

[View in Web Browser](#)

March 5, 2025



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

Commissioner's Corner



Brigadier General Yvonne L. Mays, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, greets Soldiers with the 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team returning from a

recent deployment.

Connecting Heroes with Resources and Support

In February, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs began the formal process of supporting deploying and returning New Jersey National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, and their families.

This formal process is a U.S. Department of Defense initiative known as the Yellow Ribbon Program. It's designed to promote the well-being of Service Members and those who love them by connecting them with resources and support throughout the deployment cycle. Yellow Ribbon events provide access to healthcare, education, employment, financial, and legal services.

Last week, I spoke with Soldiers of the 250th Brigade Support Battalion during their post-deployment Yellow Ribbon event. These events also provide leaders like me the opportunity to thank our Garden State heroes for their service to New Jersey and the United States. I also share information that I believe is critical to all going through a time of transition.

In 2023, the New Jersey National Guard established the [Directorate of Joint Resiliency](#), headquartered at the [Joint Military & Family Assistance Center](#) in Bordentown. This includes the Office of Family Programs, whose dedicated team can provide support with finances, childcare, relationships, stress management, mental health counseling and more. There are a substantial number of no cost resources and benefits.

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 Events



INFORMATION SESSION ON THE HORIZON FOUNDATION VETERANS HEALTH INITIATIVE GRANT MONEY FOR VETERAN CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Join one of the following Zoom meetings to
hear more and to ask questions



**MARCH 6TH
6PM**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/OPwuUPASTmytb0ep6QmCxA>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



**MARCH 10TH
12PM**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/LMDsXnrUSOmAucVt3e4MKA>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The Veterans Health Initiative is a new grants program with a specific focus on supporting programs within one of the following key areas:

1. **Behavioral Health:** Supporting veterans' mental health needs, including for post-traumatic stress, military sexual trauma, suicide prevention, anxiety, depression, substance use disorder and other behavioral health concerns.
2. **Housing & Food Security:** Helping veterans and their families access safe, affordable and stable housing, and essential food resources.
3. **Economic Opportunity:** Providing veterans with the tools, resources and business connections to help them thrive professionally, including training, mentorship and networking.



A New Jersey Golf Tour for Active Military, Veterans, & First Responders

**Tour Stops in Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer,
Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset,
Sussex, and Union Counties**

Proceeds will benefit the NJ Golf Foundation's Military Pillar
Flagship Program, PGA HOPE NJ

All Skill Levels Welcome!

Become a Member of the Heroes Tour:



njheroestour



NJ Heroes Tour



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.

- March 7 | JBMDL
[Retirement Briefing for 108th Wing](#)
- March 8 | Bordentown
[Military Transition / Retirement Seminar](#)
- March 10 | Monroe
[Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)
- March 12 | Vineland
[March Madness Military Outreach Event](#)
- March 13 | Totowa
[Veteran Service Providers Stakeholder Meeting](#)
- March 18 | Rockaway
[Mobile NJMVC & DMAVA Veterans Outreach Event](#)
- March 21 | Passaic
[Veterans Outreach Campaign & Medal Ceremony](#)
- March 23 | Collingswood
[Empowering Veterans & Their Support System](#)
- March 28 | Barnegat
[National Vietnam War Veterans Day](#)
- March 29 | Ridgewood
[Mental Health First Aid for Military, Veterans & Their Families](#)

Community Calendar

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

[View Full Calendar](#)

NJ National Guard



227th Cyber Operations Squadron

Donna Jefferies | 108th Wing | February 20, 2025

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. - A second New Jersey Air National Guard cyber operations squadron is set for activation April 1, 2025, at the 108th Wing on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

The 227th Cyber Operations Squadron's mission is to protect and defend military and state networks from cyber threats, and ensure critical infrastructure remains secure at the national and local levels.

Recruiting efforts are underway to fill more than 70 authorized openings. Open positions include cyber warfare operators, cyber defense operations specialists, maintainers, and cyber intelligence analysts. Future opportunities to commission as a warrant officer may also be on the table for eligible prior servicemembers.

A Cyber Open House designed to share the mission and dispel misconceptions about the field is set for March 8, 2025.

[Read Full Story](#)



63rd Army Band

The New Jersey Army National Guard's [63rd Army Band](#) marched in the 52nd Belmar St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 2, 2025.

Join Our Team

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



DMAVA Veterans Services



Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays, The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, met and spoke with residents during a resident council meeting at the [New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park](#) on February 26, 2025.

[View Images](#)



Congressman Herb Conaway hosted a roundtable at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3020 in Delran.

DCVA Joins Congressman Conaway for Veterans Roundtable

On February 20, 2025, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Vincent Solomeno joined Congressman Herb Conaway (NJ-3) and state leaders from the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, YWCA Northern New Jersey Operation Sisterhood, and the Military Officers Association of America for a morning long conversation on state and federal veterans benefits, programs, and services.

The Congressman is a U.S. Air Force Veteran and one of 82 Veterans currently serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. He

reiterated his commitment to working in a bipartisan fashion on behalf of Garden State Veterans and their families.



State Medal Ceremony

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs held a State Medal Ceremony at the Woodbridge Center Mall in Woodbridge, NJ on February 21, 2025.

[View Images](#)



Milo Hannah, Salem County VSO

Milo Hannah is the DMAVA Veterans Service Officer (VSO) for Salem County.

If you know anyone in need of assistance regarding Veteran's benefits, please contact Milo 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



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.



**YOUTH
CHALLENGE
ACADEMY**

Now accepting applications
for Class 60 - July 2025.

**APPLY
NOW!**

**TUITION
FREE**

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



TCNJ THE COLLEGE OF
NEW JERSEY

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](#)

Veteran Wall of Honor

Applications are being accepted for the Wilmington VA Wall of Honor

Elected Veterans must...

...be deceased

...have had an honorable discharge from the armed forces

...have been treated in or eligible for care in one of Wilmington VA catchment areas to include Atlantic, Cumberland, and Cape May Counties in southern New Jersey and New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties in Delaware. A Wall of Honor will be displayed in our medical center and clinics in each county

Applications available <https://tinyurl.com/97756npb>
Submit applications to PAO.Wilmington@va.gov



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Wilmington VA Medical Center



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](#)

Community Spotlight



Operation: Moving Healthcare Forward

Our Program Offers:

- ✓ Opportunities to work as a Home Health Aide or Patient Service Coordinator
- ✓ Gain nursing education while getting hands-on experience
- ✓ Access to tuition reimbursement and GI Bill benefits

VNAHG | **moving**
healthcare
forward

Contact jaime.boyce@vnahg.org for more information

In the News



Armaments Center antiterrorism specialist leverages skills during deployment

Eric Kowal | army.mil | February 27, 2025

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. - James Siuzdak, recently returned stateside from a near year-long deployment with the New Jersey Army National Guard's (NJARNG) 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), the largest deployment of New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers since 2008.

Attached to the IBCT's 104th Brigade Engineer Battalion, Capt. Siuzdak was one of more than 1,500 NJARNG Soldiers who deployed on Jan. 26, 2024, in support of U.S. Central Command's Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve. The Soldiers advised, assisted, and enabled partnered forces until they can independently defeat Islamic State of Iraq and Syria – ISIS – in designated areas of Iraq and Syria.

When he's not performing his Guard duties, Siuzdak is an employee of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) Armaments Center. Coming from a family with military

service in its blood helped pave the way for Siuzdak to make the decision to also serve his country. With an uncle and grandfathers on both sides of the family being veterans - and having one older brother who previously served in the New York Police Department and another serving as a volunteer fireman - Siuzdak felt compelled to put on a military uniform.

[Read Full Story](#)



Area students learn about STEM careers at U.S. Army educational event

Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs | March 3, 2025

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. - Some 98 students from 17 area schools attended an event here on Feb. 20 designed to encourage teenagers to pursue technical careers needed to ensure our nation's future military readiness with a technically proficient workforce.

The "Introduce a Teen to Engineering" gathering gave students an opportunity to meet and discuss STEM topics with some of the nation's top engineers and scientists who are focused on designing and developing the next generation of U.S. Army armament systems.

Picatinny Arsenal is home to the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) Armaments Center, one of the Army's premier research and development facilities, employing thousands of workers in technical fields.

[Read Full Story](#)

Did You Know?



Colonel Christine Haycock

In 1952, COL Christine Haycock became the first woman officer to serve as a physician in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Following the Korean War, she became the first woman to hold a major command in New Jersey, with responsibility for the Army's 322nd General Hospital.

The image above is from her display case at the [National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey](#) in Lawrenceville.

DMAVA Throwback

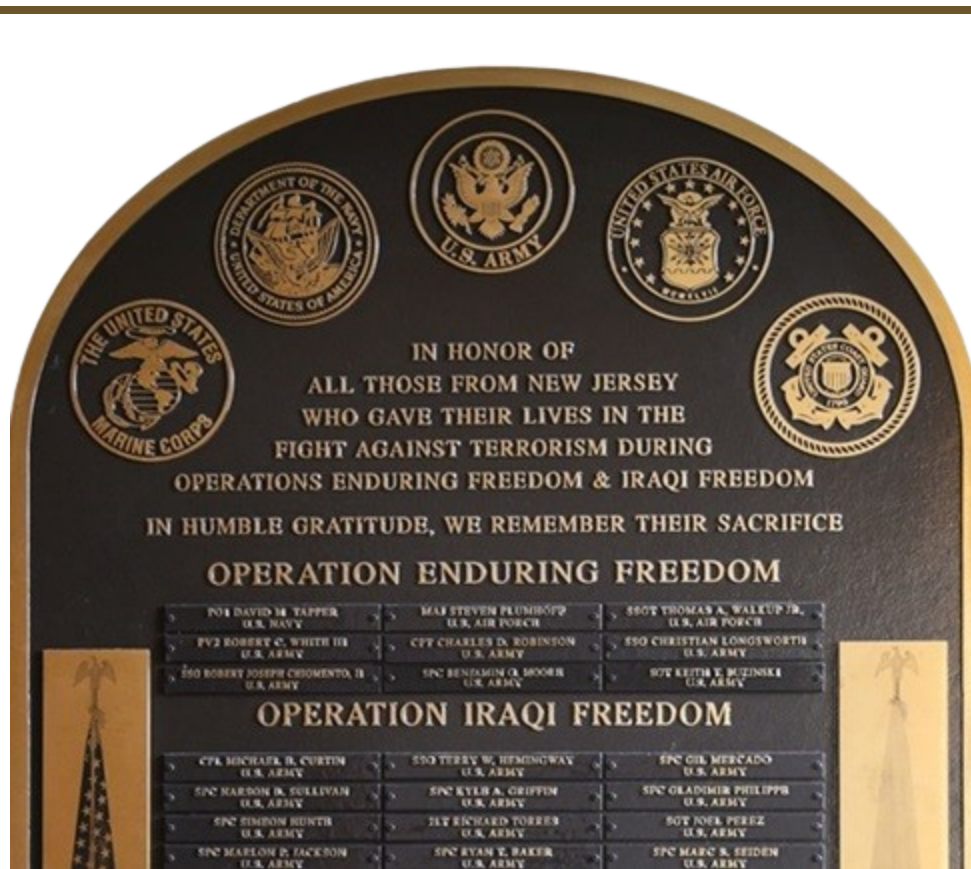


NJ Youth Challenge Academy Class 30

U.S. Navy Admiral Mike Mullen, the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addressed graduates of the [NJ Youth Challenge Academy](#) at their graduation in Trenton, NJ on August 29, 2009.

Admiral Mullen commended the cadets for enrolling in the rigorous 22-week National Guard program that uses discipline and community service to help at-risk youth turn their lives around and graduate from high school.

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



Charles Earnest Hosking Jr.

March 9, 1968

March 20, 1874

Rutgers ROTC graduate 1st Lieutenant Jack Jacobs, advisor to a South Vietnamese infantry unit, helped save 14 American and Vietnamese soldiers under heavy enemy fire. Jacobs was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions that day.

March 12, 1822

Timothy Webster was born in Newhaven, England. Webster emigrated with his family to Princeton, New Jersey, at the age of eight and lived there until he became a Pinkerton agency detective in 1853. With the outbreak of the Civil War, he served as a Union spy but was discovered, tried, convicted and hanged in Richmond in 1862, the first American executed as a spy since Nathan Hale.

The Washington Association of New Jersey was formed to oversee the preservation and maintenance of the Ford Mansion, George Washington's Morristown headquarters, recently purchased at auction by a group of prominent local citizens.

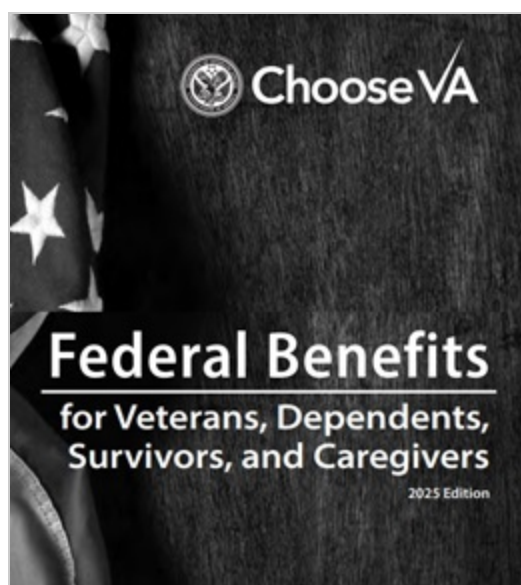
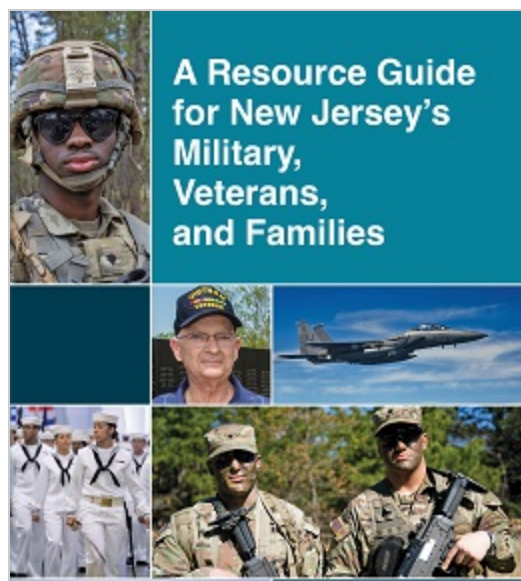
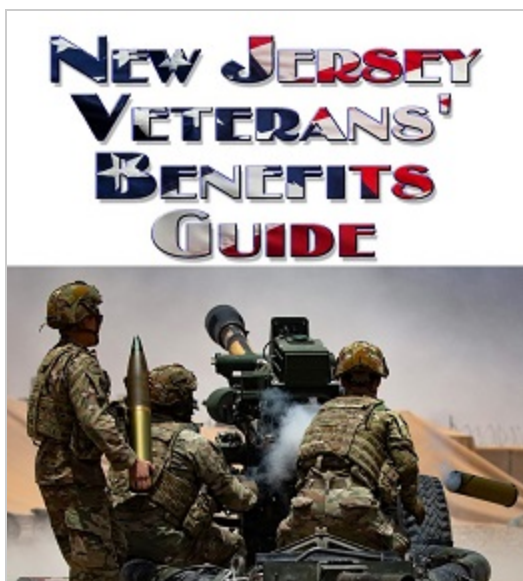
March 21, 1778

Loyalist raiders under Colonel John Simcoe massacred New Jersey militiamen, inadvertently killing a Loyalist judge in the process, in a night bayonet attack at Hancock's Bridge.

March 21, 1967

Ramsey-born U.S. Army Master Sergeant Charles Ernest Hosking Jr. of the Fifth Special Forces Group was mortally wounded attempting to capture a Viet Cong sniper. The enemy soldier pulled the pin on a hand grenade, and Hosking grabbed him, taking the full force of the blast and saving his comrades. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism. Hosking is buried in Ridgewood.

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

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