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Acting Governor Guadagno Honors Veterans at Remembrance Day Ceremony

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47 Veterans of World War II and Vietnam Recognized at Medal Ceremony



Trenton, NJ – In recognition of New Jersey's veterans, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno today joined New Jersey's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) and the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation for the 2015 Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day Ceremony in Holmdel. May 7th commemorates New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day, the 20th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, and the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

During the ceremony, DMAVA presented 90 medals to 47 veterans, 7 of whom received medals posthumously and were represented

by family members. Four of the honorees served in the various arenas of World War II, and 43 served in Vietnam.

"I am honored to be here to recognize some of New Jersey's most courageous veterans today, 40 years after the end of the Vietnam War," said Acting Governor Guadagno. "The stories of these veterans are varied, but each is a testament to their dedication and service. We must never forget their sacrifices."

Forty-three NJ Vietnam Service Medals were awarded in addition to 35 NJ Distinguished Service Medals, 9 NJ Distinguished Service Medals with silver oak leaf cluster, 2 NJ Meritorious Service Medals and 1 Prisoner of War/Missing In Action Medal. The silver oak leaf cluster denotes that the recipient has also been recognized for his or her service with other awards: four awardees are Purple Heart recipients, three have received the Bronze Star Medal, and two have received Air Medals.

"The Foundation is honored to recognize New Jersey's Remembrance Day at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel," said Bill Linderman, Executive Director, New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation. "As 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the Memorial's opening, we come together to recognize all who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Hundreds, including many of the individuals and organizations who were responsible for the Memorial's founding, joined us to commemorate the occasion."

In 1986, Governor Tom Kean created a 14-member New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Committee, and the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation was incorporated in 1987 to assist the committee in building the

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Memorial. The site was dedicated in the spring of 1987, and construction was completed on May 7, 1995, which coincided with the 20th anniversary of the end of the war. The Memorial features three statues representing the soldiers who fought and returned home, the women who served, and the 1,563 soldiers who did not return.

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