





# A WORD FROM THE DCVA

Dear Veterans,

It has been said that a person who takes their own counsel has a fool for a client. That adage can be applied to veterans who are going into the fray to receive Veterans Administration compensation.

Putting together an application for VA disability can seem daunting. The amount of paperwork to justify the claim and the written description is enough to make many veterans say it is not worth the time and effort.

But it is! This department estimates that 8,000 to 12,000 of the more than half-million Garden State vets, who deserve compensation have never filed a VA claim. There are thousands more veterans that have never had their VA claims reevaluated. This equals millions of dollars that veterans of New Jersey are not going after. It is your money and you are entitled to it.

We can help you or a veteran you know to start receiving a monthly check, as well as a possible lump sum payment for prior months dating back to when the condition was determined to be service related.

Recently one of our Veterans Service Officers (VSO) assisted on a claim that was worth \$151,000 in back payments to a Desert Storm veteran. In this issue we have a story of a World War II widow who received compensation for her husband's service in the Pacific Theater, a claim for a service-connected medical problem from more than six decades ago.

Actually, the most impressive back compensation claim recently awarded through the efforts of one of our VSOs was a dollar amount in excess of \$500,000.

Take a look at the listing of our VSOs and make a call for an appointment, whether it's for a first-time claim or to have your current VA disability reevaluated. Remember as you age, and your health deteriorates, you might be entitled to increased disability payments.

I am not saying you won't have to lift a finger to get through the VA maze, but you will have an experienced professional walking you through the process of getting all the paperwork together. These VSOs have a wealth of knowledge that will guide you in writing up your claim and the experience to assist with the appeal process.

You have a potential for gain with nothing to lose, so please let us help you today. This department stands ready to serve you, just as you have served this nation.

*Stephen G. Abel*



*Retired Col. Stephen G. Abel lends a hand in building the World War II Memorial. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.*

*VeteranNJournal*

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## Cover Photo: Honor Guard

*The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 Honor Guard begin the opening ceremony of the 10th anniversary of the Vietnam Era Educational Center at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel on Sept. 27. The keynote address was delivered by Vietnam Veteran Anthony J. Principi, the former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Photo by Roman Martyniuk.*

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# Message from the Governor

Dear Veterans,

It was a year ago in Veterans Journal I made a commitment that a World War II Memorial would be dedicated on Veterans Day 2008. I am pleased to be able to invite the veterans' community to share in the celebration of the Greatest Generation at 2:30 p.m. this Veterans Day.

For the past several months, I could look from the windows of the Statehouse and see the progress being made every day. A little used open space is being transformed into a much deserved lasting expression of our respect and gratitude.

Of the approximately 545,000 veterans who live in our state, nearly 30 percent served in World War II, which is about double the average percentage of other states. After their service in battle, these men and women returned and helped transform America.

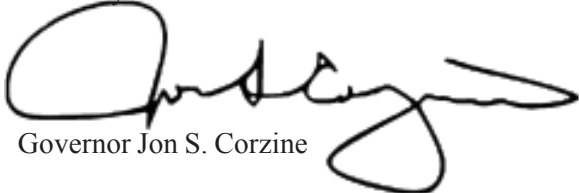
As we dedicate this memorial, another group of New Jerseyans are making history as the largest Army National Guard deployment from this state since World War II. The nearly 3,000 Citizen-Soldiers are currently serving in Iraq and will return to join you as veterans, in the tradition of service to state and nation that is so important to the American way of life.

I know all veterans and service organizations across the state will rally to support these troops and their families. The home front heroes, the spouses and children, the mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, will all be looking at the community to stand behind them during this year long deployment.

Even though the dedication is only days away, we still need to continue the fund raising efforts for the World War II Memorial. This lasting tribute still needs the financial support of every veteran and citizen of this state.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have already given, especially the World War II veterans, and encourage those of you who may not yet have been able to contribute. With so much that our World War II veterans have given to us, this is the least that we can give to them; and it is the best we can give to our children and grandchildren as an example of the kind of love of country and community that sustains and enhances us through generations.

Sincerely



Governor Jon S. Corzine



*Governor Jon S. Corzine addresses the Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard during a New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve sponsored visit to Fort Bliss, Texas on August 1. The Governor visited the troops as they trained in preparation to deploy to Iraq. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.*

# SMALL BUSINESS VETS WIN

By Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA

**In the spring of this year the U.S. Small Business Administration created the Patriot Express Loan Program. It could be a lower cost ticket for veterans to start their own small business or expand a current enterprise.**

The pilot program is a streamlined loan product based on the SBA Express Program, but with enhanced guarantees and interest rates around four percent over the prime rate.

“After they have served their country so proudly, many veterans find themselves looking at entrepreneurship as a career option, when they leave the military,” said James A. Kocsi, SBA New Jersey District Director recently in the Small Biz Journal produced by the office in Newark.

Patriot Express is available to a wide range of military community members including veterans, service-disabled veterans, active-duty service members participating in the military’s Transition Assistance Program, Reservists and National Guard members, current spouses of any of the above, and the widowed spouse of a service member or veteran who died during service, or of a service-connected disability.

The Patriot Express loan is offered by SBA’s network of participating lenders and features SBA’s fastest turnaround time for loan approvals. Loans are available up to \$500,000 and qualify for SBA’s maximum guaranty of up to 85 percent for loans of \$150,000 or less and up to 75 percent for loans over \$150,000 up to \$500,000.

The loan program can be used for most business start-ups or expansion, equipment purchases, working capital, inventory or business-occupied real-estate purchases. The Patriot Express loan program also has a revolving line of credit feature for those current veteran entrepreneurs.

“It’s no secret that more than 14 percent of businesses in America are owned by veterans, and SBA is proud that we guarantee more than \$1 billion annually in loans for veteran-

owned businesses,” added Kocsi. “Veteran-owned businesses make significant contributions to the economy and because of the unique technical and leadership skills they acquire through military service, they can become successful entrepreneurs.”

The Patriot Express program follows a year after the SBA worked to secure preferential pricing terms on traditional SBA guaranteed loans for vets. To date, 16 lenders have joined ranks with the Veteran Incentive Program to voluntarily provide these incentives to encourage business ownership and expansion.

“The combination of Patriot Express and the Veteran Incentive Program give us the necessary tools to serve our military community,” noted Kocsi. “We want our veterans and the military community to know that there are several tools available to them when they do decide to start or expand their small businesses.”

To learn more about Patriot Express and the Veteran Incentive Program, please contact SBA’s Assistant District Director for Lender Relations, William C. Boone, at (973) 645-2179 or via e-mail at [william.boone@sba.gov](mailto:william.boone@sba.gov).

*The following Web sites will help veterans and the military community with the programs and services available to them.*

**Patriot Express Loan Program:** [www.sba.gov/patriotexpress/index.html](http://www.sba.gov/patriotexpress/index.html)

**Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan:** [www.sba.gov/services/disaster-assistance/militaryreservistsloans/index.html](http://www.sba.gov/services/disaster-assistance/militaryreservistsloans/index.html)

**SBA’s New Jersey District office:** [www.sba.gov/localresources/district/nj/index.html](http://www.sba.gov/localresources/district/nj/index.html)

**SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives):** [www.score.org](http://www.score.org)

**New Jersey Small Business Development Centers:** [www.njsbdc.com](http://www.njsbdc.com)

**NJAWBO Women’s Business Center:** [www.njawbo.org](http://www.njawbo.org)

## Loan aids employers

**There is another SBA program designed to support businesses that are suffering due to the loss of a vital employee who serves in the National Guard or Reserves.**

The purpose of the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is to provide funds to small businesses to meet ordinary operating costs that it could have met, but is unable to meet, because an essential employee was “called-up” to active duty in their role as a military reservist.

This Loan is intended only to provide a small business with the amount of working capital needed to pay its obligations as they mature until the business returns to normal after the essential employee is released from active military duty.

The filing period begins on the date the essential employee is ordered to active duty and 90 days after the employee is discharged or released from active duty.



# Fullfilling a promise

Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Barbara Harbison, NJDMAVA/PA

**Lying in a Philippine jungle waiting to be evacuated due to injuries, Stephan B. Lopes Sr. made a promise to God. On Sept. 9, family, friends and co-workers gathered to honor Lopes' commitment to his promise.**

Lopes, a member of the Americal Division, promised God that if He got him out of there, he would help people.

"And I've been doing it ever since," he quipped.

So on a rainy day in September, a week before he turned 85 years young, the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home held a surprise retirement party for Lopes who has served as a member of the home's Veterans Advisory Council since Dec. 1966 and as the chairman of the council since June 1970.

But he actually started coming to volunteer at that home in 1948, so his volunteer time at the Vineland home has been 60 years. During that time he has seen the home go through many changes. "This is one of the most modern state veterans' homes in the country," he stated.

Lopes remarked that the biggest changes he has seen is the way the staff treats the residents and that the residents have better care, food, medical facilities and more entertainment.

PJ Paten, a disabled Navy veteran, who will take over the chair position on the advisory board, was one of the attendees who will miss Lopes' presence.

The first woman to chair the board, Paten explained the board's job was to see to the residents' needs. "We



make sure the residents don't want for anything. If they make a request, the request is passed to the board and we fill it," she said.

When Lopes was asked what he got from six decades of volunteering at Vineland, his answer was simple, "the pleasure I got from helping people."



## \$2.6 Million for Doyle Cemetery

*The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced a \$2.6 million grant to maintain continuity of service at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery in Wrightstown. The grant will fund an additional 3,161-niche columbarium for cremated remains and a public assembly area where it is anticipated future cemetery ceremonies will be held.*



## More than 3 Coins in a Fountain

*Tony Palumbo (left), President of the Resident Council, Paramus Veterans Memorial Home, watches as Marty Erico, Paramus VMH driver, collects coins from the fountain in the center court of Paramus Park Mall. During the month-long collection for the Home in August, four buckets of coins weighing more than 50 pounds brought in a total of \$740.75. Photo by Giulia Kirsch, PVMH.*

# THE POST-9/11 GI BILL

From the Department of Veterans Affairs; photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

**Congratulations, those tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, the backfill at Vandenberg Air Force Base and Fort Dix is translating into a real benefit for you: access to the Post-9/11 GI Bill.**

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a new educational assistance benefit for individuals who served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

In order to be eligible you must have served an aggregate of 90 days of active duty service, or served at least 30 days of continuous active duty service after Sept. 10, 2001 and discharged due to a service-connected disability.

One benefit of the Bill is time: you are eligible for 15 years from your last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days. If you were released for a service-connected disability after at least 30 days of continuous service, you will also be eligible for benefits for 15 years.

One thing to keep in mind, because Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are payable for education or training pursued on or after Aug. 1, 2009, no payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill you may receive up to 36 months of entitlements. The amount you receive is a percentage (see table for exact percentages), as determined by your length of active duty service, of the following:

- Amount of tuition and fees charged, not to exceed the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher education;
- A yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000;
- A one-time payment of \$500 to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas and;
- Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing amount payable to an E-5 with dependents, in the same zip code as the school paid to you. A note about this: The housing allowance is not payable for those pursuing training at half time or less or for individuals taking distance learning.

We all like examples and no ar-



ticle would be complete without them. Let's say that the full time tuition and fees at Boxley College (no such school exists in New Jersey) is \$6,700 and that the highest in-state tuition and fees is \$7,000.

Now say you served an aggregate period of three years on active duty and you are going to school full-time, in the above example you would be eligible for \$6,700 for tuition fees (that's 100 percent), the monthly housing allowance and \$1,000 for books and supplies.

In another example, you have a total of 12 months of active duty service in the guard or reserves, and are going to school full-time, you would be eligible for \$4,020 (60 percent of \$6,700) for tuition and fees, \$600 (60 percent of \$1,000) for books and supplies allowance. One question that comes up is "If I am eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30), Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606,) or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607), am I eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill?"

You may elect to receive benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill if, on Aug. 1, 2009, you have met the requirements to qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and you are eligible for Chapters 30, 1606, 1607, or are serving in the Armed Forces.

You may receive benefits for training programs approved for Chapter 30 that are offered by an institution of higher learning. This includes graduate and undergraduate training, and vocational/technical training. You may also receive benefits for tutorial assistance and reimbursement of one licensing and certification test.

Additionally, if you were eligible for Chapters 30, 1606 or 1607, and you elected to use benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, you would be eligible to receive benefits for on-the-job training, apprenticeship training, correspondence courses, flight training, preparatory courses, and national exams.

To keep current on the Post-9/11 GI Bill, visit [ww.gibill.va.gov](http://ww.gibill.va.gov) for up to date information on this and other education benefits.

| <u>Time in service</u>                                                                                             | <u>Benefit %</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 36 months, <u>or</u> at least 30 continuous days on active duty and discharged due to service-connected disability | 100              |
| 30 months, but less than 36 months                                                                                 | 90               |
| 24 months, but less than 30 months                                                                                 | 80               |
| 18 months, but less than 24 months                                                                                 | 70               |
| 12 months, but less than 18 months                                                                                 | 60               |
| 6 months, but less than 12 months                                                                                  | 50               |
| 90 days, but less than 6 months                                                                                    | 40               |



# Outreach crisscrosses state



*The Veterans Outreach Program started the kiosk visits at Bridgewater Commons, upper left and Willowbrook Mall with medal ceremonies. Deputy Commissioner Stephen Abel presents the New Jersey Distinguished Service medal to Theodore Ziegert, bottom left, a World War II veteran and to Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran Edelynn Yap, bottom right. Gary Englert, Director of Veterans Services; hands a medal certificate to Vietnam veteran Edward Leonard in the bottom page photo. Photos by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.*



## 2008-2009 NJDMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE

*Nov. 5\*, 6 & 7, 2008*

*Deptford Mall*

*Dec. 4\*, 2008*

*(Medal Ceremony only)*

*NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland*

*Jan. 6\*, 7 & 8, 2009*

*Moorestown Mall*

*Feb. 3\*, 4 & 5 2009*

*Paramus Park Mall*

*Kiosk hours 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.*

*\* Asterisk indicates medal presentation at 10:30 a.m.*





# WW II MEMORIAL TO BE DEDICATED Nov. 11

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA



Construction on the New Jersey World War II Memorial at Veterans Park in Trenton is moving along at a remarkable pace. A quick glance at the strip of 14 photos (left) shows the striking changes – an empty lot to a structure that truly resembles the artist's renditions that have appeared in earlier issues of *Veterans Journal*. The three images below show two street views followed by an aerial closeup of the Memorial. The full page aerial photo (right) shows the proximity of the Memorial to the New Jersey Capital building. See you at the dedication ceremony at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 11.









Veterans, life doesn't have to be a  
**Battlefield.**



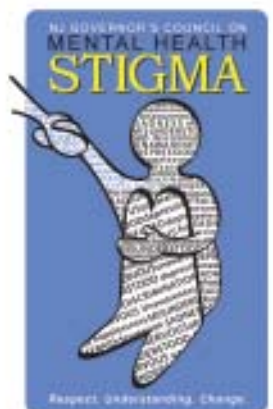
**Don't let stigma stand in your way.**

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, Depression, Anxiety, Substance Abuse, and other Mental Health Care Needs.

For Information on Benefits and Services call or visit

**1-866-VETS-NJ-4-U (1-866-838-7654) [www.state.nj.us/military](http://www.state.nj.us/military)**

*Respect. Understanding. Change.*





# Sun never sets on widow's claim

By William J. McDonnell, VSO, Thorofare Office

**It is extremely satisfying to help a widow gain her entitlements.**

This is especially true when the surviving spouse is the widow of a World War II veteran. These ladies are usually in their 80s and are in great need of assistance, both financially and medically.

Our Thorofare Veteran Service Office recently won a Dependency and Indemnity Compensation claim for a World War II widow. The claim was challenging but also extremely interesting.

The veteran died in September 1988. However, we claimed service connection for the cause of his death because we believed that his malignant melanoma (skin cancer) had its origins in the jungles of New Guinea in the South Pacific. The veteran served as an Army first lieutenant in New Guinea for 18 months between 1944 and 1945.

The veteran was diagnosed with malignant melanoma in August of 1977. However, we appealed to the Veterans Administration that a malignant melanoma, according to dermatological experts, can start up to 40 years after excessive sun exposure. We claimed that it is as likely as not that the veteran's malignant melanoma with metastases was related to the veteran's exposure to the tropical New Guinea sun.

What is interesting about this claim is that we never claimed that malignant melanoma, the condition shown on the veteran's death certificate in 1988, was present during his military service. Our contention was that the veteran was exposed to the sun during his service in New Guinea and, as a result, the veteran developed fatal malignant melanoma which metastasized and ultimately caused the veteran's death.

The veteran's Notice of Separation from the United States Army reflects that he served overseas in New Guinea. His service medical records are negative for any complaints, findings, treatment or diagnosis with respect to the skin or due to exposure to the sun.

The VA agreed that our evidence in favor of the veteran was very strong and could not be challenged. The certificate of death in 1988 listed the cause of death as malignant melanoma with metastases. At the time of death service connection was not in effect for any disability.

Private medical records dated August 1977 reflect that the veteran was treated for metastatic squamous cell carcinoma near his right shoulder blade. The veteran then had malignant melanoma, superficial spreading type, removed from his back the following September. The melanoma was reported to be located at the right upper portion of the back close to the shoulder.



In support of our claim for service connection I presented the VA with a study called, "Sunlight and Skin Cancer", which appeared in Scientific American in 1996. The study proved the relationship between exposure to the skin and subsequent development of skin cancer.

We also presented the VA with photos of the veteran without his shirt working in the tropical sun in 1944 and 1945. Additional evidence appeared in the veteran's diaries which his widow maintained for all these years. The veteran spoke of the intense tropical sun and how dark his skin was. We also obtained a sworn statement from a well known board certified dermatologist, who stated that a malignant melanoma could occur thirty-five years or more after severe sunburn. In addition, all four grandparents were born in Ireland, which according to the dermatologist, are extremely susceptible to skin cancer from excessive sun exposure. We were able to prove a delayed reaction in the melanoma development.

The VA ruled in favor of our client. She will receive DIC at the rate of \$1,191 per month. She also received a nice back payment. In addition, she was reimbursed by VA for funeral expenses from her husband's funeral. She will be entitled to a property tax exemption which will mean another \$6,000 in yearly savings to the widow. The widow will also receive medical and prescription benefits through CHAMPVA.

This was an extremely satisfying claim to win on behalf of our client. Our only regret is that we could not have helped her many years ago. It is amazing, however, to think that we could prove a service connection 63 years after the end of World War II.

To me, this claim demonstrates what we can do if we apply ourselves and do the research.

## VA Announces On-Line Claims Applications

**WASHINGTON** - The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that on-line applications are now being accepted from veterans, survivors and other claimants filing initial applications for disability compensation, pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits without the need to submit a signed copy of the application.

The VA will now process applications received through its on-line application web site (VONAPP) without the claimant's signature. The electronic application will be suf-

ficient authentication of the claimant's application for benefits. Normal development procedures and rules of evidence will still apply to all VONAPP applications.

VONAPP ([www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm](http://www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm)) is a Web-based system that benefits both internal and external users. Veterans, survivors and other claimants seeking compensation, pension, education, or vocational rehabilitation benefits can apply electronically without the constraints of location, postage cost, and time delays in mail delivery.

## VA VET CENTERS COMING TO 39 COMMUNITIES

**WASHINGTON** - Combat veterans will receive readjustment counseling and other assistance in 39 additional communities across the country where the Department of Veterans Affairs will develop Vet Centers by fall 2009.

One of the new Vet Centers is scheduled for New Jersey in Ocean County, with the exact location to be determined.

The existing 232 centers conduct community outreach to offer counseling on employment, family issues and education to combat veterans and family members, as well as bereavement counseling for families of service members killed on active duty and counseling for veterans who

were sexually harassed on active duty.

Vet Center services are available at no cost to veterans who experienced combat during any war era. They are staffed by small teams of counselors, outreach workers and other specialists, many of whom are combat veterans. The Vet Center program was established in 1979 by Congress, recognizing that many Vietnam veterans were still having readjustment problems.

The centers have hired 100 combat veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan as outreach specialists, often placing them near military processing stations, to brief servicemen and women leaving the military about VA benefits.

## Yellow Ribbon increases grant amounts

**In 2007, New Jersey established the Yellow Ribbon program to help returning Operations' Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom veterans.**

One facet of this program was to provide relief, in the form of grants, for a range of veteran/family emergencies and business "Re-Start" assistance. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is responsible for implementation of the program.

In the midst of difficult economic times for our state and nation, the Governor and legislature deemed it a priority to extend a helping hand to veterans returning from the present conflicts. The Yellow Ribbon program was therefore extended for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Any OEF or OIF Veteran is eligible to apply for a grant. Family members are eligible if the grant will directly or indirectly aid or provide care for the veteran.

Since the first grant was awarded, our experience indi-

cates that the number of veterans requiring assistance and the magnitude of the need is much greater than originally anticipated. As a result, we have adjusted our available resources to allow an increase in the Individual Grant amount from \$2,500 to \$5,000, and the Business Re-Start Grant from \$5,000 to \$10,000. We have endeavored, through these grants, to express the appreciation of the State of New Jersey to veterans for their service, and have been humbled by the unsolicited and heartfelt responses of gratitude for help in time of need.

All grant requests must be made on a Yellow Ribbon Grant Application, include a "need" statement, a Family Budget Worksheet, and all requested or appropriate documentation. All forms and program information can be obtained from: Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Attention: Carl Lang, P.O. Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340, or by e-mail at [carl.lang@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:carl.lang@njdmava.state.nj.us).





## First burial at sea

*As Staff Sgt. John Thompson (left) and Spc. Allain Batong (center) fold the American Flag, bugler Spc. Nilampuri Gosai (right) and crewmembers of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Penobscot Bay salute during the first New Jersey National Guard Honor Guard burial at sea on May 24. The ceremony took place three miles offshore of Bayonne. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Denson, NJNGHG..*



## KOC donation

*Susan Pettigrano, Director, Volunteer Services, Paramus Veterans Memorial Home, stands with Deputy Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator of Assembly 1543 Sir Knight Paul Pinkman from the Secaucus Knights of Columbus Council, Mary Immaculate 12769 and a cartload of donations, which included 108 men's and women's slippers, 288 men and women's socks for the Paramus residents. Photo by Giulia Kirsch, PVMH.*



## Monument unveiled

*Members of the New Jersey Elks, National Veterans Service Commission, South East District pose around the unveiled monument at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery on Aug. 2. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks monument is part of the Memorial Way at the Cemetery. Dozens of Elks members were on hand at the ceremony that included an Air Force Honor Guard and firing detail from the 305th Air Mobility Wing, McGuire Air Force Base. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.*



## Retiree Appreciation Day

*Retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Egbert A. Mayers (left) talks with Charles Piscopo, Veterans Service Officer, New Jersey Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs during the annual Fort Dix Retiree Appreciation Day at Timmerman Center on Sept. 20. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.*

## Menlo Vets Home resident turns 100

Photo and story by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA

For his 100th birthday Roderick Kennark, center, is joined by his sister Sally Scheuerer, left and surrounded by members of the Ladies Auxiliary from American Legion Post 522 of Monroe, sponsors of his party at the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home on June 25.

Kennark receive several awards and a letter from Governor Jon S. Corzine while the crowd of well wishers enjoyed cake and music by Nino Rossano.

Born in Brooklyn in 1908, Kennark was a surgical technician in the Army during World War II. His decorations and citations include the European-American-Middle-Eastern Theater Ribbon and the Good Conduct Ribbon. A lifelong bachelor, he retired from a career with the Internal Revenue Service.



## Homes reap rewards

Frank Jiosi Jr. (front row, left), Past Detachment Commander, Sons of The American Legion and Frank M. Calandrillo Jr. (center), Past Department Commander, The American Legion, presented checks totaling \$75,480 to the New Jersey Veterans Homes and Veterans Haven. Receiving the checks are retired Col. Stephen G. Abel (right), Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, Joseph E. Romano (back row, left), Chief Executive Officer, Vineland Veterans Memorial Home; Doris R. Neibart (center), CEO, Paramus Veterans Memorial Home; and Joseph Branspiegel (right), CEO, Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home. The funds raised were part of a "Legion Family" project among all three organizations; namely, The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion. Not pictured: Dolores Gonzalez, Past Department President, The American Legion Auxiliary. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



## Ticket to ride

The New Jersey State Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Ladies Auxiliary, the Military Order of the Cootie and Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary purchased and donated two new vans for the Veterans Haven residents during their convention in Wildwood in June. Pictured handing over the keys are left to right: Lou Solmer, VFW Project Chairman; Robert G. Sauselein, Superintendent, Veterans Haven; Robert Pinto, VFW State Commander and Hazel Radcliff, President, VFW Ladies Auxiliary. Photo courtesy of the New Jersey State Department of the Veterans Foreign War.



# "SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED"

## NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES

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Port Murray 07865-9482  
908-689-5840/5845  
Fax: 908-689-5879  
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908-284-6146

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# The New Jersey World War II Memorial



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