



# **Top NCO visits Paramus vets home**

By Kryn P. Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Photos by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

United States Marine Corps, Sergeant Major Bryan B. Battaglia is use to walking down hallways to meet people. On Monday, the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman (SEAC) of the Joint Chiefs of Staff swapped the rings of the Pentagon for the wings of the Veterans Memorial Home in Paramus.

Battaglia stopped at the skilled nursing facility the day before military appreciation activities at The Barclays PGA golf tourney, also in Paramus.

"I am fortunate and grateful to spend time with them," said Battaglia, who serves as a principal military advisor to the Chairman and the Secretary of Defense. "They are truly, why we have a free country."

The top non-commission off cer in the U.S. armed forces shook hands with residents throughout his tour of the 300-bed

home that included calling out numbers during their bingo game.

"It just goes to show how close knit a brother and sister-hood this facility brings to its veterans," said Battaglia.



United States Marine Corps Sergeant Major Bryan Battaglia calls out a round of bingo during his visit to the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus.

Members of the veterans' home advisory board and other veteran service organization leaders greeted the SEAC, explaining how donations of time and money make the facility better for their fellow veterans.

"It is community; these veterans come together from all branches of the service and they spend time with one another and that is the beauty of our armed forces," said Battaglia. "No other profession in the world does that."

Battaglia called the residents the "Heroes of our nation" and the visit allowed him to see f rsthand what states are doing to ensure health care for veterans.

"Continued health coverage for all of our comrades, those who have fought for our country, is why I am here," said Battaglia.

Spc. Oscar Baldriche, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, contributed to this story.

## **CELL PHONE PHOTO STANDS CAPTURE EVOLVING SHORELINE**

By 1st Lt. Amelia Thatcher, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Sea Girt's beach walkers, treasure hunters and seashell collectors might notice something new on their daily stroll.

Placed on the shore near the National Guard Training Center, three green and brown Fluker Posts wait for people to prop up their camera phones and take snapshots of the sunrise, the birds, and the ocean.

"We can use the photos to manage the land," said New Jersey Department of Military and

Veterans Affairs environmental specialist Bill McBride.

Developed in 2008 by Dr. Martin Fluker of Victoria University in Brisbane, Australia, the fxed points enable passers-by to take landscape photos with their own camera phones. Signage on the posts encourages people to send the photos to Fluker's online collection point, and track changes to the local landscape over time.

McBride spotted Fluker's idea and immediately thought of importing it to the Jersey shore.

"Sea Girt is unique as it has the recreational element... we do active land management and people go there regularly," he said. "If you have years and years of photos, you can measure plant density and beach erosion."

Fluker's original design can be found all around Melbourne, in southern Australia. Photos from the older posts



document the visible effects of erosion and human activity over the last half decade.

The DMAVA environmental team modified their posts to ensure each photo, taken by different types of camera phones, would capture the same angle of Sea Girt's coastline.

"You could put a time-lapse camera there, but you have to get people involved," said Chuck Appleby, chief of the DMAVA environmental branch.

He added that aerial photos, such as Google Earth views, aren't nearly as frequent as a user-driven concept like the Fluker post.

"People walk the beach every day," Appleby said. "You could get just one photo a week."

McBride hopes to use the Fluker photos to track endangered sea bird population, plant growth, and beach erosion. The team avoided setting up posts in more secluded areas, as much of the beachfront is in its natural state: prime habitat for animal species, according to Appleby.

"You need people and a reason to study. Outreach is important," Appleby said.

"We can show that the Guard supports more here at Sea Girt," McBride added.

And that's no fuke.

## **Energy Conservation Tip of the Week**

Fix any water leaks that you may have in your home or off ce. While it may not seem like a leak is much of a problem, a faucet that only leaks a drip every 4 seconds will waste 65 gallons in a month and more than 780 gallon in a year!

#### Did You Know?

The average person uses between 80 and 100 gallons of water every day. The majority of this use comes from f ushing toilets. The next comes from showers and baths.

If you would like more information about our en-

ergy and water conservation efforts, please contact Christopher Moore, energy manager at christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov.





# **Vets visit New Jersey**

Residents at Veteran's Haven South in Winslow visited the Battleship New Jersey on the Camden, N.J., waterfront July 19, 2014. Battleship volunteer guides Dave Dimarzio, Angelo Pazzuello and Charles Vaughan escorted the group through the 12 sections of the ship. The highlights were the war room, the turrets, Tomahawk missile system, combat information center and the operation specialist room. For the Air Force and Army veterans, it was a learning experience. For the Navy veterans, it brought back some familiar memories.







CONTACT: Bob Looby: (908) 894-0746 Boblooby@embarqmail.com

\*\*\* Reach Veterans in South Jersey \*\*\*

#### Join the American Legion and Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian at the South Jersey Regional Veterans Resource & Opportunity Fair

Services will be expanded to include vendors that provide assistance with Employment, Homelessness, PTSD, and Criminal Justice initiatives

Atlantic City, NJ - The American Legion and Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian will host a Veteran

Atlantic City, NJ – The American Legion and Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian will host a Vectran Resource and Opportunity Fair to bring together South Jersey Veterans with service organizations and employers that can assist and enhance the lives of the brave men and women that defend our freedom. This event, tailored to Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists, Veterans, and their families is looking for vendors and providers to join the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and many others that provide services for homelessness, mental health issues, and veterans' affairs in general. The NJ State Parole Board will be present to discuss various criminal justice initiatives that will benefit veterans. The NJ Division on Civil Rights, under the NJ Office of the Attorney General, will present on the NJ Law Against Discrimination as it pertains to the veteran's community. Also invited to present from the federal government are the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the US Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCCP), under the US Department of Labor.

WHAT:

WHAT:

Veterans job and opportunity fair Sponsored by The American Legion, Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian, The State of New Jersey WHO:

Co-sponsored by the New Jersey Parole Board and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

WHEN: Thursday, October 9, 2014

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

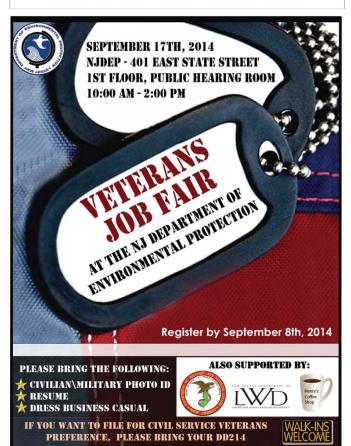
All Wars Memorial Building (Old Soldiers Home) 1510 Adriatic Ave., Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401 WHERE:

RSVP - EMPLOYERS, SERVICE PROVIDERS - Employers with current job openings or entities that can offer services MUST PRE-REGISTER With Martin Houston, State Parole Board, at VeteranReentry@spb.state.nj.us or

RSVP - VETERANS - All Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists, Veterans, and their spouses are encouraged to er but "WALK-INS" are welcome!

Mr. & Ms. New Jersey Veteran - The event will include competition and judging for the title of Mr. & Ms. New Jersey Veteran. The participants will be the finalists from the three previous Resource & Opportunity Fairs

PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT NO LATER THAN 10/03/14 AS SPACE IS LIMITED!





TERANS CAREER FAIR

# **Thursday** SEPTEMBER

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM



#### THIS FREE HIRING EVENT IS FOR:

Veterans **Transitioning Military Personnel National Guard Members Reserve Members** and Spouses

#### COMPANIES ARE HIRING!

- Job Opportunities
- Continuing Education Opportunities
- Business Ownership Opportunities

For more details visit:

https://events.recruitmilitary.com

## **New Yorker** Hotel

481 Eighth Avenue New York, NY 10001



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Follow us both on Facebook

#### REGISTER NOW



Supportive Services for eteran Families/



Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Newark Union County Presents...



# Nderstanding Veteran Benefits

By Frank Quadrino, Manager of The VA NJ Healthcare System

obtaining your DD-

Need Help obtaining a Veteran's Medical

Let us help you avigate through the A System and obtain our available

When: August 22, 2014 Where: Catholic Charities (Engel Center Entrance) 505 South Ave. East Cranford, NJ 07016 Time: 1:00pm-3:00pm

> RSVP by phone or email Call: 862 233-3259 Email: Mwingo@ccannj.org

## MILITARY CAREER AND RETIREMENT BRIEFING

A military career and retirement brief ng will be held for all New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers at the Garden Room, National Guard Armory, Lawrenceville, Sept. 13, 2014 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The following topics will be covered: how to read your retirement points accounting management (RPAM) statement, education benef ts, state archives, Veterans Administration mortgage benefts/reverse mortgage, f nancial planning, as well as what you need to do if you plan on retiring from the Guard.

If you plan on attending, send Marie Durling an e-mail at: marie.s.durling.civ@mail.mil.



US Family Health Care, a Tricare Prime option, is holding information sessions for servicemembers and families at various locations. Call 1-800-241-4848 option 3 or visit was useful for more information.

#### **MOUNT LAUREL, N.J.**

Mount Laurel Library
Sept. 12 (4 – 6:45 p.m. hourly)
100 Walt Whitman Avenue
Mount Laurel, N.J. 08054
Contact: Josephine Grey
(347) 501-2308

#### EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, N.J.

177TH Fighter Wing
Sept. 18 (12 – 4 p.m. hourly)
400 Langley Road
Bldg 229
Egg Harbor Twp, N.J. 08234
Contact: Josephine Grey
(347) 501-2308

#### LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J.

NJDMAVA building Sept. 9, 23 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. (hourly) 1st Floor/IASD Section 101 Eggerts Crossing Road Lawrenceville, N.J. 08648 Contact: Josephine Grey (347) 501-2308

#### FORT DIX, N.J.

Housing Community Center Sept. 15 (12 – 4 p.m. hourly) Building 1134 Hemlock Street Ft. Dix, N.J. Contact: Josephine Grey (347) 501-2308

#### **COLTS NECK, N.J.**

Naval Weapons Station Earle Sept. 18 (3 – 7 p.m.) 201 Highway 34 South Building C29 Colts Neck, N.J. 07722 Contact: Pam Kwiat (646) 341-2545

#### MCGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, N.J.

McGuire Library
Sept. 8 (3 – 7 p.m. hourly)
2603 Tuskegee Airmen Ave
McGuire AFB, N.J. 08641
Contact: Pam Kwiat
(646) 341-2545

#### **McGuire Housing**

Sept. 25

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (hourly)
Jim Saxton Community Center
3811 South Boiling Street
McGuire AFB, N.J. 08641
Contact: Pam Kwiat
(646) 341-2545

#### 108th Wing Airmen & Family Readiness Off ce

Sept. 17 (1 – 7 p.m.) 3327 Charles Blvd McGuire AFB, N.J. 08641 Contact: Pam Kwiat (646) 341-2545

#### **BROWNS MILLS, N.J.**

Pemberton Community Library Sept. 22 (12 – 4 p.m.) 16 Broadway Street Browns Mills, N.J. 08015 Contact: Pam Kwiat (646) 341-2545

#### TOMS RIVER, N.J.

New Jersey National Guard Armory Sept. 4 (3 – 7 p.m.) 1200 Whitesville Road Toms River, N.J. 08753 Contact: Pam Kwiat (646) 341-2545

#### **JERSEY CITY**

New Jersey National Guard Armory Aug. 28; Sept. 4, 11 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (hourly) 678 Montgomery St. Jersey City, N.J. 07306 Contact: Darrel Hutchinson (646) 354-0126

#### PICATINNY ARSENAL

Army Community Service Building Aug. 26 (1 – 3 p.m.) Building 119 Dover, N.J. 07806 Contact: Darrel Hutchinson (646) 354-0126

#### BLACKWOOD, N.J.

Camden County Veterans Affairs Aug. 25; Sept. 8, 15, 22 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (hourly) 3 Collier Dr. Lakeland Complex Blackwood, N.J. 08012 Contact: Wil Acosta (646) 300-1312

# E-mail your Highlights submissions to: mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov

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