



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



MARCH 8, 2012



Welcome Home Airmen



Photos by Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, 177th FW/PA



HIGHLIGHTS



South Plainfield resident, Angelo Paradiso, is applauded by the more than 100 people present at the Medal Ceremony at Bridge-water Commons Mall on March 6. Paradiso, a World War II veteran, was a former private first class in the Army when he stormed Utah Beach during the invasion of Normandy. For his service, Paradiso,

was bestowed New Jersey's Distinguished Service Medal with an oak leaf cluster by Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Acting Adjutant General, in the presence of Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, various other legislative officials, as well as family and friends. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)

Cover photos: Family, friends and personnel from the 177th Fighter Wing gather at the New Jersey Air National Guard base in Egg Harbor Township to celebrate the return of their loved ones and fellow unit members on Feb. 24. The 177FW Aerospace Expeditionary Forces deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from December 2011 thru February 2012.

Photo right: A painted T-Wall stands at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 1, as a lasting legacy of the 177th Fighter Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th FW/PA)





Military and Spouse Job Fair

Family Assistance Center
(Formerly Bordentown Armory)
1048 US Highway 206
Bordentown, NJ
March 9th, 2012
9 a.m. till 1 p.m.



Employment Opportunities

- Bring Resume
- Approx 40 Employers
- Presentations Include:
 - Dress for Success
 - Networking
 - Turning Your Military Skills into Civilian Employment
 - Web Resources
 - Budgeting (from Merrill Lynch)

Resources Available

- DEERS/ID Cards (2 forms of ID Required)
- Family Support
- Finance Representative
- MFLC (Military Family Life Consultant)
- VA Loans Representative
- Military One Source
- G.I. Bill Presentation
- Various College Representative On-site

Employers Please Email: Tammy.L.Cartagena@us.army.mil
to register for this event. This is a “No-Cost” event
However, there are only 40 tables available

American Legion to host Hiring Our Heroes event

The American Legion has joined forces with the U.S. and N.J. Chambers of Commerce in support of the Hiring Our Heroes program, a nationwide effort, blossoming here in New Jersey, to help veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment.

Veterans and their spouses are encouraged to take advantage of the Hiring Our Heroes event scheduled on Friday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at American Legion T. Nulty Post 471, 25 Brown Avenue in Iselin.

With the U.S. auto industry looking to add some 30,000 jobs during 2012, many of New Jersey’s 530 auto dealerships and other non-dealer service centers will be looking to fill positions.

Since the launch of the Hiring Our Heroes program on March 2011, more than 7,300 veterans and military spouses, and 60 wounded warriors have found employment.

Please go to www.HoH.GreatJob.net to register as a veteran job seeker, or auto-industry related employer.



Vietnam veteran artist featured at Museum

On Saturday, March 10, at 1 p.m., the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will host a lecture highlighting the Vietnam Era artwork of late New Jersey veteran Joe Connor.

Connor's wife, Anne, will speak about her husband's artistic legacy including the sketches and poetry he created while serving in Vietnam.

The Museum is currently showcasing Connor's work in its featured exhibit, *The Art of Survival*. The exhibit features thirty-six of the two-hundred sketches he created during his tour in Vietnam. Connor's images highlight soldiers' experiences, battle scenes, and the Vietnamese landscape. The exhibit is on display through March 10, 2012.

The Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center is located adjacent to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116. The Educational Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is free for veterans and active-duty military personnel. Regular adult admission is \$5; student and senior citizen admission is \$3 and children under 10 are admitted free. Regular admission applies to all lectures.

Lecture attendees are asked to RSVP to 732-335-0033.

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation (www.njvvmf.org) is a non-profit organization, which strives to foster patriotism and recognition of the sacrifices, courage and valor of the New Jersey veterans of the Vietnam Era. Dedicated in 1995, the Memorial is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

West Point Concert Band at NJPAC

Come out and enjoy a night of ballet and music on March 17 at 7 p.m., at the New Jersey Performance Arts Center in Newark.

The New Jersey Ballet will perform with The West Point Concert Band and will provide special discount tickets for military families.

Use code NJBWPB2012 to purchase Grand Tier Boxes and First Tier Rows A-D for only \$25 or Second Tier Rows A-C for \$20.

There is no limit on tickets per order. Purchase tickets at www.njpac.org or via phone at 1-888-466-5722.

NJPAC is located at One Center Street in Newark.

American Legion Post 43 hosts "Evening of Solid Gold"

The American Legion, Frank Patterson Post 43 will host an "Evening of Solid Gold" performances to raise awareness and funds for wounded and homeless American veterans.

The show will take place at Madison Junior School on Saturday, May 19, at 7 p.m. The event will consist of acts from the 50's and 60's.

A clothing drive for veterans-in-need will also be conducted at the event. Madison Junior School is located at 160 Main Street in Madison, N.J.

Veterans friendly job fair in Newark

Here is an opportunity for New Jersey veterans to show case their talent.

The G.I. Go Fund has teamed up with the Rutgers-Newark Student Veterans Organization to bring the 4th Annual Job and G.I. Bill Fair in Newark, on Tuesday, March 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Rutgers-Newark's Paul Robeson Campus Center.

The purpose of the event is to connect veterans to jobs, as well as benefits, job training opportunities and colleges.

Register for this free event and meet with employers, colleges, support services and benefit providers by visiting the G.I. Go Fund's Website at: www.gigofund.org/veteransjobfairvets.html, or contact Alexander Manis, deputy director for G.I. Go Veterans Transition Center of Newark, at 973-802-1614 or via email at manias@ci.newark.nj.us.

Since its founding, The GI Go Fund has worked tirelessly to help veterans of all conflicts, but particularly those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, who struggle with employment, benefits, education, and financial difficulties such as homelessness.

The Paul Robeson Campus Center is located at 350 Martin Luther King Boulevard in Newark.

Vietnam Veteran's foundation hosts benefit seminar in April

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation in conjunction with the Veterans Administration Health Care Community Outreach Team invites you to a FREE seminar on Saturday, April 14, at the Vietnam Era Museum and Education Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Come to this informative event and learn about the VA health care system. At 10:15 a.m., there will be a 45-minute presentation regarding health care eligibility and benefits followed by a questions-and-answers session.

Any veteran that is currently enrolled and wants to learn more about their health care benefits is encouraged to attend, and also learn about non-health related benefits such as: home loans, life insurance, filing disability claims, and death and burial benefits.

Furthermore, a VA mobile health unit will be on site for any "eligible" veteran to receive a brief health care assessment, including blood pressure check and patient education. Any veteran seeking information about how to enroll in the VA health care system should bring their DD-214.

Attendees are asked to RSVP their attendance to 732-335-0033.

The Educational Center is located at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial off Exit 116 in the Garden State Parkway.

E-mail your Highlights submissions to wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us OR armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us

GRILL SERGEANT COOK-OFF BATTLE

Join us as members of the
New Jersey Army National Guard
go toe-to-toe in a culinary battle royal!

Proceeds from the show will benefit the
SGT. Sam Nutter Organization,
whose purpose is to raise funds for
NJ Army National Guard families in need.

Seating is limited! Reserve your spot by
contacting Staff Sergeant Dennis Shanahan
at 862-222-6142

Date: March 14, 2012 from 6:30pm-8:30pm
Bloomingdale's
400 Hackensack Avenue
Hackensack, NJ 07601

www.nutterrun.org

BATTLEFIELD RUNWAY FASHION SHOW

Join us for a special fashion show
featuring members of the
New Jersey Army National Guard!

Proceeds from the show will benefit the
SGT. Sam Nutter Organization,
whose purpose is to raise funds for
NJ Army National Guard families in need.

Seating is limited! Reserve your seat by
contacting Staff Sergeant Dennis Shanahan
at 862-222-6142

Date: March 10, 2012 from 6pm-8pm
Bloomingdale's - Willowbrook Mall
3 Willowbrook Blvd.
Wayne, NJ 07470

www.nutterrun.org

Gold Star Mothers to be honored at St Patrick's Day Parade

A special presentation ceremony for Gold Star Mothers will be held at the Ocean County's St Patrick's Day Parade in Seaside Heights on March 10, at 12 p.m.

The Parade will present a special ceremony to honor the Gold Star Mothers, families, and their lost heroes at the end of the Parade route with numerous groups of bagpipers and musicians.

In addition, Judi Tapper, president of the New Jersey Gold Star Mothers, and T.J. Fearon will present approximately 20 Honor and Remember Special Flags to current New Jersey Gold Star Mothers. To find information, history and the meaning of this Flag, please visit <http://honorandremember.org>.

POST - 9/11 GI BILL A NEW BILL FOR A NEW CENTURY



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.

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