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Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
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DMAVA Highlights » 04 April 2007

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Volume 6, Number 14

News for Your Views

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Contacting us is easy!

Public Affairs Office
 Phone: (609) 530-7088
 Fax: (609) 530-6963

Veterans' Organizations Contact Information

State Veterans Service Council
 Mr. Richard Clark
RJClark21@msn.com

NJ Advisory Committee for Women Veterans
 Mrs. Anna Hoffman
hoffmanannem@aol.com

BG Willam C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council
 Mr. William Rakestraw
warjrnj@msn.com

Veterans Hotlines

Benefits & Entitlements
 1-888-8NJ-VETS
 (1-888-865-8387)

Mental Health
 1-866-VETS-NJ4
 (1-866-838-7654)

DMAVA Highlights Archive

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NJ World War II Memorial

For information or to make a donation, call 609-530-7049

[WWII Memorial on the web](#)

New Jersey Freedom Loans

ChalleNGe graduate is casualty of war in Iraq

On Sunday, April 1, a graduate of New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy was a casualty of the war in Iraq. Marine Pfc. Miguel A. Marcial III, 19, of Secaucus, died in Al Anbar province, Iraq.

Pfc Marcial graduated from ChalleNGe in August 2005, one of 66 cadets who were in the 22nd class of the New Jersey program. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in February 2006.

He is survived by his mother Diana Cabrera of Chatham and father, Miguel Marcial Jr, of Brooklyn. Services for Marcial are tentatively scheduled for next week.

Job Fair at Fort Monmouth, April 17

There will be a job fair on April 17 at Gibbs Hall, Fort Monmouth, N.J., sponsored by Army Community Service – Employment Readiness Program. More than 70 companies, including Merrill Lynch, PNC Bank, Home Depot, FBI, Frito-Lay and New Jersey State Police are registered for the fair. The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The job fair is open to the public. Picture ID may be required and no large bags, back packs or briefcases will be permitted. Lunch will be available for purchase at Gibbs Hall. There will be no copy facilities available, so you should bring adequate copies of your resume for the day.

Gibbs Hall is located on Route 537 before you reach main post of Fort Monmouth. For more information, go to www.fortmonmouthmwr.com/acs/ or e-mail jill.mcdonald@mail1.monmouth.army.mil.

Military Appreciation Weekend at Lime Rock Park

Lime Rock Park, the road racing center of the east, located in northwest Connecticut (497 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville) is hosting a military appreciation weekend on Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-28.

Show a valid military I.D. at the gate and get in free on any of the four days during the event.

Memorial Day Weekend kicks off their 50th anniversary and the start of the 2007 season of racing. Racing will be held on Friday, Saturday and Monday, with Sunday being a quiet day in the Park as they host the 2nd annual Hemmings Motor News Car Show.

Lime Rock Park does not have grandstands, so bring the lawn chairs, coolers and blankets and sunblock for a weekend at the track.

For more information visit www.limerock.com or call 1-800-RACE-LRP.

Powerlifting tournament at Fort Hamilton on April 14

The 3rd Annual Powerlifting Tournament will take place at the Army Sports and Fitness Center, 402 MacArthur Road, Fort Hamilton N.Y., on April 14. Weigh in takes place at

What is a Freedom Loan?

- * Up to \$10,000
- * Annual APR 6%
- * Term: 5 years (no pre-payment penalty)
- * Unsecured Loan (no collateral required)

Who is eligible to apply?

NJ residents who are:

- * Members of the National Guard or Reserve
- * Mobilized for one year or longer to fight in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) - excluding routine training.

Or

- * Served 90 or more consecutive days in the GWOT on federal or state active duty (excluding routing training) and have received orders extending cumulative active duty a year or longer.

How do I apply?

- * Contact participating banks. Call or visit your local branch office to obtain an application.
- * Guardmembers, Reservists, or family members with Power of Attorney must submit copies of current mobilization orders with the bank's Freedom Loan application.

Current participants:

Commerce Bank
1-888-751-9000

Credit Union of NJ
609-538-4061, ext. 401

First Morris Bank & Trust
1-888-530-2265

Manasquan Savings Bank
732-223-4450

North Jersey Federal Credit Union
1-888-78NJFCU

Peapack-Gladstone Bank (908)
719-BANK

Pennsville National Bank
856-678-6006

PNC
1-866-PNC-4USA

Sovereign Bank
1-877-391-6365

Sun National Bank
1-800-691-7701

Quote for the Week

Life is like an onion: you

9:30 a.m. and classification is at 10 a.m. Cost is \$20. There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd place individual trophies. Equipment needed is belt/wraps and suit with optional T-shirt. Styles being judged in the competition are bench and dead lift. For more information, contact the Sports and Fitness Center at 718-630-4793/4727/4830.

For Your Calendar

Upcoming ESGR Boss Lift

The New Jersey Committee for Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) will be conducting a Boss Lift to Jacksonville, Fla. on April 11-13.

The purpose of the Boss Lift is to provide employers with a better understanding of what their employees do when they are away from their civilian occupation for duty with their military units. Nominations for relatives, minors or assistance cannot be accepted. Commanders and Primary Staff officers should encourage Guard members to nominate employers for participation in this trip.

Nomination forms can be found at the ESGR website at www.njesgr.org

The Forms can then be submitted to:
DMAVA, NJESGR
ATTN: Hank Pierre
101 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08640.

Additional information can be obtained from Hank Pierre at 609-530-6879.

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Pancake Breakfast to support the Troops and families

The New Jersey League of Municipalities, the National Guard State Family Readiness Council, American Legion Post 414 and the Lawrence Lions are holding a Support the Troops and Families Pancake Breakfast

It will be held on Sunday, April 15, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lawrenceville Army National Guard Armory on 151 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, N.J. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

For more information or tickets, contact Jack Stoffa at 609-530-6855 or Joe Lech at 609-530-7015 or John Hastings 609-530-7124. They also need volunteers to serve and bus tables after the patrons eat. Contact Jack or Joe for more details.

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Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Day, April 26

fourth Thursday in April....April 26. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this event please contact Dorinda Sapp, DMAVA's AAO, at 609-530-6828, by Wed., March 28. Further information regarding this event will be available in the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing you and your child at this year's event!

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Older Americans Month Expo

For those of us who have reached the age old enough to be invited to join the exclusive organization with many benefits, AARP, there is also a month for us: May, which is Older Americans Month. The Department of Personnel and Working Well New Jersey will participate in the 50 Begins Life Expo on May 5-6 at the Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset. There will be more than 200 exhibits, seminar programs, book signings, entertainment, prize drawings and free health screenings. There will also be a 50+ job fair and volunteer area. Put this on your calendar.

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McGuire Air Show, May 12-13, features Thunderbirds, Golden Knights

McGuire Air Force Base will be holding air show on May 12-13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The two-day air show will feature the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, Army Golden Knights and static displays of an array of modern and vintage military aircraft. No tickets are required as the show has free admission and free parking. The Web Site for the event is: <http://www.305services.com/main/airshow07>.

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peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep.

- Carl Sandburg

Lord, grant that I may always desire more than I can accomplish.

- Michelangelo

Responsibilities gravitate to the person who can shoulder them.

- Elbert Hubbard

Motorcycle riders invited on ride to three Veterans Homes

Motor cycle enthusiasts mark your calendars! The employees, Soldiers, and Airmen of DMAVA are planning a bike ride. The tentative date for this event is June 16, 2007. Participating motorcyclists plan to visit the three veterans' homes and interact with the residents during the layovers. Lt. Col. Walter R. Nall is coordinating this event for DMAVA. If interested, you may contact him at walter.nall@njdmava.state.nj.us or call 609-530-6841. If you have any questions or need any additional information feel free to contact him directly.

Retirement Dinners

Retirement Dinner In honor of Command Chief Master Sgt. Herbert E. Mimler Jr.

Saturday, April 21

Renault Winery Tuscany House, 72 N. Bremen Avenue, Egg Harbor City

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Cost \$35 RSVP NLT April 16

Capt. Mays 609-645-6206 or Master Sgt. Orme 609-645-6012

Cash or Checks Payable: 177FW Chief's Council

Mess Dress or Semi-formal

Honorable Mention

Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline established by Army

From the American Forces Press Service

One of the latest outcomes from the upheaval at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center has been the establishment of the "Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline."

This toll-free call center was opened on March 19 to help wounded Soldiers and their family members to get information or assistance with medical or other issues.

The Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline can be reached from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1-800-984-8523. As additional personnel are trained to receive calls and refer them to the proper organization or agency for resolution, the hotline hours of operation will expand to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, officials said.

Deployed Service Members get extension on filing taxes

The Family Readiness Groups have received many questions regarding filing of 2006 Federal Income taxes for deployed soldiers. If a soldier is deployed and serving in a combat zone he or she is automatically granted an extension of filing for 180 days. The 180 days starts on the day he departs for the combat zone, so in most cases the soldiers we have deployed from D/250th BSB and Trp C/5-117th will not be required to file their tax forms until late 2007 or possibly early 2008.

Assemblymen holding gift card drive for Family Readiness Program

Assemblymen Jack Conners and Herb Conaway MD are currently holding Operation "We Care", a gift card drive. Gift cards in denominations up to \$25 are being collected for distribution to the families of our deployed Soldiers. The collected cards will be given to the New Jersey Family Readiness Program for distribution to the families. Gift cards can be mailed or dropped off at the address below. Office hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For questions or more information, call 856-461-3997.

Assemblymen Conaway and Conners
Delran Professional Center
8008 Rt. 130 N, suite 125
Delran NJ 08075

ChalleNGe looking for a few good mentors

ChalleNGe needs a few good men & women, ages 21 and up.

If you are willing to:

1. Commit to 14 months of contact with a cadet who will be selected by you
2. Contact your cadet monthly with sound advice and guidance
3. Work with your cadet on an employment/career placement plan
4. Make yourself available to discuss and give input to resolving real life issues with your cadet - then, call ChalleNGe at 609-562-0577 and request an application.

As a ChalleNGe mentor, you will spend 14 months giving sound advice to a cadet and helping him or her find placement resources within their respective communities. You can visit your cadet at ChalleNGe, which is located on Fort Dix, as well as take them for off-site visits.

A 4-hour mandatory training is provided at Fort Dix upon commitment to your cadet.

ChalleNGe RPM (recruitment, placement & mentoring) staff are readily available to assist you and your cadet in this endeavor. If you have any questions, contact RPM at 609-562-0580.

Being a ChalleNGe mentor is a very rewarding experience and provides you with an opportunity to assist in changing a youth's life forever.

NJ Bar Association offers free legal assistance program

The New Jersey Bar Association has created the Military Legal Assistance Program. This pro bono program provides assistance to New Jersey residents who have served overseas as active duty members of reserve components of the armed forces after Sept. 11, 2001.

Individuals who have been adversely affected upon their return from deployment and the program currently offers assistance to the following areas: family law, employment law and debtor-creditor law.

The Military Legal Assistance program will refer members of the military who contact the state bar association to volunteers qualified to assist them with their specific legal issues. Volunteers who accept a case through the program must agree to handle such case from inception to resolution without compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

If interested in the program, contact D. Todd Sidor, Esq., by e-mail: tsidor@njsba.com or phone: 732-937-7544.

Microsoft software available for Army Guardsmen

The Microsoft Home Use Program (HUP) is eligible to all Army personnel including, active duty, reserve, Guard, and civilians currently employed by the Army. The program allows individuals to get a licensed copy of Microsoft Office desktop applications to install and use on a home computer.

The Army awarded a six - year Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) for Microsoft products on May 30, 2003. The MS ELA established by the Army is a "Volume License" agreement with Software Assurance, and as a "Volume License" owner, the Army is entitled to exercise the Home Use Program.

Army Guard members taking advantage of this offering are responsible for paying the administrative costs for obtaining the software and may use the software as desired. Guard members can only obtain one version of the software at any given time.

Go to this website for more details: <https://ascp.monmouth.army.mil/scp/software/hup.jsp>

"Troops to Teachers" program helps service members become teachers

Troops to Teachers (www.ProudtoServeAgain.com) is administered by the Department of Defense and Department of Education and managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES). The program helps eligible military personnel begin second careers as public school teachers by providing referral assistance, placement services, and - for those electing to teach at high-need schools - financial stipends and bonuses.

Members of the National Guard and Reserves with 10 or more years of service are eligible for the program, provided they commit for an additional three years.

NJARNG Honor Guard Program

We Need You!

Volunteer Today!

One Day of Pay (Minimum \$50)

One Retirement Point (TDG's only)
Selfless Service and Personal Satisfaction.
Call 609-530-7090 Today To See If You Qualify.

Flag at half-staff

Have you ever looked at the flag and seen it flying at half staff and wondered who and why? It's easy to find out the reason New Jersey is flying the flags at half staff. Every day, on the state's Web site www.nj.gov, you will find a New Jersey flag on the right hand side of the page, slightly below the governor's photo. Here it tells you if the flag should be flying at full or half staff. You can find more information by clicking on the "Learn more" button.

Hire A Hero – new program to help find jobs

HQ Group, who currently runs the Helmets to Hardhats program, is expanding! Hire A Hero is our newest initiative that helps transitioning military personnel, Guard members and Reservists find jobs with all industries.

Hire A Hero is a non-profit initiative that is powered by the Armed Forces Support Foundation. To find out more about these programs, visit the following Web sites: www.hireahero.com/ or <http://armedforcessupportfoundation.org/>

Discounts offered for State employees

Are you a state employee looking to save a few \$\$\$?

Visit www.state.nj.us/personnel/discounts/index.htm and you can find a number of businesses who offer discounts to New Jersey state employees. From amusement parks to fitness to computer to phones and lots of other discounts between, you will find many ways to save money. For more information, please contact Patty Smith at patty.smith@njdmava.state.nj.us or call 609-530-6847.

Jackson Outlet offers coupon

Jackson Premium Outlets has an offer to all members of the military, past or present. Simply by stopping by the Information Center in the Food Court, you can get a free Jackson premium Outlets VIP Coupon Book. Some form of identification indicating military service is necessary and the booklet that normally costs \$5 will be given to you for free. There are hundreds of dollars of additional savings in coupons in the book.

WWE tickets available to members of military

As a corporate partner with the Defense Department's America Supports You program, World Wrestling Entertainment supports the military and its many servicemembers and their families. WWE is expressing their generosity by giving members of the military free admittance into WEE events worldwide.

Members of the military can receive a free ticket to WWE events, based on availability and excluding WrestleMania events, when they provide valid identification to the box office on performance day.

WWE has shown their support of the military by visiting casualties in military hospitals overseas and at Walter Reed and Bethesda Naval Medical Center. Stars from WWE have gone to Iraq for the past three years to tape a holiday special that was broadcast in America and to troops around the globe. The organization has also donated T-shirts, videos, CDs and other promotional items to members of the armed forces serving on the front lines of the Global War on Terrorism.

For the Families

Next Marriage Enrichment Seminar planned for September

By Marie Durling, Family Programs Specialist

While the Marriage Enrichment Seminar for May is booked up, the Family Programs office is taking registration forms for couples who would like to get on the waiting list for the next weekend.

The next seminar will be in September, date and location to be announced. These Marriage Enrichment Seminars are not only informative and enriching for couples who attend, they are FREE to the soldier and his/her spouse. At this time, the Seminars are funded for Army National Guard Soldiers only.

Soldiers who signed up for the May Seminar will be receiving letters of instruction and information for the weekend by the second week in April.

'Operation Purple' summer camp registration opens up

From the desk of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Hughes, Family Assistance Specialist Registration began March 15 for National Military Family Association's popular Operation Purple Summer Camps for kids. This free camp program for military children with deployed parents will host more than 3,500 children and teens in 26 different states. Each camp is "purple" and open to children of any member of the uniformed services including National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and United States Public Health Service plus the National Guard and Reserve. Information on specific locations and the registration process is available. For further information on the camps please visit <http://www.operationpurple.org/>.

TRICARE Dental Program offers drawing for children

As part of April's "Month of the Military Child," United Concordia is sponsoring a Web-based, random-selection drawing. Prizes will be awarded to military children of varying ages.

Children of active duty or National Guard and Reserve sponsors who are enrolled in the Tri-Care Dental Program are eligible for this drawing. To enter, simply complete the form found on the TDP Web site – www.TRICAREdentalprogram.com between March 28 and April 26 and submit it online.

One first, second and third place prize will be awarded in each of the six TRICARE regions for the four age categories.

Only one entry per child is permitted; winners will be announced on the TDP Web site on May 10, 2007.

Youth Camp Forms Available

The thirteenth Annual New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp will be held July 29 to Aug. 4 at the New Jersey National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt.

Applications are available at: www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html

Children, ages 9-13 are invited to apply. The camp fee is still \$100. Campers must be children, grandchildren or legal dependents of an active or retired member of the New Jersey National Guard. A variety of volunteer positions are available.

For more information, call the Family Programs Office at (609) 562-0668.

Deployed Military Spouses Assistance Program Award

The Deployed Military Spouses Assistance Program provides direct assistance and referrals to existing programs for spouses of deployed military personnel (active duty, reserve and National Guard) who face unusual financial and emotional stress as a result of the deployments.

Applicants should contact Fawn Mutschler at 609-543-6200 ext. 325 or wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org to obtain an application. In addition to the completed application form, applicants will also need to submit the following documentation: LES/paystub for applicant and spouse; statement of Financial Need (i.e. reason for applying and how the grant will help); bill or pricing of expenditure as well as any other supporting information the applicant feels may be helpful. Additional information can be found at: www.state.nj.us/dca/dow/depmilspouseasst.shtml

ACS at Fort Dix offers programs to Soldiers and family members

The Army Community Service (ACS) office at Fort Dix has several programs to support the Soldier and his/her family during mobilization and deployment. Their number is (609) 562-2767 or (800) 877-2380 and they are located in Building 5201 at Maryland Ave and 8th Street. Some of the programs available are:

Army Emergency Relief: Provides emergency financial assistance to active duty military personnel, retirees, National Guard and Reserve Component on active duty for over 30 consecutive days and their family members (with ID card and power of attorney).

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP): Entitles member to additional benefits through TRICARE's Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) Program. Provides information, referrals, crisis intervention, community support and assistance to meet individual needs.

Family Advocacy Program: Provides for the identification, reporting, prevention, and treatment of child abuse and domestic violence.

Employment Readiness Program: Offers information and referral for employment, education (resume writing and interviewing), volunteer and training opportunities.

Family Readiness Council offers Tier I and II grants

The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has expanded its Family Grants Program to include an additional grant. There are now two levels of Family Grants; TIER I is the \$2,500 grant that has been in place for the past couple of years. The TIER II opens family grants to New Jersey Army and Air National Guard non-deployed service members who were on State Active Duty or State Missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions) for more than 20 consecutive days. Service members meeting these criteria are eligible to apply for a financial hardship grant up to \$1,500. Applications are available at all New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Family Assistance Centers.

Sports and Entertainment

N.J. Nets offer military discount on upcoming home games

The New Jersey Nets are offering a Military Appreciation Discount of 35-45 percent savings on seven upcoming games at the Continental Airlines Arena, East Rutherford, N.J.

Game dates are:

Nets vs. Indiana, March 28, 7:30 p.m.

Nets vs. Philadelphia, March 31, 7:30 p.m.

Nets vs. Atlanta, April 4, 7:30 p.m.

Nets vs. Washington, April 7, 7:30 p.m.

Nets vs. Chicago, April 18, 7:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Abner Neufeld at 201-635-3163 or e-mail aneufled@njnets.com.

Enlisted Association invites all to golf tournament April 23

Join the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey at its Second Annual Golf Tournament to be held on Monday, April 23 at the Gamblers Ridge Golf Club in

Cream Ridge, N.J. All proceeds will go to the scholarship program that benefits the children, spouses and eligible members of the Enlisted Association. A flyer for registration as well as cart and hole sponsorship is located on the Association website: www.eang-nj.org.

NJNG is looking for runners

The New Jersey National Guard is looking for a few good runners to represent the state in the 2007 National Guard Marathon in Lincoln, Neb., on May 6.

Each year hundreds of National Guardsmen from around the nation compete in the Marathon. Qualifying times to attend the race (fully funded TDY) are: four hours for men under 40; 4:15 for men 40 and over; and 4:30 for women. The qualifying time must have been accomplished within the last 18 months. The top runners in Lincoln are selected for the National Guard Running Team and compete in races across the nation. Interested Guardsmen should contact Maj. Arnstein at 609-562-3239.

Red Shield sponsoring Motorcycle Run, pig roast

Ride for the Red Shield – The Salvation Army is sponsoring a Motorcycle Run and Pig Roast at Camp Tecumseh, Pittstown, Saturday May 12. The proceeds will benefit New Jersey Division's Emergency Disaster Services Program and Services for Military Veterans and their families.

Cost to ride is \$25 per bike, \$10 for passengers and walk-ins. A free T-shirt will be given to the first 200 riders registered. Sign in at Camp Tecumseh, 445 Mechlin Corner Road, Pittstown between 9-11 a.m., with donuts and coffee at the start. Finish will be at the same place, but a pig roast and barbecue will be at the finish point; no alcoholic beverages will be served or allowed.

Included in the day's activities will be a Scrabble Scramble Ride, cash prize for the winner, tattoo judging, bike show, trophies and a complimentary photo of each rider and their bike.

If you are interested in riding, contact Ron Yuhas of the Salvation Army at 908-85109300, ext. 239 or e-mail at ron.yuhas@use.salvationarmy.org.

Nutter Run beneficiary is Guard daughter, granddaughter

Please join the 2007 Nutter Run at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt on May 19. The run starts at 10 a.m. This year's beneficiary is Caitlyn McGuire. Caitlyn is the daughter of New Jersey Army National Guardsman, Spc. Robert McGuire and the granddaughter of another New Jersey National Guardsman; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mickey McGuire.

The run will also feature live music, food, giveaways, raffles, prizes, games for children and much more. To see the flyer for the event, visit www.nutterrun.com.

If you can't participate in the run/walk, please help us help Caitlyn by spreading the word and raising awareness about this event. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Golf outing to benefit Vets Haven

The International Association of Workforce Professionals is conducting its first charity golf outing to support Veterans Haven on May 19 at Falcon Creek golf Club, McGuire Air Force Base. A shot gun start will begin at noon. Cost of \$120 per person includes: lunch, greens fee, golf cart, one-hour open bar, dinner and awards. Those non-golfers who would like to only attend the dinner can do so for the price of \$50. There will be door prizes, 50-50, raffles and prizes for a putting and chipping contest. The association is looking for hole sponsors and boosters.

Play is limited to 120 players and is first come-first served. You can get the brochure/registration form at www.njcharitygolf.com or call 973-748-0123 and leave your name, phone number and complete address.

Savino Memorial Golf tourney scheduled for Sept. 17

The 11th Annual Lt. Col. Dave Savino Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Sept. 17 at the Fountain Green Golf Course, Ft. Dix. Shotgun start is at 8 a.m., with a two-person scramble (best ball). Cost to play is \$85 per person, with checks made payable to "Lt. Col. Dave Savino Memorial Fund." Call Senior Master Sgt. Mike Balas at 609-330-4069 or Connie Cisek at 609-562-0901 for more information. Proceeds from the tournament go to help fellow Guardsmen in need.

Here's To The Heroes

Here's to the Heroes provides a single day's free admission to any one SeaWorld or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place, Adventure Island or Water Country USA for the service member and as many as three direct dependents.

Any active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service member or Guard member is entitled to free admission under the program. He or she need only register, either online at www.herosalute.com or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a Department of Defense photo ID.

Scholarship, Education News

Free SAT/ACT Offer Extended

A group of NFL, NFL Europe, AFL, and CFL football players have announced they are extending their sponsorship of the SAT/ACT training to all military families. The sponsorship allows any military person (active, Guard, reserve, or retired) to request as many programs as they need for the students in their lives. There is a secure website to confirm a person's military status before directing the user to the software order site.

Programs are shipped to domestic U.S. addresses and APO addresses. The sponsorship covers the purchase price of \$199 and the family pays only the shipping and handling of \$9.95.

American Legion offers scholarships, booklet on their Web site

The American Legion has scholarship information on their Web site – www.legion.org – including the 152-page booklet, *Need a Lift*, which is a complete financial aid reference guide for veterans, veterans' dependents and members of the American Legion family. When you get on the site, click on "Scholarship Information" in the "Useful Links" block.

AMVETS, U of Phoenix team up for military members, family's education

From the AMVETS Web site - www.amvets.org

AMVETS and the University of Phoenix are proud to announce a joint venture to help veterans, active duty service members, reservists, Guardsmen and family members obtain a high-quality online education.

Together, the organizations will award 25 scholarships nationwide this year. Each scholarship will consist of a \$4,000 credit with the university, which is the nation's premier educational institution for adult learning.

All veterans, service members and family members are eligible to apply. Full details and application procedures will be available on this Web site soon.

AMVETS Scholarship program open to entering college freshmen

AMVETS National Scholarship Program offers a four-year scholarship to entering college freshmen to be used for full-time study at either an undergraduate college or university or an accredited technical/trade school leading to a certification or degree. For each year, up to a maximum of four years, AMVETS will award \$1,000 to students maintaining a 2.0 grade point average or equivalent and showing evidence of enrollment. This program is for children and grandchildren of veterans. A total of six

scholarships will be awarded nationally, one per each of the six National Districts of AMVETS. Applicants must meet all of the eligibility requirements and submit the

completed application on or before April 15. For questions about the application process, please contact AMVETS toll free at 1-877-726-8387.

VFW Scholarships available to veterans, family members

Go to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Web site – www-vfw.org – to find information on their three scholarship programs. Two, Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy, have a deadline of Nov. 1, 2007. The third program is scholarships for VFW members and its deadline is December 31. Click on "Programs," then "VFW Scholarship Programs" to find the information.

Bill Extends Education Eligibility

A bill which extends eligibility for higher education tuition assistance to certain former members of New Jersey National Guard and increases the number of tuition-free credits available to National Guard members and their dependents was signed into law by Governor Jon. S. Corzine on Jan. 24.

The legislation would allow National Guard members who are called into active duty to utilize state tuition assistance credits after their enlistment expires.

Under the old law, active members of the New Jersey National Guard may receive up to 15 credits per semester tuition free from public institutions of higher education in the State. Similarly, the child or surviving spouse of a National Guard member killed in the performance of his duties may also receive this benefit.

This bill, A-2542, amended the law to extend eligibility for this higher education tuition benefit to members of the New Jersey National Guard whose use of the free tuition benefit is interrupted by a deployment to active duty. The change would permit these soldiers to receive their earned educational benefits should their enlistment expire, or should they be medically discharged, prior to completing their studies.

The new law will also increase the number of credits eligible for funding under this program from 15 to 16 per semester.

NJ Vietnam Memorial Foundation offers scholarships

Two \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded by the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation. Information about the scholarships, including application form, can be found at www.njvvmf.org. Applications must be received at the foundation office by 5 p.m. April 20. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. Recipients will be notified prior to the award ceremony on May 28.

Colleges

Grantham University scholarships: Grantham University offers a scholarship program to severely injured service members and their spouses and adult children. Go to www.grantham.edu for more information. They also have scholarship programs for military veterans, service members, and family members.

Widener University CARES Scholarship: Widener University, Chester, Pa., has a full scholarship program for children of Global War on Terrorism service members who were killed in action. Contact the Office of Admissions at 610-499-4126 for more information.

Scholarship information on BBB Military Line

There are many scholarships available to military family members. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) Military Line suggests that you not pay someone to find scholarships for you. Why? Because these researchers will use the same sources on the internet that you will use, so why pay them to do so? For suggestions on where to find scholarships for which you might be eligible, visit: www.enebuilder.net/cbbbmilitary/e_article-000694547.cfm?x=b8r7v3.

For information to help military families avoid financial pitfalls, visit: <http://military.bbb.org>

Position Vacancies

Position vacancy for officer in Albania

The European Command has changed the area of consideration for the Bilateral Affairs Officer position in Albania. The position now is open to both N.J. Army and Air National Guard Majors and Captains. Additionally, children are authorized on the accompanied two year tour. The closing date for this job announcement is extended until April 13. Air Guard officers who are interested in applying should follow the instructions from Army Bulletin #4 and adapt it by using Air Force documentation. Please contact Maj. Judie Marranco for further information on the job opening or clarifying information on allowing children on this tour of duty. Maj. Marranco's work number is 609-530-7079, cell 609-209-9371 and e-mail is judie.marranco@us.army.mil. (See Position Vacancy section below for more information.)

There is a position open for a Bilateral Affairs Officer in Tirana, Albania in association with the State Partnership Program with an estimated start date of June 1, 2007. The grade required for the position is captain or mid-grade major; the branch is immaterial.

Along with assignment are many incentives including diplomatic status and embassy privileges, individual housing provided in country, use of embassy VIP badges/privileges available, member of ambassador's Country Team and high level and very visible assignment working with the U.S. ambassador, NATO commander, and other organizations in country.

Association News

Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey

Give our state a larger voice by becoming a member of the Enlisted Association. The increased numbers will help us speak on all legislative issues that will benefit you and your families. The association works hard for you at the Federal & State level on all important issues. Visit the web site EANG-NJ.org, click on Become a Member for the application and find out more about what the association does.

NGANJ has busy calendar for members in 2007

The National Guard Association of New Jersey will be conducting the following events. All members (active and retirees) are encouraged to participate:

?? NGANJ Social - the Association's Social will be conducted on Friday, April 13, 2007 at the Holiday Inn, East Windsor (Hightstown), N.J. This event will begin at 6 p.m. and will conclude at approximately 11 p.m. Cost per person is \$60. This includes a one hour open bar, full course dinner and DJ. The attire will be the "dress" uniform for military and formal (suit) for civilians.

?? NGANJ 2007 Yearbook - Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jack Petrosilli and his committee sent a mailing to all members requesting support for the Yearbook. Please return your ads and/or booster request no later than April 15. If you need a form, please contact Petrosilli.

?? Annual Business Meeting - the annual Business Meeting will be conducted on May 19, 2007 at the Timmermann Conference Center, Fort Dix. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. (sign-in begins at 7:30 a.m.) and will conclude at noon. The attire for this meeting is "business casual". This will be an opportunity for all members to see the four classrooms that were dedicated to New Jersey's fallen Soldiers.

?? NGANJ President's Golf Tournament - this tournament will be held at Falcon Creek Golf Course at McGuire AFB, on June 4. This will be a "shotgun" start beginning at 11 a.m. The course limit is 144 players, so early reservations are suggested. A hot buffet dinner will follow at approximately 5 p.m. at the McGuire NCO Club, located across the street from the course. This tournament benefits the "Scholarship Fund". Last year, with your help, we were able to award nine \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students. This year, we hope to meet or exceed that goal.

?? National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) 129th Conference - this conference will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico from August 15 - 18, 2007. The New Jersey delegation will be staying at the Caribe Hilton (15 minutes from airport). Our hotel is located on the beach, has a great pool for the family and is located close to the convention center (10 minutes). We have reserved 30 rooms on a first come, first gets basis. Additional information and registration forms will be coming out shortly. If you are interested, please contact Capt. Jose Maldonado.

?? NGANJ Website - The above information is posted on the NGANJ website. If you need

copies of the forms, specific contacts or additional information, please go to the website at: www.nganj.org.

Veterans Information

DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues.

The DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues with kiosk displays at selected malls throughout New Jersey. The schedule is as follows:

May 16, 17*, 18	Ocean County Mall
July 11,12, 13	Bridgewater Commons Mall
August 8, 9, 10	Newport Centre Mall
September 12, 13*, 14	Livingston Mall

*Medal ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. on these dates.

The kiosk will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the identified dates.

During the month of June the kiosk will travel to the New Jersey Elks Convention (May 31-June 1), the American Legion Convention (June 6-9) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention (June 13-16).

N.J. Vietnam Veterans Memorial

N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Vietnam Era Educational Center's upcoming events

April 14 / 1 p.m. / "Answering the Call for Those Who Have Answered the Call of Duty – N.J. Veteran's Hotline," a discussion about this service to veterans by N.J. Vietnam Veteran, Chuck Arnold, UMDNJ - University Behavioral HealthCare Counselor.

May 7 / 11 a.m. / New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day ceremony in the courtyard of the N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

May 28 / 11 a.m. / Memorial Day ceremony in the courtyard of the N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

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On Saturdays, between February 17 and April 14, free guided tours of the N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial will be available at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Beginning May 5, free guided tours of the Memorial will be offered on the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

N.J. Vietnam Vets Memorial to present awards

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will award N.J. Vietnam Service Medals and Distinguished Service Medals in a ceremony on May 7, 2007, at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial as part of the N.J. Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day ceremony. In order to participate in this ceremony, you must complete the DMVA award application and send it with the necessary supporting documentation. You can get a .pdf file of the application online at <http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/awards/forms/application.pdf> (you will need Adobe Acrobat to open the .pdf file) or you can call the N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation at 732-335-0033 to have one mailed to you. For questions about eligibility and criteria for the medals, please call 609-530-7035.

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Trenton, NJ 08625-0340
Phone: 609-530-4600

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