



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

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October 17, 2013



Making Dreams Come True

Story and photos by Mark C. Olsen, NJDMVA Public Affairs

John Eickmeyer served in the Navy from 1980-84 as an electrician onboard the carrier USS Saratoga. After he got out of the Navy, he answered an ad looking for electricians and did work on high rise sign locations. In 1996, he was diagnosed with progressive multiple sclerosis. Within three years he was confined to a wheelchair.

Eickmeyer, a resident at the Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland, is a quadriplegic as a result of multiple sclerosis.

Eickmeyer's dream is to go skydiving.

"What's the worst that could happen," said Eickmeyer.

Through the Second Wind Dreams, a nonprofit organization that weaves thousands of dreams at eldercare facilities, Eickmeyer was hoping his dream would be fulfilled. It was not to be: "Skydiving was out of the question, liability, that sort of thing," he said.

Lisa Williams, Vineland's recreation director didn't give up hope on Eickmeyer.

Williams was working on another Second Wind Dream for the Home in conjunction with the Vineland-based Stefano Foundation for Performing Arts. The Foundation has a licensing agreement with Disney which allows them to create shows and venues for disabled individuals who would not be able to travel to Disney to experience the park first hand due to their physical limitations.

"We wanted to bring the experience of Disney here to residents," she said.

Then she found out from Anthony Stefano that his Foundation also has a licensing agreement with Disney to show its video "Soarin".

It all clicked together; skydiving was not an option, but showing a video that is shot from a hang glider's point of view of various locations in the United States was doable. Couple that with suspending Eickmeyer from a hoist lift, a device used for moving

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DREAMS

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patients out of beds and onto gurneys, and Eickmeyer would get some of the feel of what it is like to be flying in a hang glider.

"They surprised me last week," said Eickmeyer.

On Oct. 16, the Home's residents were getting a taste of Walt Disney World, which included staff members dressed up as Mickey and Minnie Mouse and Winnie the

Pooh, as well as Gloucester County Institute for Technology students were dressed as characters from various Disney movies. The Home rented an electric train and gave the residents trips through the Home's hallways and ground. The final treat was a video showing of Disney World's "Celebrate a Dream Come True Parade" for the residents, many of whom have never been to either Disneyland or Disney World.

"Just to bring that here and see their faces is priceless," said Williams

At the same time, Eickmeyer's daugh-

ter and her family watched as their father was hoisted up on the hoier lift in the Home's Stars and Stripes Movie Theater, the lights were dimmed, fans blew on him to create the impression of wind, and Eickmeyer "flew".

"The visuals for soaring were very cool – very lifelike," said Eickmeyer.

Eickmeyer's other Second Wind Dream is to attend an Eagles game.

"I'm still holding out for the Eagles," he said.



Additional photos on Flickr:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/njdmava/sets/72157636687643533/>

HIGHLIGHTS



Spc. Jose D. Bravo, Foxtrot Co., 250th Brigade Support Battalion, grills chicken inside a military mobile kitchen trailer at Stand Down of North Jersey, Oct. 12, 2013. The New Jersey National Guard supported Stand Down by providing medical check-ups and food services to the more than 250 homeless veterans attending the community service event. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released)



New Jersey Air National Guard 1st Lt. Crystal Green takes blood pressure from a displaced veteran at Stand Down of North Jersey, Oct. 12, 2013. Airmen from the 108th Wing supported Stand Down by providing medical check-ups to the more than 250 homeless veterans attending the community service event. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released)



Leadership from the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs held a donor appreciation and flag replacement ceremony at the Veterans Transitional Housing Program (Veterans Haven) in Winslow Twp., N.J., Oct. 13, 2013. During the ceremony, facility and NJDMAVA members rededicated a plaque honoring Lt.

Col. Steven Wilfing, the founder of the transitional housing program for homeless veterans. At the ceremony's conclusion, the state Veterans of Foreign Wars donated a van for Veterans Haven participants to use in getting to and from work. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen/NJDMAVA)



Tech. Sgt. Jamie Jones, center, holds her award for Air National Guard's 2013 Outstanding Airman of the Year, which was presented to her by the Director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke, III, left, and Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling, right. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Marvin R. Preston/Released)

NJ Airman wins 2013 Air National Guard's Outstanding Airman of the Year **108th Wing member chosen for Outstanding Honor Guard Program Manager category**

Story by Airman 1st Class Kellyann Novak, 108th Wing Public Affairs

During his first "All-Call" at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Aug. 14, Director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, formally recognized the six 2013 Air National Guard Outstanding Airmen of the Year. Among these distinct Airmen, was 108th Wing's very own Tech. Sgt. Jamie Jones, who was awarded Outstanding Honor Guard Program Manager.

While in Washington D.C., Jones and the other five Airmen met and had dinner with Clarke and Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling, Command Chief Master Sergeant of the ANG. "They just kind of paraded us around; we went to the Pentagon, we toured Capitol Hill," said Jones about her visit to the Capital. "Then they took us to a Nationals game. They treated us like rock stars!"

On his official Facebook page, Hotaling congratulated the Airmen by saying, "This is a significant accomplishment for these Airmen that have been selected for this honor. Their personal characters, devotion to duty, and execution of excellence have led them to be highlighted as the Air National Guard's best of the best! This accomplishment speaks to the recognized excellence and distinction of our great Airmen from the 54 States, Territories and the District."

As the 108th Wing's Honor Guard Program Manager, Jones's responsibilities entailed coordinating details and events for ribbon

cutting ceremonies, funerals, change of command ceremonies, commander's calls, parades, etc. Jones also handled the budgeting and supplies for the honor guard team. In addition, during the previous fiscal year, the honor guard participated in eleven 76er's games, partnering up with the Army National Guard. They also supported a variety of other events.

When asked about the benefits of being the Honor Guard Program Manager, Jones replied, "It was cool to see our members walk up and post the colors for the colonel and seeing everything that you put in behind the scenes to get this four person team that impresses the whole wing when they're up there. We always get told what a good job they do. The feedback from the people in the Wing is great."

The McGuire Elite Honor Guard is the busiest honor guard in the Air Force, providing military funeral honors to veterans residing in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts. The 108th Wing's Honor Guard coordinates with active duty and has some members on orders to support McGuire's honor

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HIGHLIGHTS



Several Soldiers from Foxtrot Co., 250th Brigade Support Battalion, participate on the 12th Annual Tunnel to Towers 5K Run and Walk Sept. 29,

2013. Led by company commander, Capt. Michael Sojka, the Soldiers ran in honor of those who were killed on Sept. 11, 2001. (Courtesy Photo)



Brig. Gen. James Grant, Chief of the Joint Staff, swears in Maj. Barbara Brown-Wilson as a Detailed Inspector General Oct. 17, 2013 at the NJDMAVA Lawrenceville headquarters. (Courtesy photo by Master Sgt. Michael DeMarco)

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AIRMAN

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guard. Jones said, "We are getting ready to have five people go support their team; we've been supporting McGuire for about two years. Then they come back here on drill weekends and use their knowledge to teach honor guard training classes - because they get more experience with funerals - for any volunteers throughout the Wing that want to be a part of the honor guard team."

Asked why should an Airman consider joining the 108th Honor Guard? Jones says, "It puts you out there in the Wing

when you perform ceremonies. People often ask, 'Who was that Airman and where are they out of?' I think it gives squadrons a sense of pride having an active honor guard member. It's great on military and civilian resumes, promotion boards and bullet statements. Too often in the Guard, people stay within their squadron but if you have a bunch of different Airmen out of different squadrons that meet for training it helps give a sense of camaraderie with the other squadrons."

Clarke echoed the above sentiments during the ceremony honoring the Airmen of the Year. "One of the things I challenged everyone with is to serve with distinction," said Clarke. "Here are some Airmen who fully capture that ideal and take it to heart."

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2013 Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair – Morristown, NJ
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430 Western Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960
November 5, 2013

HIRING FAIR: 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: 9:00 A.M.

This American Legion-sponsored hiring event is being hosted by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA); conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; the NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development; the Morris County Chamber of Commerce; NJ Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR); Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 3401; NJ AMVETS; the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS); the NJ State Parole Board; NJ State Libraries; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; NBC News, and other local partners.

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A workshop for veterans and military that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 9:00 A.M.

For registration questions, please contact hiringourheroes@uschamber.com or call 202463-5807.



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HIGHLIGHTS



US FAMILY HEALTH PLAN

US Family Health Care, a Tricare Prime option providing a civilian based managed care network, will be holding Question and Answer sessions to provide information for servicemembers and families.

USFHP pushes forward effective Jan. 1, 2014, and they are adding an extra benefit to their already robust benefit package! Eye glasses for \$0 to low cost. To hear more about USFHP and this added benefit, come to one of their upcoming information sessions listed below:

Joint Military and Family Assistance Center

1048 US Highway 206, Bordentown

October 17, 24 & 31

12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

JB-MDL McGuire Library

2603 Tuskegee Airmen Ave, JB-MDL

October 29

3 - 7 p.m.

Pemberton Community Library

Brownmills, NJ 08015

October 23

3 - 7 p.m.

Mount Laurel Library

100 Walt Whitman Ave, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

October 11

12 to 4 p.m.

Camden County Veterans Affairs

3 Collier Dr., Lakeland Complex, Blackwood, NJ 08012

October 21, 28

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

177th Fighter Wing

Bldg. 229, 400 Langley Rd., Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234

October 22

12 - 4 p.m.

Call 1-800-241-4848 option 3 or visit www.usfhp.net for more information.



Homes Now, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation providing affordable housing and services to municipalities throughout the state of New Jersey.

Homes Now, Inc. is currently accepting applications from veterans looking for affordable housing at their Tudor Village location in Brick Township.

To download the application, please follow this link: http://homes-now.org/PDF_files/Affordable_Housing_Application.pdf, or contact Casey Duffy at 732-295-7380 for more information.

Founded in 1997 by President and CEO Carol A. Wolfe, Homes Now is dedicated to building, rehabilitating, financing and monitoring new and existing deed restricted affordable housing in compliance with each municipality's certified COAH (Council on Affordable Housing) plan.

E-mail your Photo of the Week or
Highlights submissions to:

wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us **OR**
nicholas.young@njdmava.state.nj.us

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