

**October 30, 2025**



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

## **Commissioner's Corner**



## **Lapse in Federal Appropriations**

Despite the federal shutdown, the mission of the New Jersey National Guard continues. Our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen remain ready to respond at home and abroad. During this time of uncertainty, I am reminded that their readiness, commitment, and professionalism represent the best of our Garden State family.

The shutdown has created financial uncertainty for many of our team members, particularly those federal technicians who are performing excepted duties without pay. I recognize the strain that this current moment places on those who continue to serve their communities and country under extraordinary circumstances.

My team and I are working closely with our partners at the state and federal levels to ensure that our force receives clear, timely information, and access to resources. Commanders have been directed to maintain open communication and our Family Programs and Chaplain Corps stand ready to provide support, counseling, and assistance to those affected.

Within Veterans Affairs, I am pleased to report minimal impact to state delivered veteran benefits, programs, and services. If the lapse persists, it is difficult to assess whether that will change. We continue to monitor reimbursements and funds of federally supported activities.

This moment underscores the importance of resilience - one of the hallmarks of the National Guard. Despite fiscal uncertainty, our Soldiers, Airmen, and Civilians continue to embody by their actions the service ethos that define this organization.

To our legislators and community partners, I thank you for your continued advocacy and support for those who serve. Your engagement helps ensure that we maintain critical resources for Garden State heroes and the people who love them.

To those negatively impacted, please know that your service and sacrifice are recognized. As the situation evolves, I am committed to transparency, communication, and compassion. We will navigate this together.

The New Jersey National Guard remains always ready, always there for the people of New Jersey and the United States of America.

## RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

NJ DMAVA Family Programs: 1-888-859-0352

Military OneSource: 1-800-342-9647 | [militaryonesource.mil](https://militaryonesource.mil)

Employee Assistance Program (EAP): Available to all Title 32, Title 5, and federal civilians

DMAVA Veterans Services: [nj.gov/military/veterans](https://nj.gov/military/veterans)

As always, thank you for staying connected to DMAVA.

We invite you to share ideas, events and feedback. Please email our team at [outreach@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:outreach@dmava.nj.gov).

**Brigadier General Yvonne L. Mays**  
**Adjutant General & Commissioner**



## Invitation

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## **Brigadier General Yvonne L. Mays**

The Adjutant General of New Jersey

and

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans  
Affairs

cordially invite you to attend the

## **Annual State Veterans Day Observance**

Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at 11:00 am

at the

## **New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial**

1 Memorial Lane  
Holmdel, New Jersey 07733

Military: Dress Uniform  
Civilian: Business Casual

RSVP: [dmavaeventsrspv@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:dmavaeventsrspv@dmava.nj.gov)

## **Featured Events**



# VETERAN SYMPOSIUM

This empowering event is specially designed for **women veterans**, offering a unique platform to **connect, learn, and grow** in the **vital sectors of education, health, and small business**.

## What to Expect:

- ▶ **Expert Speakers** sharing practical insights and strategies
- ▶ **Engaging Discussions** on topics that matter to you
- ▶ **Networking Opportunities** with fellow women veterans
- ▶ **Dynamic Program** designed to support your success

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FOSTER YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT!**

REGISTER TODAY



<https://tinyurl.com/WomenVeteranSymposium>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** Liliana Rosario, Equity Initiative Specialist, YWCANNJ Operation Sisterhood | [lrosario@ywcannj.org](mailto:lrosario@ywcannj.org) | 201.345.1881

[www.ywcannj.org](http://www.ywcannj.org) | Follow us on:    

**YWCA Northern New Jersey** | 214 State Street, Suite 207, Hackensack, NJ 07601 | 1373 Broad Street, Suite 306A, Clifton, NJ 07013

## ★ 3RD ANNUAL ★ VETERAN RESOURCE FAIR ★ & MINI STAND DOWN



**FOR OUR VETERANS**



- Brunch on-site
- Lunch-box food distribution
- Giveaways - Blankets, socks & hygiene products
- Healthcare navigation & enrollment
- Veteran Benefits navigation & enrollment
- Veteran resources
- FLU & COVID shots
- Veteran to Veteran connections

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH, 2025**

**11:00AM - 1:00PM**



# VETERANS HEALTH FAIR & CAREER EXPO

Join us on 11/14/2025 in Woodbridge, NJ at the Woodbridge Community Center, 600 Main Street, Woodbridge

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Lunch Provided by Red White & Que Smokehouse

In Collaboration with:

Commissioner Director  
Ronald G. Rios

Mayor John McCormac

Friday  
November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Time  
10.00 AM - 2.00 PM

600 Main Street,  
Woodbridge, NJ

**JOIN US**

Health Fair

Employer Registration

# Events

## DMAVA Calendar

DMAVA is sponsoring or will participate in the events below. A DMAVA Veterans Service Officer will be present at many of these events. Please check details to confirm.

- November 1 | Millville  
[24th Annual Veterans Appreciation Day](#)
- November 2 | Augusta  
[Sussex County's 25th Annual Salute to Military Veterans](#)
- November 6 | Middletown  
[State Medal Ceremony](#)
- November 6 | Franklin  
[Annual Veterans Cafe](#)
- November 6 | Newton  
[Service Strong Veterans Fair](#)
- November 7 | Teaneck  
[Women Veteran Symposium](#)
- November 8 | Rio Grande  
[Community Outreach Event](#)
- November 10 | Somerset  
[8th Annual Veterans Day Breakfast](#)
- November 11 | Holmdel  
[Annual State Veterans Day Observance](#)
- November 12 | Randolph

## Veterans Resource Fair

- November 12 | Atlantic City  
[3rd Annual Veteran Resource Fair & Mini Stand Down](#)
- November 12 | Camden  
[Rutgers-Camden Veterans Day Luncheon](#)
- November 13 | Belleville  
[Veterans Resource Fair](#)
- November 14 | Woodbridge  
[Veteran Health Fair & Career Expo](#)
- November 14 | Bordentown  
[Info Session: Navigating Life After the Loss of a Soldier](#)
- November 15 | Bordentown  
[Military Transition / Retirement Seminar](#)
- November 15 | Union  
[Veterans Luncheon](#)

## Community Calendar

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

[View Full Calendar](#)

## Spotlight





## In Memory Ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial

On October 17, 2025, the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial inducted 20 new Veterans into the In Memory program, surrounded by families, friends, fellow Veterans, and supporters who came from across New Jersey and beyond - including Florida and Tennessee.

The In Memory program honors New Jersey men and women who served in Vietnam and later died as a result of their service, but whose names are not on the Memorial. Each name is engraved on a tile along the ramp inside the Memorial.

Vincent Solomeno III, Commissioner Designate of Veterans Affairs, was one of the guest speakers at the ceremony.

[View Images](#)



## American Legion Post 331 Donates \$5,000 to Vineland Veterans Home

On Saturday, September 27, members of Stone Harbor's American Legion Post 331 Family visited the [Vineland Veterans Home](#) to present a \$5,000 donation in support of its programs and residents.

Post 331 Commander Heather Runyon, Vice Commander Frank LaBletta, Auxiliary President Kathy Rullo, and SAL Vice Commander Bill Spaeth met with Membership Life Coordinator R. J. Morrison and Veterans Association President Greg Miller during the visit.

Post 331 of Stone Harbor is one of our most generous donors," said R.J., noting that the home's mission would not be possible without such continued support.

Following the presentation, RJ and Greg led Post 331 members on a tour of the facility.

"Our mission is to honor and serve veterans wherever they are," said Commander Runyon. "

Supporting the Vineland Veterans Home is one way we can ensure that those who served our country continue to receive the care, respect, and appreciation they deserve. We look forward to working closely with the home in the future."

*Image and caption courtesy [American Legion Post 331](#).*





## Twenty Veterans honored at ceremony

The Vietnam Veterans of America, New Jersey Shore Area Chapter 12, held a Veteran Interment Service for the cremains of 20 Veterans and two family members - some had gone unclaimed for as long as 55 years - at the [Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery](#), Wrightstown, NJ on October 16, 2025.

[View Images](#)

## NJ National Guard



## Recruiting and Retention Battalion

Recruiters assigned to the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, participated in the 2025 Recruiting

and Retention Luncheon at the Spring Lake Manor in Sea Girt, NJ on October 16, 2025.

This year's annual event is a time where the [New Jersey Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion](#) recognizes key awards for those who have achieved great things while operating in the Battalion.

[View Images](#)

## Join Our Team

**100% Free College Tuition**

**Bonuses | GI Bill**

**Student Loan Repayment**



## DMAVA Veterans Services





## **Annual "Night of Thanks" at Veteran's Haven North**

Donors, staff, and veteran residents mingled and dined together at the annual "Night of Thanks" held at [Veteran's Haven North](#) in Glen Gardner, NJ on October 15, 2025.

The banquet, which is mostly run by residents, is held to show appreciation to the people and organizations that support the residents of the facility.

Thank you to all of the donors and volunteers who help VHN to continue to provide stable housing and support programs for our Veterans year-round!

[View Images](#)

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## **Veteran Service Officer Training Session**

DMAVA convened county, state, and non-profit veteran service officers for an all day training session on October 23, 2025 at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, NJ.

The twice annual event serves as an opportunity to share ideas and best practices on supporting Garden State veterans and their families.

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## **Get Connected to Resources & Services**

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has partnered with Unite Us to connect individuals and families to a wide variety of services and resources.

Unite Us is a coordinated care referral network of health and social service providers. Unite Us can connect our New Jersey military and veteran community to resources to obtain benefits, food assistance, housing, education, transportation, behavioral health services, peer support and more.

[Learn More / Request Assistance](#)



## **Veteran Homelessness**

The mission of Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) is to effectively end veteran homelessness in New Jersey by enhancing

existing systems, creating rapid access to housing, and ensuring homelessness becomes rare, brief and non-recurring.

BVH creates a clear path to stable housing for veterans experiencing homelessness through a coordinated network of services and support.

[Learn More / Refer a Veteran](#)

**THE DMAVA READJUSTMENT  
COUNSELING PROGRAM PROVIDES  
VETERANS WITH:**

**INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING  
GROUP COUNSELING  
FAMILY COUNSELING**

**SCAN THE CODE AND CALL YOUR  
LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER,**

**OR CALL:**

**(888) 865-8387,**

**OR EMAIL:**

**VBB@DMAVA.NJ.GOV**





# SUPPORT IS PEER TO PEER



**Call Us 24/7  
7 days a week**  
(866) 838-7654



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

Veterans Outreach Schedule

## Veterans Service Offices

## DMAVA Departments

**NEW JERSEY**  
**YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY**  
DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.

 **YOUTH  
CHALLENGE  
ACADEMY**

Now accepting applications  
for Class 61 - January 2026!

**APPLY  
NOW!**

**TUITION  
FREE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

-  [njyca.gov/admissions](https://njyca.gov/admissions)
-  [rpm@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:rpm@dmava.nj.gov)
-  (800) 997-5587 / (732) 974-6516





## **NJ MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE**

\* /njarngfac



## **NJNG Child & Youth Program**

\* /njngcyp



## **Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging**

DEIB Newsletter

# State Partners



## NJ State Agencies

- [Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicides among Service Members, Veterans & Their Families](#)
- [The New Jersey's Governor "We Value Our Veterans" Awards](#)
- [Bringing Veterans Home](#)
- [Vote For Valor](#)
- [Career Services for Veterans](#)
- [Tax Resources for Military/Veterans](#)
- [Educator Certification for Military Spouses and Veterans](#)
- [Civil Service Preference for 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
- Veterans & Spouses Entering the Educator Workforce
- Journey Through Jersey

## Federal Partners

**TRICARE** Open Season  
**2025**

**Start:**  
Nov. 10, 2025

**End:**  
Dec. 9, 2025

A horizontal teal line with circular endpoints at each end, spanning the width of the start and end date labels.The logo for Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, featuring an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield with stars and stripes, all within a gold sunburst border.

**padlet**

# JB MDL Virtual Message Board



**theSITREP Podcast**  
By: Department of Veterans Affairs  
Podcast



VIETNAM      GULF WAR      POST - 9/11

**WERE YOU EXPOSED TO BURN PITS,  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CHEMICALS,  
AGENT ORANGE, OR OTHER TOXINS  
WHILE SERVING IN THE MILITARY?**



**Apply for VA  
health care today  
at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).**

**VA** |  U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



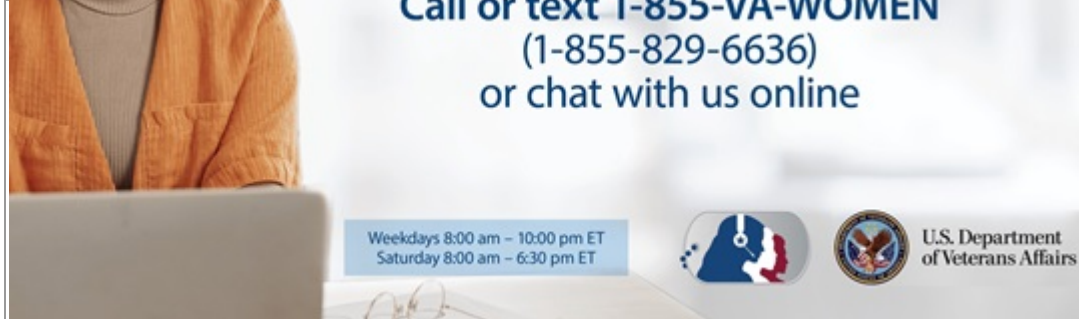
**Have questions?**  
Call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 0  
to speak with someone right away.



**The Women Veterans Call Center  
is Your Guide to VA**

Live women representatives, many of whom are  
Veterans, are standing by to help.

Call or text 1-855-VA-WOMEN



**VA**



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

## Featured Links

- [National Parks Pass](#)
- [VALife Insurance](#)
- [VA Urgent Care Services](#)
- [VA Caregiver Support Program](#)
- [Accessing Records from the National Archives or NPRC](#)
- [PACT Act Performance Dashboard](#)
- [How to Check Your PACT Act Claim Status](#)
- [Download VA Benefit Letters](#)
- [Podcasts on Veterans' Issues](#)
- [VA Health and Benefits Mobile App](#)
- [Women Veterans Call Center](#)
- [Veterans Legacy Memorial](#)
- [Million Veteran Program](#)
- [#VetResources](#)
- [VA Resource Navigator](#)

# Community Spotlight



## Norwegian Foot March

Chapter 19 of the Special Forces Association and the NJ Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association successfully executed the 3rd Annual Norwegian Foot March at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on October 18, 2025.

107 Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve and Veterans of the Army, Navy, Marine Corp, and Air Force marched, with 83 meeting the time standards for award of the Norwegian Foot March Badge.

## Servicemember Spotlight



## **Sergeant First Class Erica Cruz**

The [NJ Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion](#) is proud to recognize SFC Erica Cruz for earning the Heavy Hitter Award for FY25. This distinction is reserved for recruiters who achieve the highest number of enlistments throughout the fiscal year.

This award represents not just hard work and sacrifice, but the ability to build, trust, maintain persistence and consistency to connect with the future of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

SFC Cruz did just that by distinguishing herself by exceeding 217% of her assigned mission, with 37 enlistments during FY25. Such an accomplishment is both rare and exceptional within the National Guard. We are proud of her success and look forward to seeing the incredible things she will accomplish in the next fiscal year.

[View Images](#)

# Veteran Spotlight



## **Leon R. Struzinski**

On October 4, 2025, Gloucester County Commissioner Tom Bianco and Mayor Greg Wolfe proudly presented a Proclamation of Honor and Recognition to Leon R. Struzinski in celebration of his 100th birthday.

A proud U.S. Navy World War II veteran, Leon's century of life is a true testament to courage, commitment, and community service.

Thank you, Leon, for your remarkable contributions and for inspiring us all. Happy 100th Birthday!

*Image and caption courtesy Gloucester County Weekly Newsletter.*

## **Never Forget**



## New Jersey Fallen Heroes Memorial

In Honor of all those from New Jersey who gave their lives in the fight against terrorism during Operation Enduring Freedom & Iraqi Freedom.

In humble gratitude, we remember their sacrifice.

### Memorial Inscription

*"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

# History



Superstorm Sandy October 2012.

## **October 29, 2012**

When Superstorm Sandy hit in 2012, 346,000 homes in New Jersey were damaged or destroyed. 2.7 million people were without power. New Jersey National Guard troops rescued more than 7,000 residents and their pets in the days following Sandy's landfall, remaining on duty following the storm by assisting civil authorities with security, transportation, logistics, and reconstructing efforts. The troops also delivered more than 10,000 meals and hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel.

## **November 3, 1791**

General Arthur St. Clair's army, including a battalion recruited in New Jersey, met disastrous defeat by Indians under the command of Chief Little Turtle near the Wabash River in Ohio. Over the course of its service, from May through November, 1791, 328 officers and men served in the New Jersey battalion. Of these, 34 deserted, 5 died of undisclosed causes, 51 were killed or went missing (presumed dead) on November 4, and 8 were wounded but escaped.

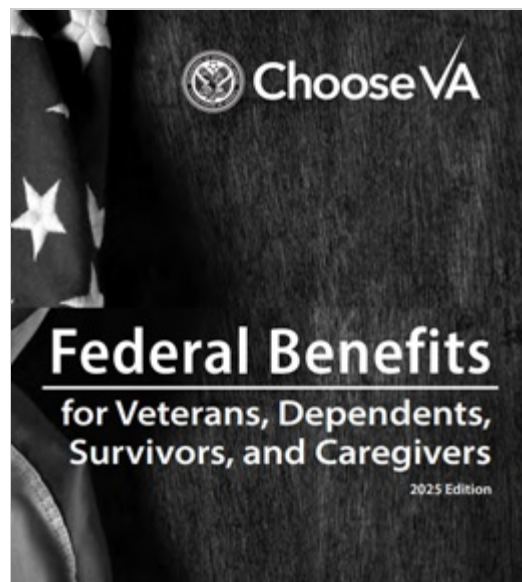
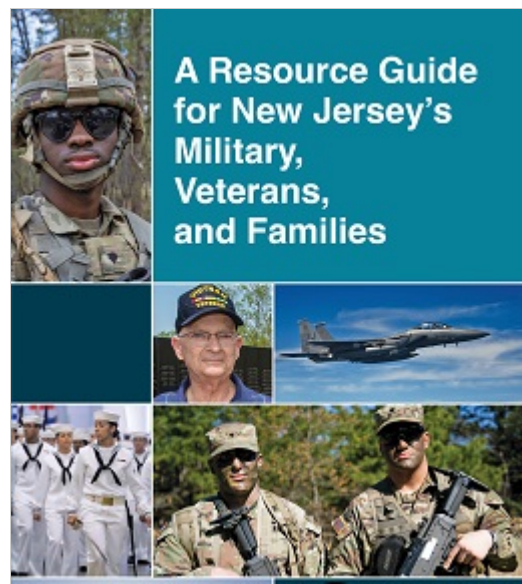
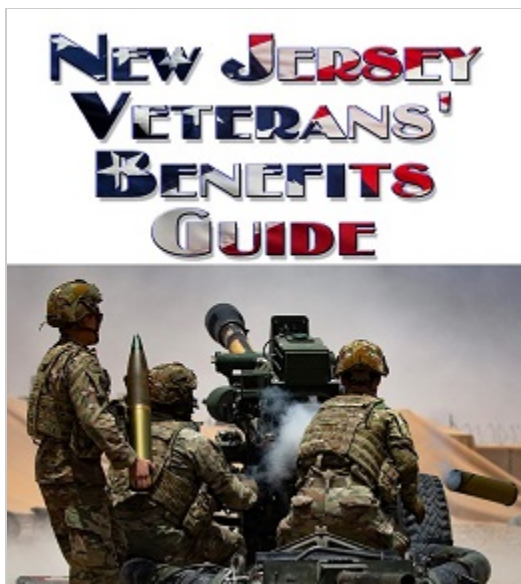
## **November 11, 1918**

## **November 2, 1783**

General George Washington delivered his farewell address to the Continental Army from his headquarters at Rockingham, near Princeton.

At 11:00 AM the World War I Armistice began, ending active combat for the National Guard soldiers of the New Jersey National Guard in the 29th Division and drafted Jerseymen in the 78th and other divisions and New Jerseyans in the USMC and Navy.

## **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.

We also have opportunities in facilities management and program management. In addition, we have job openings for members of our military to serve in AGR and Federal Technician roles.

Subscribe to [DMAVA Jobs Bulletin](#) to stay updated on job openings.

## Vacancies

## Stay Connected



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We hope you enjoy receiving our newsletter and find it both educational and engaging. If you have questions about our department, our programs or your benefits, please visit our website at [nj.gov/military](https://nj.gov/military) to get contact information.

## Contact DMAVA

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Please email us at [outreach@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:outreach@dmava.nj.gov) with feedback and comments regarding the newsletter. If you would like to contribute with an item of interest to our subscribers, please email us your proposal.

Visit the [DMAVA archives](#) to view previous editions of our newsletter.

## Forward to a friend

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