

[View in Web Browser](#)

September 25, 2024



DMAVA

**Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs**

Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

Commissioner's Corner



Menlo Park, Paramus achieve deficiency-free surveys

The New Jersey Veterans Memorial Homes at Menlo Park and Paramus achieved zero deficiencies in two separate no-notice focused infection control surveys, or inspections conducted by the New Jersey Department of Health on behalf of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The surveys occurred on Sept. 5, 2024 and Sept. 10, 2024. Menlo Park and Paramus are two of three long-term care facilities operated by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

The inspections assessed the homes' procedures related to infection control regulations, including staff handwashing, donning and doffing of personal protective equipment, and continuing education records. Additionally, inspectors reviewed kitchen and sanitizing operations, contact tracing, cohorting, isolation and quarantine protocols and found no deficiencies.

These on the ground achievements are supported by systemic changes implemented at all three homes. These changes include new electronic medical records systems, a learning management system that has enabled thousands of hours of training and continuing education for direct care and non-direct care staff, and increased wages for frontline healthcare workers to attract and retain the best and most qualified individuals to care for residents.

Moreover, the modernization of Menlo Park and Paramus from double to single occupancy rooms remains on track. The projects

are approaching 95% design. We await the federal decision on the state's applications for the 65% federal funding match through the VA State Home Construction Program.

Especially as we enter cold and flu season, the more eyes the better. We welcome these survey teams. I am grateful to the entire DMAVA team and the Veterans Service Organizations and volunteers who continue to support our residents. Whether it is containing infectious diseases or providing overall care and quality of life, we remain laser focused on ensuring that we not only meet standards, but exceed them.

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.

**Colonel Yvonne L. Mays, Acting
Adjutant General & Commissioner**



Invitation



Colonel Yvonne L. Mays

The Acting Adjutant General of New Jersey

cordially invites you to attend the

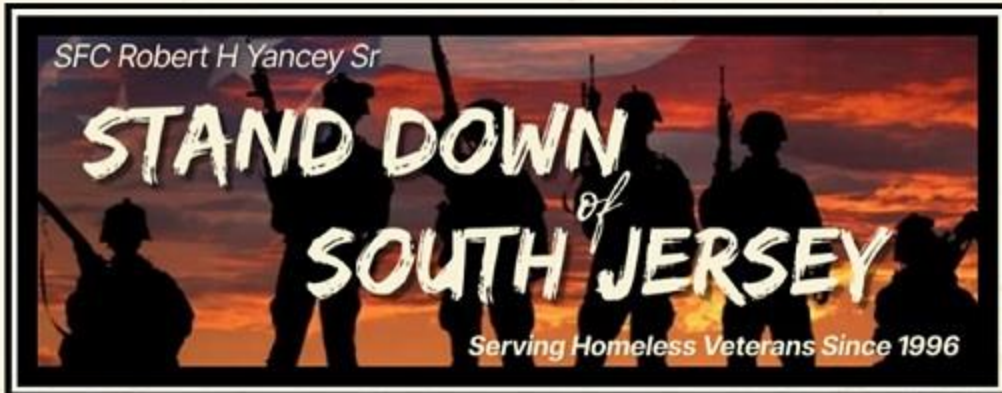
Annual Governor's Military Review

Sunday, 6 October 2024, at 10:00 am

National Guard Training Center
Camp Drive and Sea Girt Avenue
Parade Field
Sea Girt, New Jersey 08750-0277

Military: Duty Uniform
Civilian: Business Casual

Featured Events



FRIDAY, SEPT 27, 2024

★ **8:30am - 12:30pm** ★

LOCATION: Cherry Hill Armory, Grove St & Park Blvd,, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002



The following Services and Assistance will be available;

VA BENEFIT COUNSELING * MEAL * PTSD COUNSELING * MENTAL
HEALTH * WELFARE * SOCIAL SECURITY * FOOD STAMPS * LEGAL
SERVICES * ADDICTION SERVICES * HOUSING * MEDICAL *
EMPLOYMENT * UNEMPLOYMENT * HAIRCUTS * CLOTHING *
PROVISIONS AND MORE !

*For VETERANS ONLY (no family/children) Proof Required - Pre-registration
and transportation arrangements call 1-888-865-8387, then press 1*

VOLUNTEERS and SERVICE PROVIDER Applicants, apply at

WWW.STANDDOWNSOUTHJERSEY.ORG





CITY OF **NEWARK**
Mayor Ras J. Baraka

*Assemblywoman
Cleopatra Tucker*

NORTHERN NJ VETERANS STAND DOWN



Saturday, October 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

@ the JFK Recreation Center- 211 W Kinney St, Newark, NJ 07103

VETERANS PLEASE BRING YOUR DD214, RESERVISTS AND NATIONAL GUARD WELCOME

TRANSPORTATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS

SERVICES AND RESOURCES WILL INCLUDE:

**VA HEALTHCARE
PUBLIC BENEFITS
NON-PROFIT SERVICES**

**MEDICAL SCREENINGS
HOMELESS SSVF
HOUSING**

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
LEGAL ASSISTANCE
AND MUCH MORE**

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL ATTENDEES, VENDORS, AND VOLUNTEERS

FOR MORE INFO OR TO RSVP, PLEASE CALL 1-885-289-8527 OR EMAIL NJSOSVETS@GMAIL.COM

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.

September 26 | Columbus
[Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)

September 26 | Pompton Plains
[State Medal Ceremony & Outreach Campaign](#)

September 27 | Cherry Hill
[Stand Down of South Jersey](#)

September 27 | Rockaway
[Mobile NJMVC & Veteran Resource Fair](#)

September 30 | Jersey City
[Free Haircut Day for Veterans](#)

October 2 | Delran
[Veteran Appreciation Dinner](#)

October 5 | Elmwood Park
[4th Annual Elmwood Park Celebrates Seniors](#)

October 6 | Sea Girt
[Annual Governor's Military Review](#)

October 6 | Sea Girt
[Lecture: The Haunted History of New Jersey](#)

October 8 | Toms River
[Ocean County Disability Job & Resource Fair](#)

October 8 | Mount Laurel
[Burlington County Veterans Expo](#)

October 12 | Newark
[Northern New Jersey Veterans Stand Down](#)

October 12 | Woodbine
[13th Annual Car Show & Swap Meet](#)

Community Calendar

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

[View Full Calendar](#)

USS New Jersey



Sailors assigned to USS New Jersey (SSN 796) stand by to man their ship during a commissioning ceremony at Naval Weapons Station Earle. (Photo: U.S. Navy MCC Joshua Karsten)

USS New Jersey Commissioned at Earle

On Saturday, September 14th, Governor Philip D. Murphy represented the State of New Jersey at the commissioning of the USS New Jersey, the U.S. Navy's newest fast-attack submarine. Held at Earle Naval Weapons Station, the ceremony culminated a years-long process for commissioning the third Navy ship named after the state of New Jersey, the most recent being the decorated Battleship New Jersey which saw action during WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

New Jersey's commanding officer, Cmdr. Steve Halle, called the event "a truly historic moment" during his remarks and thanked the

Governor, distinguished guests, shipbuilders, and the many organizations that supported the effort.

“To the crew, the plank owners, this ceremony is about you,” continued Halle. “You operate the most complex platform on the planet and you continuously strive for excellence. I’m amazed and humbled at what we have accomplished.”

“Our superior professionalism is enhanced by our crew integration and our diversity,” Halle said of the first mixed gender crew on a fast-attack submarine. “We have exceeded expectations at every turn and overcome every obstacle set before us.”

The submarine is 377 feet long, has a 34-foot beam and is able to dive to depths greater than 800 feet and operate at speeds in excess of 25 knots. New Jersey has a crew of nearly 135 Navy personnel.

NJ National Guard



Col. Yvonne L. Mays, Acting Adjutant General, and Assemblywoman Carol Murphy present Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Dutko with a legislative proclamation.

108th Wing Dedicates Building in Honor of Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert S. Dutko

Tech. Sgt Anna-kay Ellis | NJANG | September 16, 2024

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ - A ceremony was held at the 108th Wing on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ, September 14, 2024, to dedicate the Mission Generation Complex in honor of Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert S. Dutko Sr. The dedication ceremony commemorated Dutko's distinguished service and enduring legacy within the [108th Wing](#) and the New Jersey Air National Guard.

The event was attended by state and community leaders, veterans, military retirees, family members, and Airmen from the 108th Wing,

all of whom gathered to celebrate the official renaming of building 3369. The newly dedicated facility will continue to serve as the central hub for the 108th Logistics and Readiness Squadron.

[Read Full Story](#)



44th IBCT

44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers assigned to Task Force Redleg, supporting members of [Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve](#), conduct a live-fire exercise utilizing the M119 howitzer at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, to maintain proficiency and readiness.



44th IBCT

44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers from Task Forces Elkhound, Wolverine, and Pegasus assigned to [Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve](#), performed a combined arms live fire exercise (CALFEX) in eastern Syria on September 9, 2024. Units must demonstrate and maintain their readiness to ensure the enduring defeat of ISIS.



44th IBCT

44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers from Task Force Armadillo assigned to [Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve](#), completed a ruck march to commemorate the American lives lost on September 11, 2001.



2-113th Infantry Regiment

44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers assigned to Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry Regiment, members of [Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve](#), participated in a night training exercise to maintain unit readiness and proficiency at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. Training exercises like these ensure Soldiers are always efficient in their tasks.

Join Our Team

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



DMAVA Veterans Services



(Pictured l-to-r) Chuck Robbins, Ellen Schaffer, Mike Schaffer, Joe Nyzio.
Photo courtesy of Michael Smith - American Legion Dept. of New Jersey.

State Medal Ceremony

On September 21, 2024, DMAVA presented the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the NJ POW-MIA Medal (Posthumously) to Ellen Schaffer, Niece of Army Air Corps Technical Sergeant Andrew Hodulik of Clinton, NJ.

Hodulik was part of a crew of 10 that was declared “Missing In Action” as their B-17 Flying Fortress disappeared into the North Sea while on a Bombing Mission to Duren, Germany on October 17, 1943.

The presentation was made at the NJ Sons of The American Legion “POW-MIA Watchfire” held annually to remember New Jersey’s and our Nation’s Missing from all Wars. DMAVA’s Chuck Robbins and Joe Nyzio made the presentation.



State Medal Ceremony

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs held a state medal ceremony at the John W. Lupo American Legion Post #306 in Middlesex, NJ on September 20, 2024.

[View Images](#)



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.](#)



SMS Alerts - Text "NJVets" to 78015

Opt-in now to receive SMS Alerts from DMAVA! Text "NJVets" to 78015 or scan the QR code above and send. You will be immediately opted-in to receive alerts and important messages from the Division of Veterans Services.

This service is provided free of charge, however, carrier messaging and data rates may apply. To opt-out at any time, simply reply "Stop".

**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:

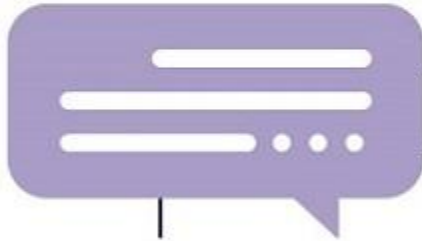
(888) 865-8387,

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



Office of Records and Archives

DMAVA's Administrative Services Division's Office of Records and Archives is the office that receives military discharges from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and occasionally, the Merchant Marines. This applies to both the Active Duty and their Reserves, to include the National Guard.

The DMAVA employees of the Records and Archives Office are some of the busiest people within the Department. They are responsible for the archiving, storage and issuance of copies of military records of all the State's service members and Veterans.

For more information, visit our website at [Request Military Records](#).

NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.



Now accepting applications
for Class 59 - January 2025.

**APPLY
NOW!**

**TUITION
FREE**



FOR MORE INFORMATION:



njyca.org/admissions



rpm@dmava.nj.gov



(800) 997-5587 / (732) 974-6516





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](#)

[Troops to Teachers](#)

[Journey Through Jersey](#)

Federal Partners



VA expands online notice availability for Veterans

VA News | September 23, 2024

Veterans can now access key VA letters and notices online, including documents outlining the evidence needed to support disability claims, through VA.gov.

VA has recently expanded the types of documents available online, adding more letters that help Veterans understand the evidence

required for their claims. This update includes notices and follow-up development letters, which explain the type of evidence needed and how it can support a claim.

[Read Full News Feature](#)



Agent Orange Newsletter

The 2024 issue of the *Agent Orange Newsletter*, an annual newsletter for Vietnam Veterans and their families, is now online at [Agent Orange Newsletter](#).



3 Tips for VA Disability Claims

In this episode of theSITREP, the host covers three tips to consider when submitting a claim for VA disability.

[theSITREP Podcast](#)

The advertisement features a background image of two soldiers in camouflage uniforms standing in a field with smoke and fire in the distance. A large, semi-transparent biohazard symbol is overlaid on the right side of the image. At the top, there are three sets of military service ribbons: Vietnam (yellow, red, green, blue, white), Gulf War (blue, red, green, white, black), and Post-9/11 (red, black, white, yellow, black, red, white). Below the ribbons, the text asks: "WERE YOU EXPOSED TO BURN PITS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CHEMICALS, AGENT ORANGE, OR OTHER TOXINS WHILE SERVING IN THE MILITARY?" In the bottom right corner, it says "Apply for VA health care today at VA.gov/PACT." The bottom of the ad is a dark blue banner with the VA logo, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs seal and name, a QR code, and contact information: "Have questions? Call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 0 to speak with someone right away."

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.**

VA |  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



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Featured Links

[National Parks Pass](#)

[VALife Insurance](#)

[VA Urgent Care Services](#)

[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](#)

Warrior Spotlight



Senior Airman Jenna Pagnotta

For the month of September, the [108th Wing](#) is proud to feature SrA Jenna Pagnotta.

Pagnotta has found a unique way to support her fellow service members by bringing her certified therapy dog, Tilly, to work, boosting morale and providing much-needed mental health support.

"Mental health support has always been important to me, and it's great that I can help make someone's day better. Tilly takes the monotony out of the work week and gives people an excuse to step away from their desks, have light-hearted conversations, and interact with a dog who's always happy to see them."

Employee Spotlight



Dr. Samuel L. Hayes Jr.

With twenty-five years of military service in the United States Air Force, Dr. Samuel L. Hayes Jr. serves as program manager for New Jersey's "[Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicides among Service Members, Veterans & Their Families](#)" within the Division of Veterans Services Division. He directs efforts to prevent suicide among service members, veterans, and their families, implementing strategies to identify at-risk individuals, build community connections, and promote safety measures like lethal means safety.

Under the auspices of the Governors Challenge, Dr. Hayes coordinated the 2023-2024 successful Mental Health First Aid trainings that occurred twice in each of New Jersey's twenty-one counties. He also supports the day to day work of the "[Unite NJ](#)

[Veterans](#)" digital platform, which streamlines access to critical resources such as benefits, housing, and mental health services.

His career includes over a decade working with at-risk youth at the [New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy](#), where he rose to the position of Academy Director, helping guide young people toward success.

Dr. Hayes remains deeply committed to supporting veterans and their families through proactive and compassionate leadership.

In The News



World War II veteran honored during surprise ceremony in Cherry Hill

Caroline Goggin | 6abc | September 24, 2024

CHERRY HILL, New Jersey (WPVI) - A local hero from South Jersey was given a well-deserved, overdue recognition on Tuesday night.

Surrounded by his family, 97-year-old William Gerald Schumacher, who served in World War II, was honored in Cherry Hill.

"He deserves it. In our hearts, he deserves it," Schumacher's daughter, Trish DeSalvo, said. "We could not be more proud of him."

Born and raised in Delair, New Jersey, Schumacher enlisted in the Navy at 17 years old. He served in World War II from August 1944 to June 1946.

[Watch Video Story](#)

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



Chestnut Neck Monument

September 27, 1944

Nelson L. Dimick from Boonton, NJ assigned to the US Army Air Corps. Shot down and captured during the Kassel Mission Raid on this date. Held in Stalag Luft 1, Barth, Germany.

October 2, 1779

General George Washington ordered that the uniform coats of the New Jersey Continental Line regiments be dark blue, with buff colored facings.

October 6, 1778

A British force under Colonel Patrick Ferguson entered the Mullica River and attacked the “nest of Rebel Pirates” at Chestnut Neck. The local militia retreated in face of the 800-man British force and Ferguson burned thirty ships, many of them privateer prizes, looted the town and set the fort afire before withdrawing.

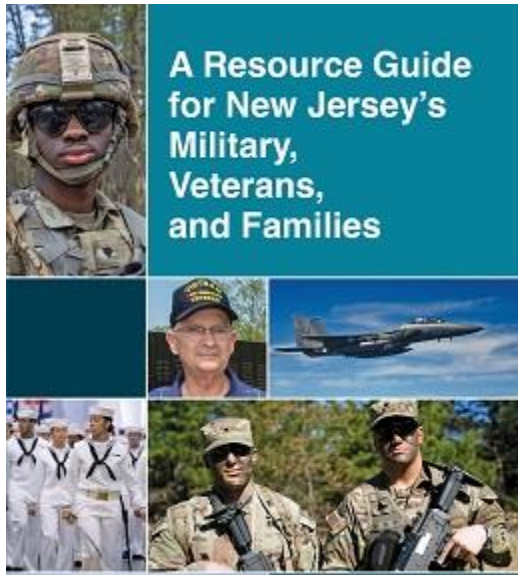
October 6, 1911

The General Lafayette Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a fifty-foot monument topped by a figure of a Minute Man to commemorate the “battle” of Chestnut Neck.

October 8, 1778

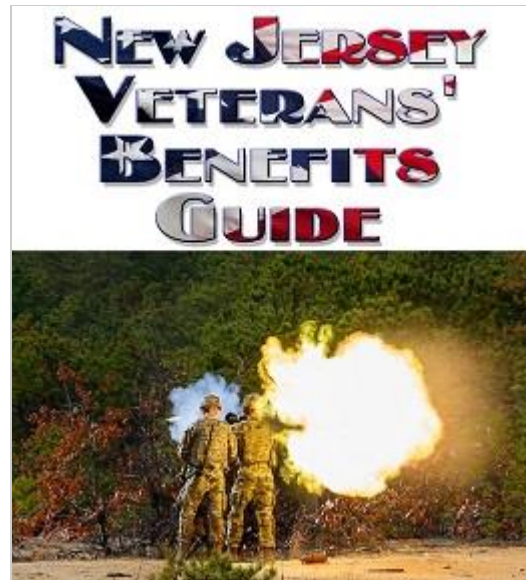
The Pulaski Legion, a Continental Army outfit, arrived at Little Egg Harbor to counter Colonel Patrick Ferguson’s expedition. The Legion, a combined arms infantry/cavalry unit, camped on a farm near the Quaker settlement of Middle of the Shore (today’s Tuckerton). Lieutenant Juliat (who had previously deserted from the British) deserted from the Legion and informed Ferguson, who was still in the area, of the unit’s location and the British commander launched a surprise night bayonet attack on October 15, killing between thirty and fifty men.

Resources



A Resource Guide for New Jersey's Military, Veterans, and Families

This graphic features a teal background with the title in white. It includes four small images: a soldier in full combat gear, a man in a military cap, a fighter jet in flight, and two soldiers in camouflage uniforms.



New JERSEY VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE

The title is in a stylized, bold font with red and white colors. Below the title is a photograph of two soldiers in camouflage uniforms standing in a field with a large, bright explosion or fire in the background.

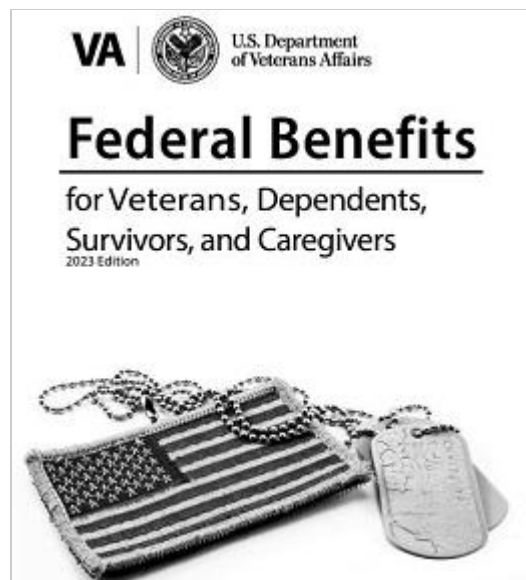


NJ VETERANS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

THIS PROGRAM OFFERS RIDES TO:

- VA MEDICAL CENTERS
- CLINICS
- OTHER HOSPITALS
- PRIVATE PHYSICIANS
- VA REGIONAL OFFICES
- VETERAN SERVICE OFFICES

The graphic has a blue background with the title in white. Below the title is a photograph of a white and black bus. The bottom section has an orange background with white text.



VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers

2023 Edition

The graphic features the VA logo and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs logo at the top. Below is the title in a bold, black font. At the bottom is a photograph of a small American flag and a pair of dog tags.

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.

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