

DMAVA Highlights

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Ceremony in Elizabeth honors war vets



New Jersey Army National Guard Spc. David Maldonado holds his son, Jayden, after a May 22 ceremony in Elizabeth honoring nearly two dozen service members from that city who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. Maldonado's mother, Carmen Ruiz, organized the event. (Photo courtesy City of Elizabeth)

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

When Spc. David Maldonado deployed to Iraq, his mother, Carmen Ruiz, wanted him to come home safe – and be recognized by his hometown of Elizabeth for his decision to serve.

Maldonado shipped out with the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion in January 2009 and as the weeks and months passed, Ruiz got to thinking. She knew she wasn't the only mother in Elizabeth to send a son or daughter off to war.

"Something big. We've got to do something big for these kids when they come home," Ruiz remembers thinking.

That something came on Saturday at a ceremony in the city's Winfield C. Scott Park. It was anything but small.

A crowd of more than 150 showed up to honor 20 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. Maldonado was there along with a dozen other New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers and several Sailors and Marines recently returned from the combat zones. A banner with the pictures of all the honorees was unfurled and will hang in Elizabeth City Hall.

Mayor J. Christian Bollwage told the crowd that the city was proud to be able to recognize its sons and daughters for their service.

"This is a special day and these are special people we've gathered to recognize," Bollwage said.

Ruiz said she'd pulled off the ceremony and run down the names of the recently returned service members by making a lot of phone calls and with a lot of help from her city's expansive veterans community. After the ceremony, she hosted a barbeque for the honorees.

"I'm so proud of those guys. I'm so proud their day was special," she said. "I want to see people in every town work hard to figure out who they should be honoring and then go out and do it."

TAKE TIME TO REMEMBER...

Moment of Remembrance 3 p.m. Memorial Day



June 5 is Memorial tree dedication

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, cordially invites you to attend a Global War on Terrorism Memorial Tree Dedication Ceremony honoring our four fallen Soldiers: Staff Sgt. Frank T. Carvill, Staff Sgt. Humberto F. Timoteo, Sgt. Ryan E. Doltz and Spc. Christopher M. Duffy on June 5 at 11 a.m. at the N.J. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, 101 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ. Military dress is ACUs for Army, ABUs for Air and business attire for civilians. This event will take place rain or shine.



Retirement workshops for PERS, TPAF members

The Division of Pensions and Benefits is offering Retirement Workshops to members of the PERS and TPAF who plan to retire between July 1, 2010 and January 1, 2011.

- Workshops are being held at the New Jersey Forensic Science Technology Center in Hamilton Township (Mercer County), N.J.

- Workshop times are at either 9 a.m. or 1 p.m. and are currently scheduled for June 4, 7, 11, 15, 18, 21, 25, and 30.

- Members interested in attending must register online using the link on the Division's Web site. Go to: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions and click the link for "Retirement Workshops". Seating is limited – additional dates may be added but cannot be guaranteed.

During the workshops, our representatives will take a step-by-step approach to explain topics that include retirement benefits, beneficiary options, group life insurance, the taxability of your pension, and health benefits in retirement.

If attending, members must print an Estimate of Retirement Benefits using the Member Benefits Online System (MBOS) and bring it to the workshop (retirement estimates will not be provided at the workshop). To register for MBOS go to: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.shtml and follow the registration instructions. Estimates obtained from MBOS are the same estimates obtained when visiting the Division's offices and use identical salary and service information.

Due to the recent increase in retirement applications, members must use the online Retirement Application available in MBOS. Submitting the application through MBOS reduces the chance of any delays in receipt of your application and provides for the fastest processing. Please also note that paper retirement applications will not be available and will not be accepted at the workshops.

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

Keeping green and keeping your green can oftentimes seem to be working against each other. As in – I know I will save money in my energy costs if I replace my old windows, but who can afford new ones? But there are a few ways you can raise your greening of the environment without taking a hit to the pocketbook.

Use your own coffee mug and don't use the to-go cup when you pick up your morning coffee. Carry silverware from home for your lunch to keep the plasticware out of the landfill.

Be careful with the water when brushing your teeth or washing dishes. Make sure your dishes and clothing are dirty before washing and rinsing them. Some clothes, like jeans, can be worn more than once. While you are doing the wash, if you have the space and time – hang your clothes out to dry instead of using that dryer – the second largest consumer of home power. In wet and cold weather, indoor racks will do the same job.

It is suggested that you unplug chargers for phones and cameras, and your televisions and computers when not in use as they continue to use power even after you have hit the off button. Or, plug it into a power strip that you can turn off when you are not using the appliances.

Before tossing that old T-shirt, towel or sheet – tear or cut it into smaller pieces and use it for rags, thereby cutting down on your need for paper towels.

Buy fresh fruit and veggies from your local farm market. You are not only saving on transportation costs – for yourself and the farmer – you are getting local produce and supporting your local farmer.

Find a way to reuse whatever you can. Before tossing something in the trash, ask yourself if there is a way you can use it in another way. Save something saved from the landfill, YEAH!!

Keep Green!

Photo information

Officers and NCOs can now schedule their DA photo appointment online for the N.J. National Guard photo studio at Joint Force HQ, Fort Dix.

Just visit fill out a work order, DA 3903, online at www.vios.army.mil, but you must log in with your CAC card. For assistance or more information registering on VIOS, contact Staff Sgt. Jorge L. Vazquez, G6 Network Control Center at 609-562-0333.

The studio accepts appointments for any week day from 8-10 a.m. or anytime during JFHQ drill weekends. For more information on studio hours contact Kryn P. Westhoven at (609) 847-2215.

Quotes

One man; two loves. No good ever comes of that.

--Euripides

Bed is a bundle of paradoxes: we go to it with reluctance, yet we quit it with regret.

--Charles Caleb Colton

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.

--Helen Keller

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New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

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Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Retired Col. Stephen G. Abel – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Maj. Yvonne Mays – Public Affairs Officer
Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison – Public Affairs Specialist
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Wounded Soldier and Family
Hotline
1-800-984-8523

Families

Free day for National Guard, families at Seaside on June 19

Take your family for a ride! Casino Pier at Seaside will open their water park and rides to all New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and their immediate family members. You must show your military ID card to get this special gift. Bring your family down to Casino Pier, 800 Ocean Terrace, Seaside Heights, N.J., on June 19; check in is from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. only. If you bring other family members or friends, they must purchase tickets for the park and rides.



Father's Day brunch at Picatinny

Are you looking for a special way to celebrate Father's Day? Come to the Cannon Gate catering, Picatinny Arsenal, June 20 at noon for the Father's Day Brunch.

Cost is \$20 per person, brunch for children 12 and under is half price. Call 973-724-2582 for reservations.



Children's folk ballet in NYC, free tickets for military, veterans

The Korean War 60th Anniversary Memorial Committee is presenting The Little Angels, the children's folk ballet of Korea on June 15 at the Manhattan Center in New York.

There will be two shows, at 3 and 7:30 p.m. All veterans and active duty military can receive free tickets to the event.

To get a ticket request form, call 973-916-0158, or e-mail LittleAngelsJune15@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.kw60project.com. The Manhattan Center is located at 311 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001.

DoD offers interactive education resource for military families

Department of Defense Education Activity's Educational Partnership proudly presents "Students at the Center," an interactive educational resource for everyone involved in the education of the children of our military service members. It has a lot of information for families, military commands, school officials and more. Check out the Web site at <http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/studentsAtTheCenter>.

Free community nights at the Franklin Institute for families

The Franklin Institute is introducing Target Community Nights at the Franklin Institute – free educational and fun-filled science nights, from 5-8 p.m., sponsored by Target. Everyone is welcome: join the fun and experience The Franklin Institute's exhibitions, special programs and themed activities.

Activities include FREE:

Access to all of The Franklin Institute's hands-on exhibits like Sports Challenge and The Giant Heart; tickets to the Tuttleman IMAX Theater; 3D shows in The Franklin Theater; live science shows; Fels Planetarium shows; and access to the Joel N. Bloom observatory. The monthly schedule varies and not all community nights offer free IMAX tickets, nor are the free IMAX tickets for feature length films.

The dates of the 2010 Target Community Nights are: June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20 and Nov. 17.

You will be asked to register when you arrive; the registration desk opens at 5 p.m.

Check out Blue Star Flag Program

Grantham University's Blue Star Flag program has been providing Blue Star Flags to Service members and their families since 2006. Grantham University is also offering scholarships and grants to Servicemembers and veterans. For further information about the Blue Star Flag program, please go to: <http://www.mybluestar-flag.com>.

Guard Youth Camp July 11-17

Applications are now available for the 2010 New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp being held at Sea Girt, July 11-17. To download an application, go to: http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html or contact your nearest Family Assistance Center.

State Family Programs

101 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville
Toll-free number 1-888-859-0352
Family Assistance – 609-530-6834/6884
State Youth Coordinator – 609-530-6836
Military Family Life consultants – 609-530-6835/6886
Yellow Ribbon Program – 609-530-6846/6853/6859
Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647; NJ 609-530-6867
Survivor Outreach Services – 609-530-6864
Fax – 609-530-6871

Military and family members health insurance questions should be directed to:

Tricare – Sgt. 1st Class Louis Tuck, 609-562-0865
US Family Health Plans – Pam Worley, 732-977-8531
VA Medical – Michelle Stefanelli, 973-676-1000, ext. 1727

Et Cetera

Memorial Day events

The 112th Field Artillery Association invites you to attend a Memorial Day salute for the men and women who have given their lives in uniformed service to the country. The salute will be held at the Lawrenceville Armory at 11 a.m. on May 31. There will be a brief ceremony and a 21-gun howitzer salute fired by the Soldiers of the Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion of the 112th Field Artillery.

The National Memorial Day Concert from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., will be broadcast live on all PBS stations from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m., on Sunday, May 30. The concert will include performances from country music star Brad Paisley, the National Symphony Orchestra as well as various bands, orchestras and choral groups from all of the armed services.

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will hold its Memorial Day ceremony on May 31 at 11 a.m. at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel. The guest speaker at this year's ceremony will be Maj. Gen. Glenn Rieth. The ceremony will also include the presentation of two scholarships to New Jersey high school seniors and the induction of two Vietnam Veterans into the Memorial's "In Memory" Program.

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will award two \$2,500 college scholarships to: Alexander Rentschler of Robbinsville, graduating from Robbinsville High School, and Samuel Tanner of Linwood, graduating from Mainland Regional High School.

During the ceremony, the Foundation will induct two Vietnam Veterans into its "In Memory" Program. "In Memory" honors New Jerseyans who served and died as a result of the war in Vietnam but whose names are not on the Memorial. The inductees' names will be placed on an engraved stone inside the Memorial so that all who visit will know that they are with their honored comrades.

The two "In Memory" inductees are:

- Dennis M. Duffy of Elizabeth, N.J., who served in U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. He died on March 5, 2009.
- Michael T. Lyon of Kendall Park, N.J., who served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1967 to 1969. He died on November 17, 2008.

The Marlboro (Township) Memorial Day Parade will take place on Sunday, May 23, starting at 2 p.m. The parade route will start in front of the Marlboro firehouse at the corner of Route 79 and School Road West and proceed along School Road West to the Veterans Memorial at the Marlboro Municipal Complex on 1979 Township Drive.

The annual parade honors military veterans, active and reserve service members and all fallen military service members who have paid the ultimate price for our country's freedoms and way of life.

On the behalf of Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, retired Col. Stephen G. Abel, you are invited to attend the Department's annual Memorial Day Observance on May 29 at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The Parade of Veterans begins at 10:30 a.m. and the Memorial Ceremony begins at 11 a.m.

"New York Museums Salute Memorial Day: A Weekend of Appreciation" is an effort conceived by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Alliance for the Arts and the Museums Association of New York. The salute will provide free admission to all active duty service members and veterans at each of the 54 participating institutions throughout Memorial Day Weekend. Some institutions operate on an abridged schedule over the holiday; visitors are encouraged to check the museum's schedule in advance.

Any one of the following accepted forms of identification must be presented along with photo ID to gain free admission:

- * Discharge papers: e.g. Certificate of Service, Separation Papers: DD-214 or DD-215
- * Active or Reserve military ID card
- * Retiree military ID card
- * Formal letter on VA letterhead confirming service and veteran status (e.g. VA Statement of Service or VA Benefits Award Letter for service connected disability, pension or DIC, etc.)
- * Veterans Identification Card (VIC)
- * TRICARE insurance card
- * Dog tags
- * Government-issued photo identifications that indicates military service

The following New York City cultural institutions are participating in this Memorial Day weekend event:

- BRONX - Bronx Museum; Wave Hill
- BROOKLYN - Brooklyn Museum; Brooklyn Children's Museum; New York Transit Museum; Waterfront Museum
- MANHATTAN - 9/11 Memorial and Museum Temporary Location; Alliance for the Arts; American Folk Art Museum; American Museum of Natural History; American Numismatic Society; Americas Society; Asia Society; Children's Museum; Columbia University Art Museum / Ira and Miriam Wallach Gallery; Cooper-Hewitt Museum; El Museo del Barrio; Ellis Island Museum of the American Experience; Goethe House German Cultural Center; Guggenheim Museum; Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum; Jewish Museum; Metropolitan Museum of Art; Museum for African Art; Museum of American Finance; Museum of Art and Design; Museum of Jewish History; Museum of the City of New York; Museum of Modern Art; National Museum of the American Indian; Neue Galerie; New Museum of Contemporary Art; New York City Fire Museum; New York Historical Society; Rubin Museum of Art; South Street Seaport; Studio Museum in Harlem; Taipei Galleri; Tenement Museum; The Drawing Center; The Forbes Magazine Galleries; The Hispanic Society of America; The Pierpont Morgan Library; Whitney Museum of American Art
- QUEENS - Alley Pond Environmental Center; American Museum of the Moving Image; Bowne House Historical Society; Isamu Noguchi Museum and Sculpture Garden; LaGuardia and Wagner Archives; P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center; Queens Museum of Art
- STATEN ISLAND - Alice Austen Historical House; Sailor's Snug Harbor Cultural Center; Staten Island Museum

Veterans & Military

Organizations combine to help veterans re-entering workforce

Bergen County Community College, the G.I. Go Fund and the Bergen County Workforce Investment Board, present "Veterans Re-entering the Workforce." The event will be held on June 8, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Technology Building of the Bergen Community College.

This program features a job fair with numerous employers, employment readiness sessions and resource rooms with job coaches.

There is no fee for this event. Proof of military service is required.

For more information call Jackie Lue Raia at 201-301-1247 or Diane Fewkes at 201-301-1249. Or visit the program on Facebook at veteransjobfair@gmail.com.

Employment assistance training for OIF/OEF veterans

The New Jersey National Guard is working with the Veterans Training Initiative to help Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with employment assistance training. VTI helps veterans identify military skills that translate to the civilian workplace and the best way to highlight those skills during a job search. The organization provides assistance in resume writing, interview techniques and helps translate military term into the language of business. A seminar on these topics will be held June 5 and 6 at Colts Neck High School. For more information, please visit www.veteranstransition.net or contact Kacie Glbraith.

Monmouth University looking for volunteers for veterans program

Monmouth University is looking for volunteers to help launch its Yellow Ribbon Mentorship Program to help student-veterans as they pursue their degrees at the West Long Branch university.

Paul Gaffney, the university president a retired U.S. Navy vice admiral, said he envisions the mentorship program as an extra benefit to students who are attending the school using the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008.

Although the tuition assistance provided under the act is substantial, Gaffney wants the university to also be able to respond to all of the needs of their student-veterans. The volunteers could assist university staff with needs such as job networking, fellowship, and family help.

Gaffney believes students who have served in the military would benefit from having mentors who are veterans. If you live in the general vicinity of Monmouth University, and are interested in volunteering or finding out more...please contact program coordinator Jose Siandre at Jose.Siandre@glacialenergy.com.

FDU hosts workshop for vets

Fairleigh Dickinson University will host the first ever Vets4Vets workshop at its campus in Madison on June 25-27.

Vets4Vets is a non-partisan veteran organization dedicated to helping Iraq and Afghanistan-era veterans feel good and heal from any negative aspects of service and war through the use of peer support.

This workshop is free and open to all OEF/OIF veterans in New Jersey. The workshop includes free transportation, food and lodging. To learn more about Vets4Vets, visit at <http://www.vets4-vets.us>

To register, fill out the workshop registration form on the website and email it to Info@Vets4Vets.us, or fax it to 520-325-0772. Registration forms must be received by June 11. Once your form has been received, Vets4Vets will contact you with additional workshop details.

Ultimate Warrior Career Workshop slated for June 9

Out there looking for a job? Looking to change career fields? Come to The Ultimate Warrior Career Workshops and Job Fair at The Timmerman Center on June 9 and 10 for workshops, services and opportunities to meet with companies who are hiring.

On June 9, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. there will be technical workshops and services. Workshops include interviewing tips and techniques and meeting with career and job coaches.

On June 10, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., a job fair with recruiters from defense contractors and private sector employers will be present.

For more information on the event or to register to attend, contact Sgt. Maj. James Clark at 301-674-9427, james.clarksr1@us.army.mil or Sgt. 1st Class Loranda Taylor, 609-864-2559, loranda.mitriece.taylor@us.army.mil.

Uniform for the event will be ACUs. No child care is available on site. Everyone must have a copy of their resume on a CD or hardcopy; thumb drives are not authorized.

Register now for 2010 Service Members golf tourney June 4

The 2010 Service Member's Cup golf tournament is scheduled for June 4, with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. This event is a great time for all those who participate. Join us and help support the Picatinny Unit Fund. Sign up in the golf shop by June 2. The cost for the tournament is \$35 for active duty military, \$70 for annual fee patrons and \$90 for all non-annual fee patrons. These prices include: golf, carts, prizes, lunch, surf and turf dinner, and a chance to win up to \$15,000! Stop by the golf shop to sign up your foursome or sign up as a single. If you cannot make it into the golf shop, call us at 973-724-4653 and we will sign you up.

Calendar

Veterans, military eligible to receive free tickets to Mets games

From Tony Ntellas, Field Service Coordinator Wounded Warrior Project

The Wounded Warrior Project has been contacted by the New York Mets. They have asked us to help them with their program, "Welcome Back Veterans." Visit <http://www.welcome-backveterans.org/> for more information. The Mets would like to honor people that have served in the United States Military. The honoree will receive a total of four tickets for free, front row third baseline. During the third inning, the veteran will be honored on the huge play-by-play screen in center field.

If you are interested, provide the following information as soon as possible. Those veterans who participated last year are not eligible to participate again this year.

Needed:

Game Date - pick a game from one of these dates: June 5, 9, 10, 23, 24, 25, and 26. Find more information about the games at http://mlb.mlb.com/schedule/index.jsp?c_id=nym&m=04&y=2010.

Four pictures via e-mail (in military uniform if possible)

Biography with the following: title, branch, rank, name, e-mail, cell phone, list of awards and decorations, date of entry in service, branch of service, dates of service, where were you stationed, brief description of duties while there. Also, let the program know if you would like the tickets mailed to your home. If so, include your full mailing address.

Send everything to Tony at atntellas@woundedwarriorproject.org.

Guard families holding Band of Brothers Memorial Poker Run

The families of the four New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers who were killed in Iraq in June 2004 are honoring the memory of their fallen heroes with the Band of Brothers Memorial Poker Run which will be held on June 6, 2010.

The families are asking for their friends' and communities help and support with the event. All donations – monetary or otherwise – will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged on the day of the event. All donations are tax deductible. Individuals or organizations donating \$1,000 or more will have their names listed on the Run T-shirt.

All profits will be divided among the Friends of Frank Carvill Foundation, the SGT Ryan E. Doltz Memorial Foundation and the Duffy and Timoteo families.

For more information visit www.RememberingRyan.org.

Texas Hold'em, Picatinny July 31

As the song says – "You have to know when to hold' em, know when to fold' em" and the Texas Hold'em Tournament is there to see if anyone knows when that is. The tournament will be held July 31 at the Cannon Gate Catering at 11 a.m. Cost is \$40 per person. Call 973-724-2582 for reservations; seating is limited. Prizes will be awarded for the top ten players.

Remember another line from the song: "every hand's a winner and every hand's a loser."

DMAVA picnic is on calendar for June 17

It's that time again – time for the DMAVA/JFHQs Picnic! This year it will be held on June 17, next to the HSCOE building on the DMAVA campus at approximately noon. Cost is \$10 now; \$15 at the entrance.

The menu will be sausage, hot dogs, hamburgers, potato and macaroni salads, cole slaw, baked beans, ice cream and beverages. Dress is appropriate summer attire.

There will be a town hall meeting at 11 a.m. prior to the picnic. Attendance at the town hall meeting is mandatory. For those employees who do not choose to attend the picnic, it will be a full and normal workday and they must return to their regular duty station. Buses will be provided for those attending the town hall meeting from the Dix/McGuire areas.

Payment can be made to your department representative:

DMAVA – Darlene Laarz, 609-530-6992; Dawn Baulo, 609-530-6717; Tina Taylor, 609-530-7170; and Karen Hansen 609-530-6868.

Fort Dix – Barbara Alcott, 609-562-0870; and Bonnie Gaskell, 609-562-0925.

HSCOE – Kevin Hearn, 609-530-7069.

Veterans Outreach Campaign schedule

The DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign has kiosk displays at malls throughout the state and other special events to help veterans and their family members discover and apply for the benefits they are eligible to receive.

Outreach Events Only

June	Wildwood Convention Center
3-4	Elks State Convention
9-11	American Legion State Convention
16-18	Veterans of Foreign Wars State Convention

July 30	First Energy State Park, Lakewood Lakewood Blue Claws Veterans Appreciation Night
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August 29	TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater Somerset Patriots Veterans of America Day
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