s Citizen Soldiers and Airmen remain engaged

in Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations worldwide. This is our effort to commemorate that service.”

Established in 1980, the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey presents the role of the New Jersey Militia and the National Guard within the context of the larger history of the state. Collections include original and reproduction uniforms, weapons, photographs, artifacts and art from the period of Dutch, Swedish and British colonization through the War for Independence, Civil War and World Wars I and II to the present day, with particular attention paid to the diversity of the New Jersey Citizen Soldier and his or her experience.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more infor-



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Stephenson

mation, please visit the museum’s web site at <http://www.nj.gov/military/museum/> or call 732-974-5966.



**2011 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event**  
**Burlington County (City of Florence), NJ**  
 November 4, 2011  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
**The American Legion Post 194**  
**6th and Broad Streets, Florence, NJ**

Join us November 4, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for a hiring fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members and eligible spouses at The American Legion Francis W Robbins Post 194 (6th and Broad Streets) in Florence, New Jersey. This event will be a one-of-a-kind FREE hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

Employers and job seekers must pre-register for FREE at [HoH.GreatJob.net](http://HoH.GreatJob.net).

This hiring fair is being done in partnership with the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce and The American Legion Post 194 as part of a larger effort by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and The American Legion to help veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment. Other partners for this event include the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Services (DOL VETS), the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) in New Jersey, and NBC News.

A light breakfast will be provided by The American Legion Post 194.

For registration questions, contact us at [HiringOurHeroes@USChamber.com](mailto:HiringOurHeroes@USChamber.com).



**2011 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event**  
**Toms River, NJ**  
 October 22, 2011  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Join us **October 22, 2011** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., for a hiring fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members and eligible spouses at The American Legion Post 129 (2025 Church Road) in Toms River, New Jersey. This event will be a one-of-a-kind FREE hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

Employers and job seekers must pre-register for FREE at [HoH.GreatJob.net](http://HoH.GreatJob.net).

This hiring fair is being conducted by the Toms River-Ocean County Chamber of Commerce and The American Legion Post 129 as part of a larger effort by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and The American Legion to help veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment. Other partners for this event include the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training (DOL VETS) and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) in New Jersey.

A complimentary breakfast will be served to all attendees.

For registration questions, contact us at [HiringOurHeroes@USChamber.com](mailto:HiringOurHeroes@USChamber.com).

