

View in Web Browser

February 19, 2025



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

Commissioner's Corner



The Importance of Connection

In our work supporting Garden State Service Members, Veterans, and their families, we talk a lot about connectedness, both social connection and connection to resources.

New Jersey is fortunate to have a veteran and military community more than 300,000 strong. At the community level, veteran service organizations and many other groups committed to helping others meet routinely to share stories, support one another, and organize volunteer work. These organizations and their members help brothers and sisters who selflessly served the United States. Indeed, one's sense of military comradery does not have to end with a set of orders. There are many opportunities to get involved and continue to give back. I encourage you to visit our outreach schedule for an opportunity near you.

There is also a large network of formal support and resources available to those who serve, those who have served, and those who care for them. In 2024, my team realized our important goal of opening a physical Veterans Service Office in each of our state's twenty-one counties. These locations serve as points of entry to the benefits, programs, and services that Garden State heroes have earned through their service. Our trained and accredited Veteran Service Officers are a phone call away. You can dial 1-844-671-1019 for a phone menu to those offices. Want to email a question? Send it to the state Veterans Benefits Bureau account at vbb@dmava.nj.gov.

Most importantly, if you are having a tough time and would like to talk to someone who has walked a similar path - call DMAVA's New Jersey Vet2Vet helpline at 1-866-838-7654 any time of day, seven days a week.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, dial 988 and Press 1 for Veteran.

Those who are reading this message are the doers. You made a conscious decision to learn more about the benefits, programs, and services provided by DMAVA and our partners. I ask that you forward this email and continue to not only share information, but

continue to take the time to reach out to our brothers and sisters who have worn our nation's uniform. Take that step, and then take one more. Never underestimate the value of time and meals shared in fellowship with the veteran community.

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.

Brigadier General Yvonne L. Mays
Adjutant General & Commissioner



Featured Event



PROJECT PROM
Shop Event

Military families: Come check out our collection of gently used formal dresses and gowns at no cost!

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 23RD
1-4PM
BORDENTOWN ARMORY
1048 US-206 S
BORDENTOWN, NJ

POINT OF CONTACT
call or text 609-847-0822

Browse our digital catalog!
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/njngfp/collections/>

Dress sizes from 00-26. Variety of colors, styles and designs.





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.

- February 21 | Woodbridge
[Veterans Outreach Campaign & Medal Ceremony](#)
- February 23 | Bordentown
[Project Prom Shop Event for NJNG Dependents](#)
- February 26 | Virtual
[Exploring Timbuctoo: A Community's Legacy in NJ History](#)
- March 5 | Piscataway
[Middlesex County Stakeholders Meeting](#)
- March 5 | Toms River
[Veterans Outreach Campaign & State Medal Ceremony](#)
- March 7 | JBMDL
[Retirement Briefing for 108th Wing](#)
- March 8 | Bordentown
[Military Transition / Retirement Seminar](#)
- March 10 | Monroe
[Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)

Community Calendar

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

[View Full Calendar](#)

Black History Month



Exploring Timbuctoo: A Community's Legacy in New Jersey History

The New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs invites all employees and community members to an enriching event that explores the powerful history of Timbuctoo—one of New Jersey's earliest African American settlements.

Join us as historian and descendant **Guy Weston** shares the remarkable story of Timbuctoo, a community built by free African Americans and formerly enslaved people, its deep ties to the Underground Railroad, and the courageous Black soldiers from Timbuctoo who served in the Civil War.

 **Date:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025

 **Time:** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

 **Location:** Virtual Event (Teams Webinar)

 **Registration Required:**
Scan the QR Code or Click the Link to Register

This event is open to ALL state employees and community members as we honor this important chapter of New Jersey's shared history.

SCAN THE QR CODE

REGISTER HERE



OR



DEIB EVENT DISCLAIMER

Due to federal regulations, DEIB and cultural observance events are open to state employees ONLY at this time. Federal employees are not permitted to participate during business hours while on federal time. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

NJ National Guard



State Command Chief Warrant Officer

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jennifer Tossas assumed responsibility as the State Command Chief Warrant Officer during a ceremony at the Bordentown Armory on February 8, 2025.

[View Images](#) | [View Video](#)



Last Formation Ceremony

U.S. Army Brigadier General Mike LaPoint, Assistant Adjutant General – Army, and Command Sergeant Major Mark A. Leonard, the State Command Sergeant Major of the New Jersey National Guard, held a Last Formation ceremony at the [Joint Military & Family Assistance Center](#) in Bordentown, NJ on February 8, 2025.

The Last Formation ceremony recognizes Soldiers and their families who are departing or starting a much-deserved retirement from military service.

[View Images](#)

Join Our Team

100% Free College Tuition
Bonuses | GI Bill
Student Loan Repayment



DMAVA Veterans Services



NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland

Members of the Montebello Veteran's Group from West Berlin, NJ, held a bingo event for the residents at the [New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland](#) on February 13, 2025.

The Group is a huge advocate in the community to raise funds for the Vineland Home. Last December, they presented the Vineland Home with a \$7,000 donation.

The group sponsors multiple events throughout the year ranging from bowling, bingo events, and a barbeque each September at the Home's Victory Garden. In addition, they have taken residents to a Phillies game and bought each resident that attended a hat and t-shirt.

[View Images](#)



NJ Veterans Home at Paramus

Residents at the [New Jersey Veterans Home at Paramus](#) received handmade Valentine's cards from students at Richard E. Byrd School, which were delivered by NJ State Assemblywoman [Lisa Swain](#) on February 14, 2025.

Residents also enjoyed cards, gifts, food and other donations from organizations such as [YWCA Northern New Jersey](#), [Paramus Elks #2001](#), [The Woman's Club of Brielle](#), and many others.



NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park

Residents at the [New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park](#) received handmade Valentine's cards, enjoyed live music, and were treated to desserts on February 14, 2025.

Members of [East Brunswick Memorial VFW Post Auxiliary 133](#) assisted in giving residents food and Valentine's cards, and music was performed by Victor and Cindy Capetta.



NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland

Members of the [Hammonton Canoe Club - Seniors 50+](#) distributed more than 200 handmade Valentine's cards – each with a crocheted heart – to residents at the [New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland](#) on February 13, 2025.

[View Images](#)



Luis Segura, Sussex County VSO

Luis Segura is the DMAVA Veterans Service Officer (VSO) for Sussex County.

If you know anyone in need of assistance regarding Veteran's benefits, please contact Luis or one of his colleagues by visiting our website at [Veterans Service Offices](#).



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 Service Providers

Do you provide services to Veterans? We would like to get you enrolled in this new online referral network, Unite NJ Veterans. This digital platform connects Veterans to the resources around them quickly. [Learn more and enroll](#).

**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



NJ Veterans' Benefits Hotline

888-865-8387

vbb@dmava.nj.gov

Veterans Outreach Schedule

Veterans Service Offices

DMAVA Departments

NEW JERSEY
YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY
DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.

YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

TUITION FREE

Now accepting applications for Class 60 - July 2025.

APPLY NOW!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

-  njyca.org/admissions
-  rpm@dmava.nj.gov
-  (800) 997-5587 / (732) 974-6516

Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

DEIB Newsletter

State Partners

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION'S
**Statewide
 Government
 Job Fair**



Connecting talents, building the future of New Jersey.

**THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION IS
 PROUD TO PARTNER WITH**



**TO CONNECT STATE AND LOCAL
 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, COLLEGES,
 AND UNIVERSITIES WITH TALENTED
 INDIVIDUALS LIKE YOU.**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025
 10:00AM – 1:00PM**

The College of New Jersey
 Brower Student Center
 2000 Pennington Road
 Ewing, New Jersey 08618

Parking is available in Lots 5, 6, and 7

Information Sessions:
How to Apply for a State Job

**Bring copies of your resume for
 hiring agencies of your interest.**



Register Now!

<https://forms.office.com/g/cJp1gK9SGU>

Empowering Abilities,
 Embracing Inclusivity
www.nj.gov/csc



Sponsored by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission,
 Office of Diversity Programs and The College of New Jersey



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](#)
- [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



Tax season guidance for Veterans

VA News | February 6, 2025

As tax season approaches, many Veterans begin gathering their necessary financial documents and consulting with tax professionals. VA wants Veterans to know they may qualify for special tax breaks and [free assistance programs](#) to help them navigate the filing process and maximize their returns.

Whether a Veteran files their taxes independently or uses a tax professional, VA encourages Veterans and their loved ones to review the following tips and resources to both help them navigate the tax season with confidence and to avoid [tax season scams](#).

[Learn More](#)



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).**





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
(1-855-829-6636)
or chat with us online**

Weekdays 8:00 am – 10:00 pm ET
Saturday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm ET




U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

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](#)

In the News



Veteran takes on fight against food insecurity in New Jersey

Ray Zardetto | roi-nj.com | January 29, 2025

Jon Rowe joined the nation's war against terrorism upon graduating college in 2008. He served for six years in the U.S. Navy, including two tours in Afghanistan.

He transitioned to civilian life in 2014, and after working for Wayfair, Amazon and Clutter, Rowe joined New Jersey's war against hunger. He became the Vice President of Operations for Fulfill, the Monmouth and Ocean County food bank in 2022.

"I was employed by Clutter and things were going well, but I thought the non-profit aspect of Fulfill was appealing," he said. "The chance to use your skills and talents for a charitable purpose – there is

something more to it when you use your talent to achieve what we achieve at Fulfill.”

Fulfill is part of Feeding America, a Chicago-based nationwide non-profit network of 200 food banks and pantries. In New Jersey, it has a main operations center in Neptune and a satellite operation in Toms River.

[Read Full Story](#)



Horizon Foundation launches grant program to support New Jersey veterans

Ray Zardetto | Excerpt from roi-nj.com | February 3, 2025

The [About Us – The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey](#) the philanthropic arm of Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield, is launching a special Veterans Health Initiative on Feb. 3. It will provide grants to veterans’ organizations that are addressing the unique challenges veterans face.

“This is a new veterans-focused grants program,” Uli Diaz, senior vice president of government and community affairs for Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield said. “The Horizon Foundation has created this special Veterans Health Initiative in recognition of the extraordinary sacrifices and contributions veterans have made and to help ensure these veterans get the support they need and deserve.”

The Foundation will award one-year grants up to \$20,000 for veterans' organizations which serve veterans and their families.

[Read Full Story](#)

Editors Note: Attend a [March Zoom meeting](#) to learn more.

Retiree Spotlight



Chief Master Sergeant Montalvo

On February 1, 2025, the [108th Wing](#) celebrated the retirement of Chief Master Sgt. Marcie Montalvo after 32 years of service with the New Jersey Air National Guard.

We wish you well in your future endeavors and hope you enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

Thank you for your three-plus decades of honorable service!

DMAVA Throwback



NJ Youth ChalleNGe Academy Class 1

With the help from two Cadets, New Jersey Adjutant General Major General Paul J. Glazar, Governor Christine Todd Whitman and Director George W. Paffendorf cut the ribbon at the official opening ceremony for the [NJ Youth ChalleNGe Academy](#) on October 11, 1994 at Fort Dix, NJ.

A total of 122 youth from around the state began the first session two weeks prior on September 25, 1994.

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



Essex Troop in Washington, D.C. in 1913

February 25, 1966

Marine Staff Sergeant Peter S. Connor of South Orange was mortally wounded in Vietnam when he threw himself on a hand

February 29, 1780

Continental Army Quartermaster General Nathanael Greene wrote from Morristown: "Our provisions are in a manner, gone. We have not

grenade to save his men from injury. Connor's self-sacrifice was posthumously recognized when he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

February 28, 1844

Princeton-born United States Navy captain Robert Stockton took his ship, the USS Princeton, for a pleasure cruise on the Potomac River, with President John Tyler, his cabinet and 200 guests aboard. A cannon designed by Stockton was fired and exploded, killing six people, including Secretary of State Abel Upshur, Secretary of the Navy Thomas Gilmer and the president's soon to be father-in-law as well as his personal valet. A quickly held court of inquiry absolved the captain, a personal friend of Tyler.

February 28, 1942

A German submarine torpedoed the SS R.P. Resor eighteen miles east of Lavallette on a bright moonlit night. The explosion and "spectacular, towering fire" was so great that it could be seen from shore, and the Shark River Lifeboat Station was the first to report the incident. Only two men survived. The following morning, the World War I-era destroyer USS Jacob Jones was torpedoed while searching for more

a ton of hay at command, nor magazine [supply point] to draw from. Money is extremely scarce, and worth little when we get it. We have been so poor in camp for a fortnight, (two weeks) that we could not forward the public dispatches, for want of cash to support the expresses."

March 2, 1902

Morris "Moe" Berg was born in New York City. Raised in Newark's Roseville section, Berg became the best baseball player the city ever produced, with a brilliant mind to boot, graduating from Princeton University and Columbia University Law School. He became a major league baseball player and coach, World War II OSS agent and legendary eccentric Roseville character. Berg died in Belleville on May 29, 1972. His last words were "how did the Mets do today?"

March 2, 1933

President Herbert Hoover signed legislation making George Washington's headquarters and his Army's winter camp at Morristown the first National Historical Park in the United States.

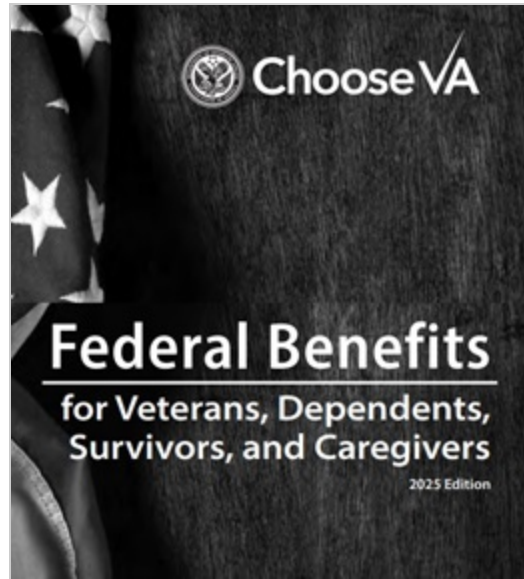
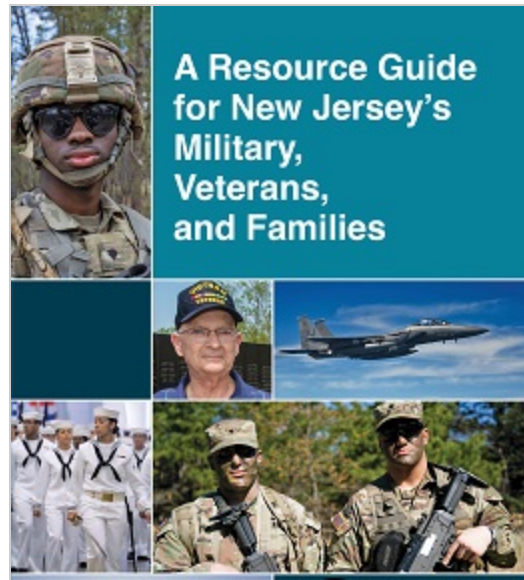
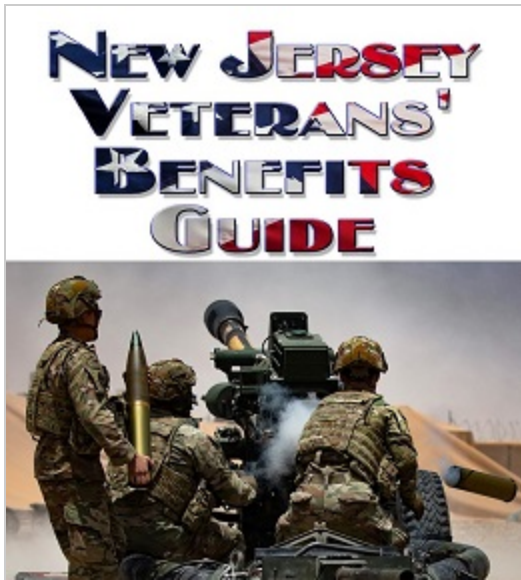
March 4, 1913

New Jersey Governor Woodrow Wilson was inaugurated as President of the United States. Wilson's inaugural parade was led

survivors. There were only twelve survivors of the sinking of the Jones.

by the Essex Troop, a New Jersey National Guard cavalry unit from Newark wearing British-influenced full dress uniforms custom tailored by Brooks Brothers in New York City.

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



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 to get contact information.

Contact DMAVA

Please email us at 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

Subscribe



nj.gov/military

NJ Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

101 Eggerts Crossing Road

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

[Privacy Notice](#)

Disclaimer: The appearance of any non-DMAVA information or hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement of the products or services on the part of the New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.