

DECEMBER 14, 2022



READY TO SERVE ★ PROUD TO HAVE SERVED

## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



### Season's Greetings

Season's greetings to you and your family from The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. May the magic and wonder of the holiday season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, your life with laughter, and remain with you throughout the coming year.

The end of the year is a time not only to unite and rejoice with family and friends but also a time to reflect and prepare for the upcoming year. Whatever is beautiful, whatever is meaningful, whatever brings you happiness, may it be yours this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

As you gather to share in holiday traditions, we ask you to please remember those stationed far from home, as well as our Veterans, and fallen comrades. Keep them and their families in your thoughts. Look out for each other and consider inviting individuals to your gatherings that may otherwise be alone.

And finally, as you enjoy this festive season with your loved ones, we urge you to remain safe as you travel and celebrate. We wish you and your family abundance, health, happiness, and peace in 2023. Happy Holidays!


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](mailto:outreach@dmava.nj.gov).

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



## FEATURED EVENTS



Were you exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances?

Many services available, including:

- Health care enrollment
- Toxic exposure screenings
- Claims support
- Flu/COVID vaccines

Veterans, Veteran families, caregivers, survivors, and advocates are invited to attend.

**VA** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
**PACT ACT AWARENESS**

December 16, 2022

**VA Health and Wellness Fair**  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**PACT Act Engagement Event**  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Maj. Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III**  
**National Guard/Reserve Conference Center**  
1 Vavala Way  
New Castle, DE 19720

\*You will need a current valid State ID, DOD ID or Retired ID card to get on base.\*

**2022 PACT ACT AWARENESS WEEK**

VBA's office of Outreach, Transition and Economic Development (OTED) will host a Virtual Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics

**★ Virtual PACT Act Symposium: ★**  
**Honoring Our Promise - Increasing Awareness**

**Friday, December 16th**  
**1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (EST)**

Affectionately named in honor of Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson, the symposium will feature information on the PACT Act, as well as other benefits and services available to Service members, Veterans, their families, caregivers, survivors, and advocates. This informative and educational symposium will include an overview of the PACT Act, a presentation on how to apply for benefits, and presentations on VA disability, survivor benefits, Vet Centers, and measures aimed at preventing fraud. The symposium is open to everyone, particularly Veterans, family members, and caregivers, as well as those who regularly interact with the Veteran community. This symposium will also provide attendees with information on PACT Act benefits and claims filing as well as ways to seek additional VA support.

**Link to Join:**  
<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=md8c3ba24222d04df1030dd33a6352519>

**Phone:**  
1-404-397-1596, Access Code: 2763 374 0710

**VA** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Learn more and sign up at VA.gov  
Download the VA Health and Benefits App  
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at VA.gov/find-locations



**December 18, 2022**  
**9:00am – 12:00pm**

**RESERVE COMPONENT TRANSITION  
BENEFITS BRIEF**

**Joint Military & Family Assistance Center**

1048 US Rt 206 South  
Bordentown, NJ 08505

POC: Edward Graham  
Reserve Component Transition Assistance Advisor  
[egramham@gapsi.com](mailto:egramham@gapsi.com)  
202-987-3839



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

**PATRIOTS WEEK 2022**  
DECEMBER 26-31 TRENTON, NJ

SEE FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS  
[WWW.PATRIOTSWEEK.COM](http://WWW.PATRIOTSWEEK.COM)

FUN OF HISTORIC PROPORTION

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DMAVA Calendar

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

- 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 | Northfield, NJ  
[Veterans Information Session](#)
- December 22, 2022 | Trenton, NJ  
[NJ Youth Challenge Academy Class 54 Graduation](#)
- December 27, 2022 | Vineland, NJ  
[Veterans Information Session](#)

## Community Calendar

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

[View Full Calendar](#)

### SPOTLIGHT



#### **We Will Never Forget**

Brig. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey, dedicated the *Gold Star Family Roadway* on the campus of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, December 2, 2022.

Following the dedication, Hou and State Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Leonard unveiled five plaques placed at the base of five trees honoring Staff Sgt. Frank T. Carvill and Spc. Christopher M. Duffy; Staff Sgt. Humberto F. Timoteo and Sgt. Ryan E. Doltz, who were killed in action in Iraq June 4, and June 5, 2004 respectively and Staff Sgt. Jorge M. Oliveira who was killed in action in Afghanistan October 19, 2011.

The tree-lined roadway is adjacent to the New Jersey Global War on Terrorism Monument.

[View Images](#)

**DMAVA VETERANS SERVICES**



### Veterans Outreach

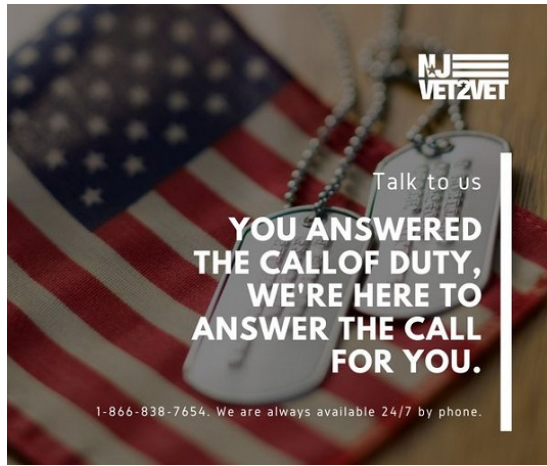
DMAVA Veteran Service Officer Joe Restivo, left, and Outreach Specialist Luisa Sanchez, right, discuss federal and state Veterans benefits with Passaic County Sheriff's Officer and Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran David Perez at the DMAVA Outreach Table at the Resource Fair at the Passaic County Probation Division Building in Paterson, NJ on December 8, 2022.

Veterans and family members can visit our website to get contact information for a local [Veterans Service Officer](#). Also refer to our [Veterans Outreach Schedule](#) to see if we will have an event soon in your area.



### World War II Memorial

Patty Richter, Director of Veterans Services at DMAVA, places a wreath at the [New Jersey World War II Memorial](#) in remembrance of the 2,403 military personnel and 68 civilians who lost their lives on December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor. The Memorial is located across from the Statehouse in Trenton.



**NJ Veterans' Benefits Hotline**  
**888-865-8387**  
**[vbb@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:vbb@dmava.nj.gov)**

[Veterans Outreach Schedule](#)

## NJ NATIONAL GUARD



### **3/112th Field Artillery**

U.S. Army Soldiers with the New Jersey National Guard's Charlie Battery, 3-112th Field Artillery, 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team fire a M777A2 155mm Howitzer during a section qualification on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, November 5, 2022. The 3-112th Field Artillery qualified over the weekend of November 3-6 on artillery table VI.

[View Images](#)



### Night Operations

A U.S. Air Force F-16C Fighting Falcon pilot, from the [177th Fighter Wing](#) of the New Jersey Air National Guard, taxis down a runway in preparation for a night flying mission December 1, 2022, at the Atlantic City International Airport, Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. The night flying was conducted to train pilots for safe and effective night operations.

[View Images](#)



### Thank You!

Members of the [177th Fighter Wing](#) of the New Jersey Air National Guard display holiday cards and artwork created by preschoolers from the Barnegat, NJ school system.

### Join Our Team

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



DMAVA DEPARTMENTS



### **DMAVA Town Hall**

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, along with DMAVA and New Jersey National Guard leadership briefed state and federal employees and New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen at a Town Hall at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, Dec. 2, 2022. During the ceremony, Hou recognized and coined nine DMAVA employees and 10 New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

[View Images](#)



### **Office of Records and Archives**

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 3-6(e), the Adjutant General shall "maintain the archives and be the custodian of the records and papers required, by laws and regulations, to be filed with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs."

DMAVA's Administrative Services Division's Office of Records and Archives is the office that receives military discharges from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and occasionally, the Merchant Marines. This applies to both the Active Duty and their Reserves, to include the National Guard.

The DMAVA employees of the Records and Archives Office are some of the busiest people within the Department. They are responsible for the archiving, storage and issuance of copies of military records of all the State's service members and Veterans.

The Office receives about 10 to 20 military records per week that need to be scanned, indexed and placed into a database. For Calendar Year 2022, the Office has received over 2,026 requests for military records for an average of 184 requests per month.

For more information, visit our website at [Request Military Records](#).

October 2022 Volume 7 - Issue 2



**NJARNG Sustainability Newsletter**  
In collaboration with Rowan University

**Clean Cut Quarterly**

Ensuring Energy Efficiency



*Image: Green Planet*

**Winter is Coming!**  
Have a plan for scheduled maintenance & implementing temperature setbacks pgs. 2 & 3

### Clean Cut Quarterly

The *Clean Cut Quarterly* is the New Jersey Army National Guard's Sustainability Newsletter in collaboration with [The Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering at Rowan University](#). The latest issue is now available.

[Current Issue and Archives](#)

**NEW JERSEY**  
**YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY**

DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.



**TUITION FREE**

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

**APPLY NOW!**



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

### STATE PARTNERS

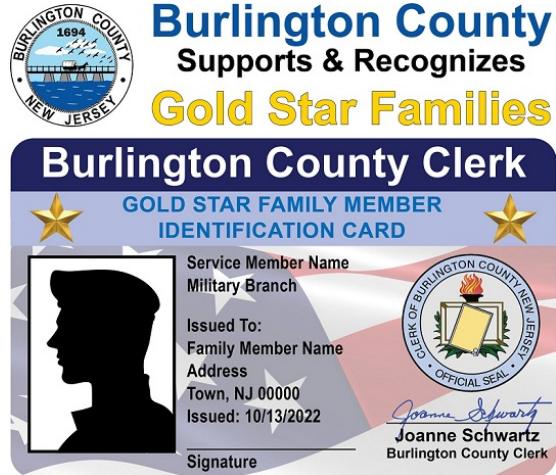


### Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony

December 7th marked the 81st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The attack marked the beginning of the United States involvement in World War II. This year Gloucester and Camden

County honored the survivors and paid tribute to fallen Veterans aboard the Battleship New Jersey.

[View Images](#)



### Burlington County 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](#)



### Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau

If anyone needs a little help this Christmas, the [Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau](#) has \$25 ShopRite gift cards. They will be giving out these gift cards Wednesday, December 21st, 10am-2pm, to Veterans and Veteran families in need. Please call the Toms River office at 732-929-2096, to put your name on the list.

## 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

Veteran 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 Usman Boulevard, Suite 2  
P.O. Box 2002  
May Landing, NJ 08330  
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 District

**PATRICK F. SNYDER**  
Acting Deputy Chief of District

**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](#)
- [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](#)



## FEDERAL PARTNERS




### 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](https://www.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](https://www.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**

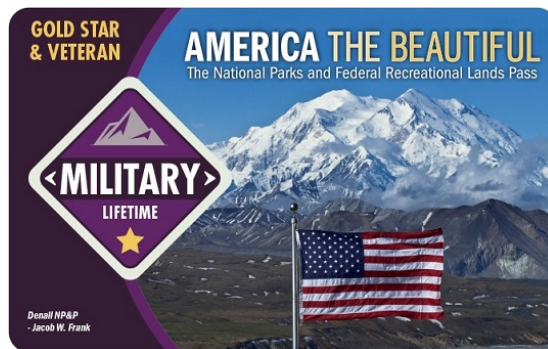
Learn more at [VA.gov/PACT](https://VA.gov/PACT)  
1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)

VA | U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



#### Veterans Benefits at 10% Disability

In this episode of *theSITREP*, the host discusses Veterans benefits available to those receiving 10% disability, a.k.a. Service-Connected Compensation. To watch the short video please go to [#theSITREP](https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/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](#).

### Featured Links

- [Download VA Benefit Letters](#)
- [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 SPOTLIGHT



### Thank You!

VFW Auxiliary District 19 held a Christmas Party at [Veterans Haven North](#) for the residents. Pictured are some of the terrific folks who made it happen.

In addition, Spruce Run Memorial VFW Post 5119 recently delivered two full vehicles of Wish List items for Veterans Haven North.

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### Eagle Scout Project

On December 7th, Nathaniel Attardi unveiled his Boy Scout Eagle project that honors our local military heroes of the past and present. The 2,756-pound granite monument was erected near the main entrance to Wall High School. Nathaniel's project is inspired by his late grandfather, Michael J. Attardi, who served in the Korean War.

Great job, Nathaniel! And congratulations from all of us at DMAVA.

*Photo courtesy of the Attardi family.*

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### Holiday Wreath Ceremony

The Bergen County Police Chiefs Foundation held their first Annual "Holiday Wreath Ceremony for Our Heroes" at the [New Jersey Veterans Home at Paramus](#) on December 11th. The Wreaths for

Our Heroes program is sponsored by the Bergen County Police Chiefs Foundation. The primary purpose of the [Bergen County Police Chiefs Foundation](#) is to identify and support the needs of active and retired military personnel in Bergen County and their families.

With police chiefs and officers coming out from all across Bergen County, the event provided a great opportunity to honor and respect our Veterans, especially during the holiday season.

## VETERAN SUPPORT ORGS



### VFW PACT Act Website

The VFW has launched its new PACT Act website! Check out [pactactinfo.org](http://pactactinfo.org) to quickly determine whether you may be eligible for PACT Act benefits and compensation.

A flyer for 'Veterans Outreach Services' by NJ Reentry Corporation. The top half features a dark background with a white American flag pattern and the text 'Veterans Outreach Services' in large white font. Below this, a photograph shows three bronze statues of World War II soldiers in uniform, standing in a park-like setting. To the left of the statues, a list of services is provided under the heading 'SERVICES INCLUDE:'. At the bottom, there is contact information for Sharon McGreevey and several logos for partner organizations including the Department of Corrections, Samsone, EICR, and the National Association of Veterans (NAV).

**NJ REENTRY CORPORATION**

# Veterans Outreach Services

**SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- Veterans Emergency and At-Risk Housing
- Addiction Detox and Treatment
- Mental Health/Medical Services
- Medicaid (Hospital /Prescription Drugs)
- Case Management of Comprehensive Veterans' Services
- SNAP (food stamps)/General Assistance
- ID/Driver's License/DD214 Applications
- Bus Tickets/Transportation
- Housing Referrals
- Employment Training and Placement
- Work with Allied Veterans to coordinate New Jersey and VA benefits
- NJRC refers Veterans to VA Medical Centers and Behavioral Health Clinics
- NJRC partners with National Veterans Legal Services Program
- NJRC helps Veterans with upgrades of less than honorable discharge status and other legal needs

For more information, please contact  
**Sharon McGreevey**  
**201.252.7641**

"OUR VETERANS HAVE SERVED THE NATION,  
LET US NOW SERVE OUR VETERANS" - NJRC

Logos: Department of Corrections, Samsone, EICR, NAV, and Education & Health Centers of America.

# WINTER DRIVE

New coats and winter accessories for children and teenagers of veterans

Donate to VFW 281 -  
6 Veterans Pl, Elmwood Park from  
3pm - 9pm

or

Fair Lawn Veterans  
Room 109, 8-01 Fair Lawn Ave,  
Fair Lawn from 9am - 3pm



Scan for our Amazon  
Wishlist!



## Christmas Toy Drive

Make Christmas Merry for the children of our Military & Veteran Families  
Donate any time by dropping off at 55 Bank Street, Sussex, NJ 07461 or call  
862-266-9726 or 973-219-0339 to schedule a drop off appointment.

Businesses, corporations, organizations: all are  
welcome to host a toy drive.

Toys are needed for children ages 1 to 17.  
Ideas listed below.

Board games welcome for the veterans at the  
VA Hospital.

Donations to Project Help's Toy Drive will be  
accepted November 11th through December  
17th.

Donations will be distributed on December 18th  
to the veterans at the Lyons VA  
973-875-2068

#### Gift Ideas: Boys and Girls, Infant - Teen

- Books
- Card Games
- Board Games
- Puzzles
- Sports Balls
- Craft Kits
- Legos
- Remote Control Cars
- Bike Helmets
- Skateboards
- Play-Dough
- Hats, Scarves, and Gloves
- Journal Sets
- Art Supplies
- Science Kits
- Action Figures
- Jewelry
- Bath Toys
- Barbie Dolls
- Slippers
- Headphones
- Musical toys
- Crayons
- Coloring Books
- Baby Dolls
- Toy Trucks
- Stuffed Animals
- Makeup and Nail Polish
- Backpacks
- Infant Teething Toys
- Pajamas (infant - adult)
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Outdoor Toys

**OPERATION K9 BEETHOVEN**  
**Holiday Giving 2022**  
**VETERANS HOLIDAY DONATION DRIVE**

All donations will be given to the Residents of Paramus, and Menlo Park Veterans Homes. Please help us spread cheer to our HEROS this Holiday Season!

Operation K9 Beethoven  
 501(c)(3) Nonprofit  
 k9beethoven@yahoo.com  
 operationk9beethoven.com  
 201-986-1111



HELPING VETERANS  
 OPERATION  
 K9  
 BEETHOVEN  
 ONE PAW AT A TIME

**Veteran's Wish List 2022**  
 MEN'S CLOTHING - M-5X \* WOMEN'S CLOTHING - S-3X  
*(New clothing and products only)*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shampoo</li> <li>• Conditioner</li> <li>• Bodywash (men and women)</li> <li>• Deodorant (men and women)</li> <li>• Shower shoes</li> <li>• Feminine Hygiene products</li> <li>• Hairbrushes</li> <li>• Electric Razors (3 blades)</li> <li>• Batteries (AAA, AA, and C)</li> <li>• Headphones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sweatshirts</li> <li>• Sweatpants</li> <li>• Socks/Diabetic Socks</li> <li>• Athletic Shorts</li> <li>• Undershirts/Tanktops</li> <li>• Underwear</li> <li>• Cardigans (lightweight)</li> <li>• Women's short sleeve blouses</li> <li>• Toothpaste/Toothbrushes</li> <li>• Floss</li> </ul>
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Click image for info and dropoff locations

## IN THE NEWS



### **World War II hero John J. Heffernan arrives back in the US for a final farewell**

*Mike Kelly | NorthJersey.com | Nov. 15, 2022*  
*Image by Anne-Marie Caruso | NorthJersey.com*

Lt. John J. Heffernan, a long-missing casualty of World War II, finally came back to America on Tuesday.

Nearly 80 years after perishing in a fiery crash in Burma when Japanese forces shot down his B-25G bomber, Heffernan's remains were brought back to New Jersey on an early-morning flight that landed at Newark Liberty International Airport.

Since his death on Feb. 22, 1944, Heffernan, 24, a U.S. Army Air Corps navigator who hoped to become a physician if he survived the war, had been considered missing and presumed dead by the Pentagon. His remains were not found and identified until last year.

[Read Full Story with Video and Photo Gallery](#)



### Wreaths of Remembrance at the Gloucester County Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Al Amrhein | NJ.com | Dec. 3, 2022

[View Image Gallery](#)

## 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 16, 2006  
Operation Iraqi Freedom

**PFC Joe R. Baines**

U.S. Army  
Newark, New Jersey

December 25, 2006  
Operation Iraqi Freedom

**PFC Eric R. Wilkus**

U.S. Army  
Hamilton, New Jersey

December 21, 2002  
Operation Enduring Freedom

**SGT Steven Checo**

U.S. Army  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

December 25, 2008  
Operation Iraqi Freedom

**MAJ John P. Pryor**

U.S. Army  
Moorestown, 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



**Ellis Beesley**  
World War II



**Joseph Dauber**  
World War II

Veterans History Project

HISTORY



Season Greetings from the NJ Air National Guard in 1948

**December 12, 1704**

On this date the first militia act was signed by the newly joined East and West Jersey Provinces.

**December 13, 1862**

Most of the NJ regiments in the Union Army of the Potomac fought in the disastrous battle of Fredericksburg. Some suffered heavy losses, including the 24th New Jersey regiment, with 136 casualties, & the 28th New Jersey regiment, with 193.

**December 17, 2003**

Colonel Maria Falca-Dodson, Deputy Adjutant General, presented 116 Veterans with the New Jersey Distinguished and Meritorious Service Medals at a ceremony held at the NJ National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville.

**December 21, 1937**

The Lincoln Tunnel between NY and NJ was dedicated. Soldiers of the NJ National Guard's 44th Division provided the guard of

**December 25, 1776**

On Christmas night, General George Washington led 2,400 men across the Delaware River in rain, sleet and snow at McKonkey's Ferry, north of Trenton. At 4:00 AM the following morning, the force began to march south in two columns towards Trenton.

**December 26, 1776**

At around 8:00 AM, General Washington's force attacked Colonel Johann Rall's 1,500 man Trenton garrison. The Americans inflicted almost 1,000 casualties, most of them prisoners, on Rall's Hessians, and mortally wounded the colonel himself in a victory that saved the Revolution. Despite legend, folklore and British blame-shifting, the Hessians were not drunk as a result of a Christmas celebration, but were in a precarious tactical position and caught by surprise by Washington's daring maneuvers and impeccable leadership.

**December 26, 1891**

honor.

**December 24, 1814**

The Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812, was signed in Belgium. New Jersey militiamen continued to stand guard along the state's coastline from Sandy Hook to Delaware Bay into the new year of 1815, however, since the United States Senate did not ratify the treaty until February.

The cornerstone of the Battle of Trenton monument was laid.

**December 27, 1782**

The last recorded land encounter of the American Revolution, a skirmish between Patriot militia and Loyalist raiders, took place at Cedar Bridge Tavern, in today's Stafford Township.



**RevolutionNJ's New Website**

The RevolutionNJ website is now active! It launched on November 30th and will continue to add information and photos over time. The website will be the location for all things related to RevolutionNJ around the state. Check out the [new website!](#)

**Volunteers Needed For RevolutionNJ!**



**What is RevolutionNJ?**

RevolutionNJ is a partnership between the New Jersey Historical Commission and the non-profit organization Crossroads of the American Revolution to plan the commemoration of the anniversary of the founding of the United States in New Jersey

**We need help with:**

- Historical Interpretation
- Archiving
- Record Keeping
- Guest Relations
- Gardening
- Education
- Research

JOIN US!  
BE A PART OF A ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION COMMEMORATION FOR THE 250TH FOUNDING OF AMERICA

908-783-7836

TO REGISTER: SCAN BELOW

MORE INFORMATION  
lesley.schierenbeck@sos.nj.gov

**DID YOU KNOW?**



## New Jersey State Archives

The [New Jersey State Archives](#) has over 11,000 images in their online Military and Wartime collection, including over 1,000 pictures collected by the New Jersey National Guard.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



### Gail Miller

#### Administrative Services Division

There have been three main themes in my life (in addition to cats): two of them are art and languages. The art spirit has been with me all along, only lately waiting patiently for attention. Language abilities in French and Spanish allowed me to experience the cultures and inspiration of France and Spain and to live and work for 8½ years in Bermuda. I was fortunate to study at the Massachusetts College of Art and later at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, where I received awards in drawing and graphics.

Another constant in my life since age 9 has been insulin-dependent diabetes, which I feared for many years would shorten my life or at least my life as an artist. I am happy to say as an encouragement to others dealing with this condition that neither has happened after and I am dealing only with the perils of time.

I am very pleased, honored and humble to be able to present here some of my earlier art work for the very wonderful and inspiring members of the DMAVA team and community who will see this presentation. Thank you for all you do, for which I am very grateful.



**Zandra's Dogs**

Pastel



**Fallera Portrait**  
Pastel



**Moonwatch**  
Woodblock Print



**Portrait of Pepe**  
Charcoal



**Water Lilies**  
Pencil

## RETIREE SPOTLIGHT



### **Kryn Westhoven**

U.S. Army Specialist Kryn Westhoven, with the 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, New Jersey National Guard, documents the Officer Candidate School class of 1977 during a weapons qualification course at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, New Jersey.

## DMAVA QUICK LINKS



### Veterans Service Offices



Request Military Records



Family Programs Office



Veterans Memorial Homes



NJ State Medals



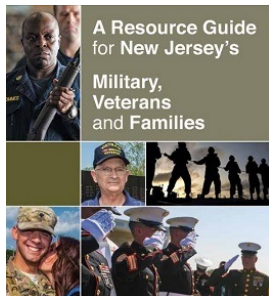
Military Funeral Honors

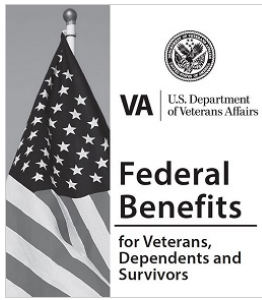
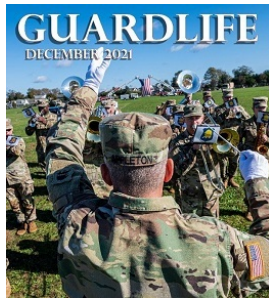


Doyle Veterans Cemetery

[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.

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