

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

December 1, 2010 Volume 12 Number 44

It's an honor ...



Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard, from left to right, Staff Sgt. James Linnus, Senior Master Sgt. Paul Thompson, Master Sgt. Earnest Williams, Master Sgt. Christopher Schmidt, Staff Sgts. Frank Dobos and Anthony Seay, Senior Airman Omar Navarro, Sgt. 1st Class Glenn Jensen, Master Sgt. Bobbi Panger and Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, pose with Medal of Honor recipient Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, center, as part of the New York Jets 11th annual Military Appreciation Day on Nov. 21, 2010. At both the game's beginning and halftime show, Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen unfurled a massive flag on the field. F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 177th Fighter Wing performed a flyover at the beginning of the game. In addition, a ceremony in honor of Giunta, the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor since three service members from the Vietnam War were honored in 1976, was held. Also in attendance was Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy. Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177FW/PA.



Timber Creek High School principal Mae Robinson, left, stands with graduates Spec. Jeff Johnson (2008), Spec. Randy Pearce (2005) and Pfc. Stephen Bordi (2009) during the National Anthem at the start of the annual Thanksgiving Day rivalry against Triton High School in Runnemede. The three Soldiers are getting ready to deploy to Afghanistan with the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and just completed pre-mobilization training at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst before continuing their preparations at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. this week. A fourth 119th CSSB Soldier, Staff Sgt. Lisa Hatcher, a Triton grad was not able to attend the football game to receive a certificate and t-shirt from the Black Horse Regional School District. Photo by Krynn P. Westhoven, DMAVA/PA.

'Stop loss' payment Deadline Dec. 3

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs

Attention veterans of ongoing and recent conflicts: Uncle Sam may owe you money, but the clock is ticking.

Military members who were involuntarily extended under "stop-loss" between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009 are eligible for special pay of \$500 for each month served under stop-loss status.

The original deadline for claims was Oct. 21, but it has been extended to Dec. 3.

Although the Department of Defense estimates that nearly 150,000 people were eligible for the benefit, few than half that number had applied by the end of last month.

It was for that reason that several lawmakers including U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) created a \$534 million supplemental funding bill to ensure the money is available for everyone eligible for the benefit and to extend the application deadline. President Obama signed the legislation on Oct. 1.

To further raise awareness in New Jersey, Assemblyman Reed Gusciora (D-Mercer County) and Senator Shirley Turner (D-Mercer County) introduced legislation to recognize Lautenberg for his work on the issue.

Added Joint Base Security Coming

Security measures at Joint Base-McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst are about to be stepped up. To access the base after Dec. 31, register as soon as possible for the Defense Biometrics Identification System. Bring your driver's license and identification card. Here are the registration locations, days and times. McGuire Welcome Center; every day, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Dix Welcome Center; Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lakehurst Welcome Center; Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Blue Star Mothers reaching out to Gold Star families

By Karen Rokosny, Blue Star Mother

I am a member of Blue Star Mothers - NJ - 4, and Blue to Gold Liaison for that Chapter. If anyone knows of a Gold Star Family who has not been presented with a Gold Star Banner honoring their Fallen Hero, please contact me and, if the family wishes, I will secure and present it to them. I will also work with any Veteran's group on the above mission.

My contact information is: BSM-NJ-4, PO Box 916, Ocean Gate NJ 08740; daytime phone 732-901-7035.

Tribute to Jersey Veterans book on sale for holidays

Just in time for Veterans Day and the holidays – a 25 percent discount off the cover price for “A Tribute to New Jersey Veterans.”

Produced by the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey and The Star-Ledger, the 128-page hard-cover book traces the 300-year history of the New Jersey National Guard from its inception to current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The volume makes a fine coffee table book and is a compelling read about the accomplishments of the Soldiers and Airmen who have served in the organization.

Profits from the book benefit the museum.

Signed copies are available at this sale price of \$29.95 at the Sea Girt and Lawrenceville Museums.

Mail orders must be placed by Dec. 15 to ensure delivery by Dec. 25. Please mail check for \$37.45 (\$31.95 plus \$7.50 for shipping and handling) to the National Guard Militia Museum of NJ, ATTN: COL Donald Kale, 151 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

If you have any questions, please contact the Museum at 609-530-6802.

NJ ECC looking for you!

The New Jersey State Employees Charitable Campaign (ECC) has officially kicked off its 2010/2011 Campaign which will run until Dec. 15.

The ECC provides each state employee with an annual opportunity to voluntarily help others by donating to any of the more than 1,400 participating agencies and organizations listed in the ECC Code Book. Contributions may be made by bi-weekly payroll deductions or by cash, or check.

This year's ECC Coordinator for the State's Employees Charitable Campaign is Paul Serdiuk, of the DMAVA-HRD Office. For more information, call 609-530-6878. You may also access information on line at www.njsecc.org.

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ODDS AND ENDS

Test your Christmas Tree Knowledge

Now that the holiday season is upon us, it's time for a little Christmas tree trivia.

- The first decorated Christmas tree was in Riga, Latvia in 1510.
- The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531.
- Using small candles to light a Christmas tree dates back to the middle of the 17th century.
- In 1856 Franklin Pierce, the 14th president, was the first president to place a Christmas tree in the White House.
- Thomas Edison's assistant, Edward Johnson, came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas Trees in 1882. They were first mass produced in 1890.
- In 1900, large stores started to erect big illuminated Christmas trees.
- Teddy Roosevelt banned the Christmas tree from the White House for environmental reasons.
- President Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House lawn in 1923
- In 1970 the National Christmas Tree was not lighted except for the top ornament. This was done to honor the American Hostages in Iran.
- In the 1930's, the Addis Brush Company created the first artificial trees, using the same machinery that made their toilet brushes! The Addis 'Silver Pine' tree was patented in 1950.
- Artificial tree will last for six years in your home, but for centuries in a landfill.
- Artificial tree are just as flammable as a properly cared for real tree (even the fire retardant ones).
- You should never burn your Christmas tree in the fireplace. it can contribute to creosote buildup.
- Christmas trees take four to 15 years to mature to a height of 6 to 7 feet. The average is seven years years.
- Ninety-eight percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms. Around 50 million new Christmas trees will be planted this year.
- On average, 2,000 trees are usually planted per acre. Only about 1,000 to 1,500 of the trees survive. Almost all trees require shearing to attain the Christmas tree shape.
- In the U.S., there are more than 13,300 Christmas tree growers. There are more than 800,000 acres planted in Christmas trees, with 17,415,900 trees sold last year.
- In 2007, 18.8 million trees were sold; 24 percent were sold from chain stores, 18 percent by non-profit groups, 7 percent from retail lots, 11 percent from garden centers and 31 percent from choose and cut farms.
- The top six Christmas tree producing states are Oregon, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Washington and Wisconsin.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth – The Adjutant General
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
CW 2 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist

FAMILIES

Vietnam Vets Foundation Collecting items for Troops

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation is partnering with The Brookdale Student Veterans Club is working with American Recreational Military Services, Inc (ARMS) to collect items to send to troops currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Supplies are running low. Here's what's needed:

- Toiletries (non-alcohol mouthwash, Q-tips, toothbrush/toothpaste, soap, facial wash, razors, deodorant, baby powder, travel tissue packs, breath freshening strips, Band-Aids)
- Snacks (non-pork products, non-chocolate products, popcorn, pretzels, chips, cookies, hard-candy, gum, beef Slim-Jims, Gatorade/Iced Tea single-serving packs)
- Handheld games/Puzzles (cards, small travel games, crossword puzzles)
- Insect Repellants (OFF Wipes, flea collars, small bottles of repellent)
- Magazines (nothing profane or pornographic in nature)

Many visitors have expressed an interest in helping our military personnel. This would be a great way to make the holiday season easier for our troops, and we hope that you and your family will get involved with this worthwhile project. You can bring the items you've collected to the Educational Center in Holmdel during our normal business hours, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. by calling to make special arrangements.

For more information, call Lynn Duane at 732-335-0033 ext.100.

East Hanover establishment offers fun for family at a discount

Winter weather is here. What do you do with the kids when they can't play outdoors, their video games are borrrring and they simply need to blow off some steam?

The Funplex in East Hanover, N.J. is offering a 10 percent discount on any purchase when you present your military or government ID at the door. The Funplex is located at 182 Route 10 West.

The indoor attractions include: go-karts, bumper cars, junior bumper cars, Lazer Runner, 4D theater and arcade games. For more information on their games and pricing, visit their Web site - www.thefunplex.com.



Sittercity: Check it out

Your Sittercity membership is funded by the Department of Defense and is available at no cost to you! Go to www.sittercity.com/DOD to register.

Activate your membership today and find local sitters and military care providers- only takes 2 minutes.

Sittercity is America's largest and most trusted online source for in-home caregivers with over 1 million nationwide caregiver profiles. Sittercity helps you find:

Babysitters: For after-school, hourly care, school vacations, deployment and PCS, extended work hours, special needs children, and anytime you need a sitter.

Nannies: For full and part time, infant and young child care
Certified CDH/FCC care providers

Care providers who are authorized access to an installation
Elder care providers, dog walkers, housekeepers and tutors

Your Sittercity membership gives you online access to local caregivers with profiles that include background checks, parent reviews, references, a 4-Step screening process, pictures and more.

Sell your vehicle without an ad

Do you have an RV, Truck, Automobile, Motorcycle or Boat that you want to sell? Well you are in luck....announcing the brand new Picatinny Arsenal FMWR Resale Lot. This is better than a classified advertisement -you can see what you are about to buy!

Located near the gas pumps, corner of Farley Ave. and Reilly Road, we offer six lanes for our active duty military and three for civilians, retired, on-post contractors. You can place your insured and inspected vehicle in this lot for up to 30 days. The cost is \$10 for civilians and free for all active duty military.

Contact Leisure Travel Services at 973-724-4014 to sign up.

Quotes

"A cynic is just a man who found out when he was about 10 that there wasn't any Santa Claus and he's still upset."

-- James Gould Cousins

"A cynic is not merely one who reads bitter lessons from the past, he is one who is prematurely disappointed in the future."

-- Sydney J. Harris

"What is a cynic? A man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing."

-- Oscar Wilde

Key retirement in Paramus ...



Veterans Memorial Home - Paramus Chief Executive Officer Doris Neibart, left, shakes Gov. Chris Christie's hand as The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth looks on during a Veterans Day event at the home on Nov. 10. Neibart is retiring after nearly two decades of service to DMAVA. She says she is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren. Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177 FW/PA.

Va Offers 'Vet Handbook'

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is piloting new, personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbooks. The handbooks are tailored to provide enrolled Veterans with the most relevant health benefits information based on their own specific eligibility. In essence, each handbook will be written for the individual Veteran.

"These handbooks will give Veterans everything they need to know and leave out everything that doesn't apply to them," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Our Veterans will now have a comprehensive, easy to understand roadmap to the medical benefits they earned with their service."

In addition to highlighting each Veteran's specific health benefits, the handbook also provides contact information for the Veteran's preferred local facility, ways to schedule personal appointments, guidelines for communicating treatment needs and an explanation of the Veteran's responsibilities, such as copayments when applicable.

"Enhancing access isn't just about expanding the kinds of services VA provides. It also includes making sure we do everything we can to ensure Veterans have a clear understanding of the benefits available to them so they can make full use of the services they have earned," Shinseki said.

The new handbooks will initially be available only to certain Veterans in Cleveland and Washington, D.C., areas. Following the pilot phase, full implementation is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2011 for across the county.

For additional information, go to www.va.gov/healtheligibility or call VA's toll-free number at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Military mentors wanted

The National Guard Bureau is looking for military officers (O-1 through O-4) to be Mentors for the 2011 Senate Youth Program. The program, instituted in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution and held annually in Washington, DC, is designed to give the nation's top-rated high school seniors a working knowledge of American politics through personal interaction with high-level government agencies and officials. Military Mentors serve as counselors, facilitators and role models for the 104 students (two from each state and territory), giving them a better understanding of defense missions, personnel and lifestyle. For more information about the program, visit the U.S. Senate Youth Program website at <http://www.ussenateyouth.org>.

Military Mentor officers who are selected must be on Permissive TDY or leave status for the duration of the program to include two days of pre-program training. Inclusive dates of the program 3-12 March 2011 (Senior and Assistant Senior Mentor Officers will be required to attend additional days of training beginning on Monday, 28 February.)

The Hearst Foundation, which sponsors the program, will pay for lodging, meals, and incidental costs such as laundry and dry-cleaning.

Officers who have participated in the past are eligible and encouraged to participate in the 2011 program. The volunteer Military Mentors are responsible for their own transportation costs to get to and from Washington, DC.

TO APPLY: Carefully read the Senate Youth Program Military Mentor Information and Nomination documents. The second and third pages of the attachment explain the criteria for Military Mentor officers and Senior Mentors and explain in detail exactly how to assemble a Nomination Package.

The Senior and Assistant Senior Mentor slots will be filled by volunteers who have served as a Senate Youth Mentor in a previous year.

Two key items in the nomination package to ensure are correct:

1) The Military supervisor letter of recommendation must contain a

Statement that, if selected, the nominee will be available to participate in all Senate Youth program functions from 3 - 12 March, which includes the required two days of Mentor training. That letter can be addressed to Ms. Peg Moffett, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs.

2) The second item that is frequently not fulfilled correctly is the required photograph. Ensure that your photo is a full-length pose and you are in Service Dress. It does not need to be a professional "official" military photo; it does need to be detailed and large enough to determine military appearance.

DEADLINE: Nomination packages must be submitted electronically to Margaret.Moffett@us.army.mil no later than Dec. 14. If you have any questions, please contact Peg for further information via e-mail or at DSN 327-2614 (Commercial: 703-607-2614).

The final selection of Mentor Officers and Senior Mentor Officers will take place by Jan. 21, 2011.



Airmen from the 108th Wing, right to left, Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, Senior Airman Omar Navarro and Master Sgt. Christopher Schmidt, along with members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, and their active-duty counterparts unfurl a massive American flag during the practice session before the New York Jets 11th annual Military Appreciation Day on Nov. 21, 2010. F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 177th Fighter

Wing performed a flyover at the beginning of the game, and in addition, there was a ceremony in honor of Staff Sgt. Salvatore Guinta, the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor since three service members from the Vietnam War were honored in 1976. Also in attendance was Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, 177FW/PA.



Dearden retires

When Barbara Dearden, left, began her DMAVA career on Oct. 25, 1972, the agency was simply called the New Jersey Department of Defense. As the years passed and the agency's name changed, Dearden's role with the agency grew. She rose from clerk stenographer to secretarial assistant, then the first supervisor and manager of the MIS Word Processing Center for Department-wide clerical support. In a later role as State Telecom Manager, she coordinated telecommunications support for the New Jersey National Guard and Department response to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and implemented the modernization of the Department's phone systems. In 2003 she was appointed Chief of the Administrative Services Bureau in the Information and Administrative Services Division, a position she held until her retirement last month. At right, Dearden receives recognition for her service from The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth.



State Family Readiness Council Benefit concert set for Dec. 12

Get ready to see some amazing dance performances and a great family day to enjoy the holidays – and support the troops all at the same time.

It's the Holiday Show on Dec. 12 to benefit the National Guard State Family Readiness Council. The benefit show kicks off at 3 p.m. at Lawrence High School, 2525 Princeton Pike and it's brought to you by Innovative Dance Academy with special performances by Synergy and Dance on Q of South Brunswick.

Besides the dance performances, there will be the opportunity for photographs and face time with Santa as well as an opportunity to send a holiday greeting to a Soldier or Airman.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and \$5 for children and students. Call 609-865-9527 or 609-538-0979 or email soldierbenefit@aol.com for ticket availability and information.

It's nearly time to Wassail

Mark your calendars DMAVA employees, it's time to Wassail on Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Share in the holiday treats, do some decorating with your colleagues and maybe even join in a rousing rendition of the Hippopotamus song.

The celebration itself dates back to 15th century England or earlier and it is a tradition meant to celebrate and promote health, wealth and good fortune.

The history of the Hippopotamus song is a little more recent. According to Wikipedia.com, Songwriter John Rox wrote "I Want a Hippopotamus For Christmas" and the song became a national sensation in 1953 after Gayla Peevey, a popular child singer in Oklahoma City recorded the song. Not only did the song hit the top of the charts, a local promoter launched a campaign to present Peevey with a hippopotamus, which she donated to the city zoo. The beast was named Matilda and lived for nearly 50 years.

So with all that tradition behind us, it's time for Wassailing 2010.

The United States Army Warrant Officer Association, Fort Dix Doughboy Chapter, is looking for members. For membership information, contact Chief Warrant Officer Nancy E. Rowbotham at nancy.rowbotham@us.army.mil.

Got a Highlights submission? An article, picture, an announcement or just a tidbit of news?

Please send it to:

wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us

DMAVA/JFHQ Holiday Party Scheduled for Dec. 16

Time for another holiday tradition, the DMAVA/JFHQ Town Hall and Holiday Party.

It's scheduled for Dec. 16 at 11:30 a.m. at DMAVA's Lawrenceville Campus. Attendance at the Town Hall portion of the event is mandatory.

Tickets for the party are \$15 and the deadline for that price is Dec. 10. After that, it's \$20 at the door and seating will be limited to only 35 additional people. So get that money to your departmental representative.

The party includes a meal catered by Amici Miliano's and purchase of the ticket also includes a raffle ticket and a chance to win a \$400 gift certificate to the Borgata in Atlantic City.

See you there!

Sinatra tribute concert set for Dec. 10

Looking for a holiday concert with that Sinatra feel?

Consider the 4th Annual Sinatra Birthday Bash on Dec. 10 at the Count Basie Theater, 99 Monmouth Street in Red Bank.

The concert is presented by the non-profit Jazz Arts Project and Count Basie Theater and members of the military and veterans are especially welcome to attend.

A large group of some of the best saloon singers in the New York metropolitan area will be backed by the Red Bank Jazz Orchestra, a 17-piece big band.

Ticket prices range from \$45 to \$25. For more information, call 732-842-9000 or visit <http://www.countbasietheatre.org/calendar/show/show.asp?id=43246662>

Veterans Outreach Campaign schedule

The DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign has kiosk displays at malls throughout the state and other special events to help veterans and their family members discover and apply for the benefits they are eligible to receive.

Jan. 11*, 12, 13 Moorestown Mall

***Medal ceremony 10:30 a.m.**

