

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 17, 2011



Happy Birthday Giacomo



Giacomo Pino, right, and his wife, Mary, hold their great-grandson, Jake, at the 100th birthday party for Giacomo at the Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. Pino is a WWII Army veteran currently residing at the Stars and Stripes wing of the Memorial Home. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)

On Nov. 11, 2011, Giacomo Pino turned 100 years-old.

Surrounded by three generations of family members, friends, staff from the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, and Raymond Zawacki, the deputy commissioner of veterans affairs at New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Pino celebrated the century mark of his life at the Veterans Memorial Home.

Aside from Pino living an entire century what is significant about this date? Well, it's also Veterans Day and Pino knows all about being a veteran.

This man has lived through WWI, served during WWII and the

Korean War, and seen thousands of brave men and women fight in the Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War and the current war on terrorism.

He was presented with a congratulatory plaque from NJ DMAVA for his military service and longevity, as well as a centenarian birthday greeting from the White House, which was signed by President Obama.

Pino served in the Army as a cook during WWII and during the Korean War.

Present at his birthday celebration were his wife, Mary; his two sons, Jack and Michael; grandson, Nicholas; and great-grandson, Jake, as well as other family members of the Pino clan.

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Devils in the fight

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

As members of the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, make their way to Afghanistan, I will be profiling them in episodes of "Devils in the Fight." It is fitting that the first person I will be covering is Col. John DiDonna, 177th Operations Group commander, who is deployed as one of two deputy operations group commanders at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. DiDonna is also one of the first flyers to arrive here, and has been on station for several months.



support. I am truly amazed by Coalition forces and their brave dedication and relentless commitment to this counterinsurgency effort."

"I routinely inquire about family members supporting this operation from afar. I am equally astounded, hearing stories of their commitment, support, and sacrifice," said DiDonna. "Without their understanding, the intense focus required to accomplish this difficult mission would not be possible."

The men and women of the 177th who are currently supporting Operation Enduring Freedom are contributing greatly to the effort here, and I will be covering more areas in future "Devils in the Fight!"

"Upon my arrival, I was truly amazed at the size of and makeup of the Operations Group; 11 combat squadrons including over 1,000 Airmen, Sailors, and Marines," said DiDonna. "In comparison, the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group is approximately the size of the entire 177th Fighter Wing. I am amazed at the work ethic, individual commitment, selfless service, and team effort of all Bagram warriors, including those Airmen currently deployed from the 177th."

"The flying here is like none other than I have experienced in my career," said DiDonna. "The terrain in Afghanistan is ominous; rugged, mountainous, presenting unique tactical challenges. The missions can be intense, solely focused on providing Coalition forces close air



Photo by Capt. Brandon Cyr




Members of the Mercer County Association of Realtors delivered more than two dozen holiday gift baskets to the New Jersey National Guard Family Assistance Center in Lawrenceville. Center coordinator Jane Hackbarth, third from right, was on hand to accept the donation on behalf of the families of deployed Soldiers and Airmen. It was the fourth consecutive year the Realtors have made a holiday donation. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA)



DMAVA, NJNG is now on Facebook, Twitter

Attention fans of Highlights! The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the New Jersey National Guard have launched their official Facebook and Twitter pages.

So help us achieve our goal of expanding our Facebook fan base by 100 fans per month. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Jersey-Department-of-Military-and-Veterans-Affairs/245085018841687> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Jersey-National-Guard/185017611554223> and press the  button and become one of our fans.

To receive notification wherever you are, follow us on Twitter @NJDMAVA and @NJNationalGuard! You'll get our news headlines, upcoming events, photos and much more.

find us on



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connect and share with us



Veterans right's awareness seminar

The New Jersey Attorney General's (AG) Office, in partnership with The American Legion, will conduct a regional Veterans' Civil Rights seminar on Nov. 18, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Post 414, 100 Berwyn Place in Lawrenceville.

All veterans, active duty, Reservists, National Guard, family members, and veteran service organizations are invited to attend. You do not have to belong to The American Legion to participate.

The AG's office, Division on Civil Rights (DCR), has proactively noticed a rise in veterans' discrimination claims in the areas of employment, housing, and other subjects. Veterans are entitled to employment-related protection under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD). This law also provides substantial protection of those who seek to gain or continue employment with a disability. DCR has a special interest in any veterans with disabilities having discrimination complaints in employment, housing, public accommodations. They are also concerned about military reservists that have lost their employment or assigned to different positions following their return from military leave.

The DCR's office has suggested, and subsequently produced an education seminar to inform all veterans of their civil rights. They will explain the process to file a claim, and the locations of their offices that are available to assist veterans in need of these services.

The American Legion will host this and further seminars across the state.

If you have any general questions pertaining to this seminar, please call Bob Looby, The American Legion, Past State Commander, at 908-894-0746.

Coat, toys for kids drive

The Holiday season is upon us, support the annual Coat Drive and the Toy and Gifts for Kids Drive.

Coats will be collected at DMAVA's central office lobby from now through Nov. 16. All coats should be clean and in good condition. These coats will be donated to the Veterans Homes and to Veterans Haven.

The Toy Drive will run now through Dec. 19th. Gifts are needed for children of all ages, but the greatest need is for children 10-17 years of age. The gifts should be new and unwrapped. The lobby of DMAVA central office will serve as the drop-off site for Central Office staff.

Additional drop off locations will be designated at each Veteran Home, Doyle Cemetery, Veteran Haven, and Air Bases.

Please contact your Human Resources Office for location. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Paul Serdiuk via email at Paul.Serdiuk@dmava.state.nj.us or by phone at 609-530-6878.

DA photos now done at JB MDL

Attention New Jersey National Guard Soldiers: DA photos will now be handled by the Training Support Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

To schedule your DA photo appointment, please contact the TSC at 609-562-3340 or go on-line to the VIOS website at www.vios.army.mil.

The TSC, which is located at Building 5411, Alabama Avenue in the Fort Dix side of the base, is open Monday thru Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Photos will be taken by appointment only.




Military Job Fair & Open House

Date: Tuesday, November 22nd

Time: 10am - 2pm

Location: Coca-Cola Refreshments
South Brunswick Facility
60 Deans Rhode Hall Road
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE NORTHEAST REGION:



- Merchandise
- Driver
- Machine Operator
- Production Worker
- Warehouse Worker

- Warehouse Supervisor
- Distribution Supervisor
- Production Supervisor
- QA Supervisor
- Maintenance Supervisor
- Fleet Mechanic
- Fleet Supervisor
- Market Development Manager
- Account/Sales Manager

INVITATION ONLY EVENT

ALL CANDIDATES MUST FIRST APPLY ONLINE AT:

www.enjoycareers.com/military

Fortune 100 company job opportunity for military veterans - UPDATED

On Nov. 22, Coca-Cola Refreshments (CCR) will conduct a Veterans-Only open house from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. to honor military Veterans at their new South Brunswick Distribution Center, located on Rhode Hall Road and State Highway Route 130.

CCR will provide all attending military Veterans the opportunity to apply on-site for many Northeast employment opportunities. Interviews will be conducted and video orientations to CCR will be scheduled throughout the day. In addition, plant tours of the new facility will point out the different opportunities CCR offers in supply chain and other areas of interest.

For more information or questions about this open house, contact Frank Matos, field recruiter, at 732-729-4272 or via email at fmatos@coca-cola.com.

DMAVA Highlights is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. e-mail at pao@njdmava.state.nj.us.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth – The Adjutant General
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
Air Force Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist
Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist