

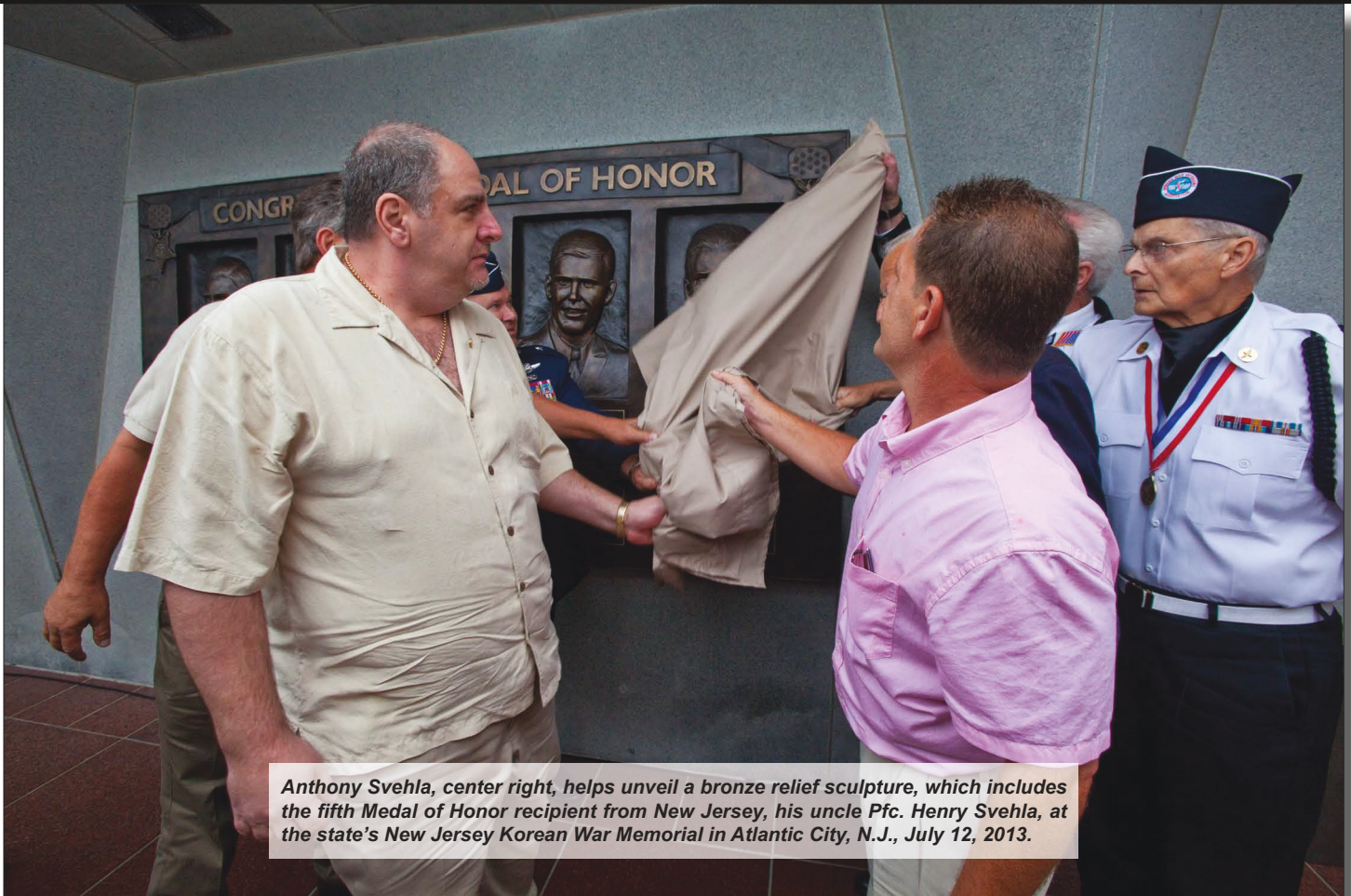


DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

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July 18, 2013



Anthony Svehla, center right, helps unveil a bronze relief sculpture, which includes the fifth Medal of Honor recipient from New Jersey, his uncle Pfc. Henry Svehla, at the state's New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City, N.J., July 12, 2013.

Nephew's effort pay off

Svehla added to Medal of Honor sculpture at Atlantic City

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA Public Affairs

Alongside the names of Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Edward C. Benfold, Sgt. 1st Class Nelson V. Brittin, Pvt. Hector A. Cafferata, Jr. and 1st Lt. Samuel S. Coursen, a new name has been added to the list: Pfc. Henry Svehla.

His portrait has joined the other four New Jersey Medal of Honor recipients on a bronze relief sculpture that stands opposite the wall that lists all the New Jerseyans who died during the Korean War.

The road to the awarding of the medal was a long one. Nephew Anthony Svehla began doing research on the Internet, which led him to get in contact with Rep. William

James "Bill" Pascrell, Jr. (D- 9th dist.) in 2001 to begin working on the award.

Born in Newark, Svehla grew up in Belleville and enlisted in the Army in November 1951, where he served as a rifleman.

Virtually no documentation existed of the details surrounding Svehla's death, which meant finding and interviewing people who were there. Anthony began by tracking down people in his uncle's unit - the 7th Infantry Division. Eventually, he was able to get in touch with Soldiers who had been in the same battalion and company who were there the day Henry Svehla was killed.

After 10 years of submitting records, Anthony received a call from the Pentagon

saying that his uncle would be awarded the Medal of Honor.

President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor to the family on May 2, 2011. During the ceremony, Obama remarked of Henry Svehla: "He was there for America, in Korea."

The citation, which accompanies the award, finally sheds light on Svehla's courage and death.

"On the afternoon of June 12, 1952, while Svehla and his platoon were patrolling a strategic hill to determine enemy

See, SVEHLA, on Pg. 2

HIGHLIGHTS

SVEHLA

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

strength and positions, they were subjected to intense enemy automatic weapons and small arms fire at the top of the hill. Coming under heavy fire, the platoon's attack began to falter. Realizing the success of mission and the safety of the remaining troops were in peril, Svehla leapt to his feet and charged the enemy positions, firing his weapon and throwing grenades as he advanced. In the face of this courage and determination, the platoon rallied to attack with renewed vigor. Svehla, utterly disregarding his own safety, destroyed enemy positions and inflicted heavy casualties, when suddenly, fragments from a mortar round exploding nearby seriously wounded him in the face.

Despite his wounds, Svehla refused medical treatment and continued to lead the attack. When an enemy grenade landed among a group of his comrades, Svehla, without hesitation and undoubtedly aware of extreme danger, threw himself upon the grenade. During this action, Svehla was mortally wounded."

His body was never recovered.

In 1953, a comic book was even written to illustrate the heroic actions Pfc. Henry Svehla displayed on the day he was killed. The book says, "PFC Henry Svehla of North New Jersey died a hero when he threw himself on an exploding grenade to save the lives of his buddies."

During the Korean War, 136 Medals of Honor were presented, 98 posthumously. Of the five New Jersey recipients, Benfold, Britin, Coursen and Svehla died in action.



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PAGE 2

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS Veterans Outreach Campaign

NJ KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL
COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SIGNING OF THE KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE
July *26
* Medal Ceremony at 11:00a.m. will be part of program chaired
by Korean War Veterans Association of New Jersey
Brighton Park Amphitheatre & the Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ
(Atlantic County)



The 63rd Army Band, New Jersey Army National Guard, entertains residents at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus, July 1,

2013. The band is performing at various locations as part of the band's summer concert tour. (Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven/NJDMAVA/PA)

Love for music drives Soldiers' military career with Army band

By Spc. Oscar Baldriche, 444th MPAD

The air is filled with the sound of music; the blare of the trombones, the melody of the alto clarinets and the slap of the drums, keeping time and bringing the beat alive. The bandmaster smiles in approval.

The New Jersey National Guard 63rd Army Band performed a free, open-to-the-public concert July 13 to thank the Sea Girt community for their support.

“Playing in the band has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my military career,” said Spc. Shamus W. Smith, tuba player, 63rd Army Band.

“Prior to joining the 63rd Army Band, I was a cook in the Marines,” said Smith. “When I came to this unit and I saw the sort of talent that surrounded me, and the camaraderie that existed within the unit, I knew that this is what I want to do for the remainder of my military career.”

The 63rd Army Band was organized and federally recognized July 2, 1953 in Camden, N.J. The band was assigned to the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt and has remained there ever since.

“To join the band I had to audition in front of a panel of musicians,” added Smith. “Once judged and given the thumbs-up from

the panel, the next step was to go to music school, begin my training and become qualified in my military occupational specialty: 42 Romeo.”

In addition to the 63rd carrying on with the Army’s military customs and traditions, they are looking for qualified musicians to join their ranks.

“Because our unit is growing and a major part of our senior leadership is retiring, we are looking for people who would love to educate, entertain and inspire,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Durinda D. Garrison, 63rd Army bandmaster. “We want people who believe in their job, love to play, and all the while serving their country in the process,”

“Joining the 63rd carries with it many incentives,” said clarinet player, Staff Sgt. Kencis L. Kleinschmidt.

Kleinschmidt explained that upon graduating basic training, a new musician gets assigned to the Army School of Music in Norfolk, Va. The Army provides the instrument free-of-charge, employs some of the best musical instructors from around the world, and automatically advances its graduates to specialist (E-4) upon completion of the course.

Top that off with great pay and travel, joining the 63rd Army Band is a great opportunity to do what you love.

HIGHLIGHTS

RECRUIT MILITARY® Job Fair for Veterans

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Air National Guard Youth 4-H Camp:
August 20-22, 2013
at Lindley G. Cook 4-H Youth Center for Outdoor
Education, Branchville, NJ

The New Jersey National Guard Youth 4-H Camp is offered by the 4-H Air Force Military Partnership. We provide a safe and enjoyable environment for the youth of New Jersey Guard members. You can expect a fun-filled outdoor camping experience highlighting health & fitness, team building and communication.

The camp is open to youth, ages 10-14, based on the following criteria:

- Tier 1: Children/Legal dependents of an Air National Guard member
- Tier 2: Children/Legal dependents of other military branches and components

Reservation deposit: \$50.00 per youth (refundable at completion of camp if there are no damages)

Deadline for registration, permission form, and deposit: Thursday, August 1st

Transportation provided to and from camp from Air National Guard base in Egg Harbor Township and JMFAC in Bordentown.

Please contact the National Guard Family Programs staff for registration:

Amanda Balas
609-324-7018
amanda.m.balas.ctr@mail.mil

Jeanne Perry
609-761-6248
jean.perry@ang.af.mil

Douglas Ridgway
609-754-4479
douglas.ridgway@ang.af.mil

<http://www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/youth/forms.html>

The 4-H Air Force Military Partnership is a collaboration of U.S. Air Force Child and Youth Programs and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture through Kansas State University's special project number



The camp activities include the following:
Archery
Canoeing
Crafts
Hiking
Campfire



The Lindley G. Cook 4-H Youth Center for Outdoor Education, a unit of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is located on 108 beautiful acres in Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, N. J. The camp is operated by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and is owned by Rutgers University.

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From left to right, Donna Clementoni, director of employer outreach; former New Jersey National Guard Spc. Ed Afanador and his service dog, Arnie; Pastor Jim Zozzaro, and his children, Josiah, Joshua and

Jacob, pose for a group photo during the presentation of the New Jersey Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's "Seven Seals" award. (Courtesy photo)

OPERATION: BOARDWALK MINISTRY

Director of Wildwood's Boardwalk Chapel receives DoD award

WILDWOOD, N.J. - Pastor Jim Zozzaro is surrounded by a devoted, close-knit congregation and staff that worships and serves at Wildwood's Boardwalk Chapel. In this joyous environment, it is easy to believe in a loving God.

But Zozzaro also has witnessed the embodiment of evil.

Following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, then 1st Lt. James A. Zozzaro and his chaplain assistant Spc. Ed Afanador were activated by their New Jersey Army National Guard unit to provide spiritual and emotional support to the families of the victims, the first responders, and recovery workers who were sorting body parts from building parts at the Logistical Support Area located at the Fresh Kils landfill in Staten Island N.Y.

Consequently, the empathetic pastor was recently honored by the New Jersey Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense organization, for his service, not only during the worst attack on America's soil, but for his continued ministry counseling individual Soldiers who are still silently suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Accompanied by his former 'battle buddy' Ed Afanador and his service dog, Arnie, Zozzaro was presented at their Wildwood

chapel with the ESGR's "Seven Seals" award by Donna Clementoni, New Jersey State director of employer outreach.

The award, depicting the heraldry seals of the seven military services, is given at the discretion of the NJESGR chairman to recognize the efforts by a citizen, business or organization, whose supportive actions have benefited all of the Guard/Reserve components in a significant manner. They recognize outstanding support, increase awareness of the law, and resolve conflicts through mediation.

Afanador recalls a specific act of bravery and heroism that Zozzaro was never officially recognized for – until now.

On Sept. 17, 2001, when they had just arrived at the site of the devastation, they saw a sea of first responders evacuating the damaged American Express Tower due to a bomb threat. That building, also referred to as Three World Financial Center, was severely damaged by falling debris when the two planes crashed into the World Trade Center towers.

Two hysterical female workers, part of a team that was clearing the debris, were screaming that one of their team members

See, CHAPEL, on Pg. 6

HIGHLIGHTS

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.

Joint Military and Family Assistance Center

1048 US Highway 206, Bordentown
July 18 and 25
12 to 3 p.m.

NJ DMAVA

101 Eggerts Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
July 3, 10, 17 and 31
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

177th Fighter Wing

400 Langley Road, Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234
July 16 and 30
12 to 3 p.m.

JB-MDL McGuire Library

2603 Tuskegee Airmen Ave, JB-MDL
July 31
12 to 3 p.m.

Camden County Veterans Affairs

3 Collier Dr.-Lakeland Complex, Blackwood, NJ 08012
July 8, 15, 22 and 29
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pinelands Public Library

39 Allen Avenue, Medford, NJ 08055
July 9 and 23
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Picatinny Arsenal

Army Community Services Bldg #119, Dover, NJ
July 10
1 to 3 p.m.

Warfighter and Family Readiness Center

Bldg. 488, Highway 547, Lakehurst, NJ 08733
July 24
12 to 3 p.m.

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

CHAPEL

CONTINUED FROM PG. 5

was still in the danger zone, the evacuated courtyard in front of the building. Without care for his own safety, Zozzaro entered the evacuated area, followed by his chaplain assistant who was tasked with his personal security, twice to find the missing employee. They finally exited with him safely in tow.

The former New Jersey National Guard captain packed away his uniform in 2010 and replaced it with the chapel's signature t-shirt, yet his presence and message is equally powerful. Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus, the spiritual man works tirelessly to bring this message of hope and healing to those that are broken by sin and sorrow.

In addition to being the newly appointed director for the Boardwalk Chapel, Zozzaro has been the pastor for Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church for the past 19 years. He and his wife, Kristin, live in Wildwood with their three sons, Jacob, Joshua and Josiah.

Following a decade of military service as a "Citizen Soldier" that included an overseas deployment to the Sinai Peninsula with multi-national forces and observers, and for which he was awarded two Meritorious Service Medals, Zozzaro made the difficult decision to separate. Another deployment would have left his congregation without a spiritual leader and his children without their father than he deemed prudent for either.

Afanador often contemplated why God put him at World Trade Center. Severe respiratory injuries he sustained during his service at Ground Zero present him with constant challenges. But seeing his friend honored provided Afanador with some closure.

"I did my job," he concluded "I brought him home, alive, to his family."

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

wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us **OR**
armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us

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