

DMAVA Highlights

August 26, 2010 Volume 12 Number 32

GOVERNOR HONORS SOLDIERS, AIRMEN, VETERANS



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, left, The Adjutant General along with Soldiers, Airmen, veterans and elected officials watch as Gov. Chris Christie, seated, signs bills recognizing New Jersey's Soldiers, Airmen and veterans on August 23. Bills signed were A-1945, which creates a New Jersey Honor Guard Ribbon. Also signed were A-515, which expands Operation Recognition to include Korean and Vietnam veterans. Another bill, A-1944, increases the Veteran's Services Council membership from nine to 12 and requiring there be at least two women members. Gov. Christie also recognized S-795, which pays tribute to the sacrifices of Vietnam Veterans from South Jersey by naming a portion of Route 47 as the "South Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Highway." Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMA-



Albanian platoon gets send off at Dix

After two weeks of mentorship and training the 29 members of the Albanian Army's 2nd Battalion, Rapid Reaction Brigade said good-bye on Monday, August 23 by swapping patches with the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 254th Regiment. Albanian Cpl. Aleksander Tresa slaps his patch on Staff Sgt. Anthony Seay's uniform at the farewell ceremony held at Sharp Field on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The Albanians will bring back the military and cultural experiences that ranged from the Leadership Reaction Course to seeing the Liberty Bell as part of the State partnership Program. "Remember the United States is your allies, New Jersey's your partner and 254th Regiment Soldiers are your friends," said Col. Walter Alvarado, 254th Regiment commander. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist.



By dawn's early light ...



As Master Sgt. Lisel White sings the National anthem on the USS Intrepid on Aug. 24, PGA golfer Phil Mickelson looks on. White and a New Jersey Army and Air color guard participated in a military appreciation ceremony prior to the Barclays golf tournament aboard the ship. The color guard consisted of Army Guard members Sgt. 1st Class Ray Denson, Spc. Asim Williams and Air Guard members Senior Master Sgt. Bonnie Gaskell, Tech. Sgt. Bryan Fernandez and Staff Sgt. Jared Whalen. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

National 9/11 Flag Bound For Jersey

The National 9/11 flag is making its way to New Jersey on Sept. 14 and the foundation that manages the flag is looking for some heroes to help finish its restoration.

The New York Says Thank You Foundation wants nominations of people who helped the city in the aftermath of the collapse of the terrorist attacks. The foundation is especially looking for Wounded Warriors and service members who have deployed since then. Nominees selected by the committee will be honored at a ceremony at Montclair State University on Sept. 14 and will help sew the remaining pieces of the flag together.

The flag itself was recovered from Ground Zero and has been to nearly every state. At each stop, work on the flag restoration progressed.

For more information, visit www.National911Flag.org.

DMAVA Highlights

Go Green! Save Green!

This year, the U. S. Department of the Treasury is eliminating the purchase of paper savings bonds through payroll sales and is encouraging participants to purchase electronic savings bonds online through www.TreasuryDirect.gov. With TreasuryDirect, Treasury can continue to offer employees the convenience of payroll savings while reducing the cost of the savings bond program. TreasuryDirect offers savings bonds for a minimum purchase of \$25 and other treasury securities including T-Bills, Notes, Bonds and Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS) in increments of \$100.

As a regular saver through TreasuryDirect Payroll Savings, you can direct your payroll deduction to an individual TreasuryDirect account and make purchases of savings bonds or other Treasury securities when you choose. Or you can have funds deposited into TreasuryDirect from your checking or savings account and then set up recurring purchases. In your TreasuryDirect account, you can set up multiple registrations and convert your paper bonds to electronic bonds through SmartExchange.

Opening a TreasuryDirect account only takes a few minutes and it's free! Go to www.TreasuryDirect.gov and click on "Open an Account." If you want information about TreasuryDirect before deciding to open an account, take the "Guided Tour" or watch the short video, "Opening a TreasuryDirect Account."

Paper savings bonds will remain available for purchase through most financial institutions or with your federal income tax refund using IRS Form 8888.

Retirement workshops

All state employees who are members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) or the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and planning to retire before the end of 2011 are invited to take advantage of the retirement workshops scheduled over the next four months.

The workshops are being held at the New Jersey Forensic Science Technology Center in Hamilton Township, Mercer County. During the workshop, representatives will explain topics including retirement benefits, beneficiary options, group life insurance, pension taxes and health benefits during retirement.

Register for the workshop date and time of your choice. Go to www.nj.us/treasury/pensions and click on the link for "Retirement Workshops."

Classes will be held at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and are scheduled for Sept. 9, 15, 24, 29; Oct. 4, 21; Nov. 3, 22, 29; and Dec. 10, 17.

When attending, members must bring along a printed version of their Estimate of Retirement Benefits, which they can get using the Member Benefits Online System. To register for MBOS, go to www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/mbosregister.shtml and follow instructions.

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DMAVA Green

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

We even recycle our columns! This column is being recycled from March 12, 2009.

A recent order came in the mail and as I dug through to get everything, those little "peanuts" kept sticking to my clothes and the stuff I bought; they are enough to drive me crazy. But what do I do with them after I unpack the box? Can I recycle them?

Styrofoam® is also called expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam, a version of plastic #6. But even if your community accepts #6 in its recycling program, it may not accept EPS. Check your local community recycler to make sure what their rules are for recycling EPS.

Here are ways to recycle those packing peanuts and other forms of EPS.

There are various sites that take EPS or reuse packing peanuts. Visit the following site and plug in your address to find the nearest recycling/reusing center - www.search.earth911.com/?what=Packing%20Peanut%20Reuse.

There is also a mail back program through the Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers. Check out their information at www.epspackaging.org/info.html.

Peanuts can be saved for your next package to someone – pass on the joy. Or you can donate them to your local shipping store or UPS. Where can you find a place to give your peanuts? Drop by www.loosefillpackaging.com/pages/why.htm or call 800-828-2214 (24 hours a day) to find a site near you that will reuse those pesky things.

With a little work and time, you can keep EPS out of the landfill where it takes up space and does not biodegrade.

New technology has created biodegradable packing materials that are plant based. It can be used as a fertilizer on your lawn – it breaks down into inert proteins when it mixes with water and soil bacteria eats the packing material.

Keep on recycling!



Army team Stryker emerged victorious following a double header face-off against their Air Force rivals at the Joint Base –McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst 2010 Soccer Championship on August 11th. Representing the New Jersey Army National Guard were: Maj. Luis Aguinaga Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ), Master Sergeant Esly Panduro (JFHQ), SSG Jose Castro (USPFO), SGT Javier Colquicocha (USPFO), Spc. Walner Garcia (USPFO), Spc. Moses Guzman (JFHQ), and two contractors Mr. Jose Yabar and Mr. Julio Arrieta.

Wounded Soldier and Family
Hotline
1-800-984-8523

Families

NGB seeks feedback on families with special needs

NGB is actively working with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and all Parent Service Organizations (Army, AF, Navy, and Marines) to add additional support services for Families with Special Needs (Exceptional Family Member Program-EFMP). NGB needs your feedback to determine the scope of the needs and the most important issues impacting these families. Your survey feedback will directly affect proper allocation of resources to support our Families with Special Needs. All Soldiers, Airmen, Family members of service members, and ARNG/ANG Family Program staff are encouraged to participate. The Guard Family Special Needs Survey assessment will only take approximately two minutes or less, and will be available until Aug. 31. To complete the survey, please click on the following link to the Joint Services Support (JSS) webpage: <http://tinyurl.com/39v85ph> or <https://www.jointservicesupport.org/Survey/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=403>

Job open for readiness support assistant in Somerset

Job seekers – there is an opening for a Army National Guard Readiness Support Assistant at the 42nd Regional Support Group, Somerset Armory, Somerset.

If you are interested, contact Marie Durling at 609-530-6884 or marie.durling@us.army.mil for the job description. Applications are due no later than 5 p.m. on Aug. 27.

Reservations open for Great Wolf weekend, Oct. 22-24

It's that time of year again and ARMS is again planning a trip to Great Wolf Lodge for October 22-24.

For all those that have experienced this before, they will tell you it is a fun weekend. Great Wolf puts together a great Halloween party and trick or treat for that weekend. Everyone can wear costumes for a fun time. For the adults, Mount Airy Lodge, a wonderful casino, is five minutes away. There are only 30 rooms available for this event.

The price has changed a little - \$450 dollars for the two nights or \$250 for Saturday into Sunday. This is the lowest price since the event has begun. This price allows for up to six people in a room and includes park passes. Due to a new rule at Great Wolf, there is a \$50 non-refundable fee that MUST be sent in no later than Sept. 1. The rooms must be paid in full by Sept. 30. Please note that the rooms will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Meals are not included.

Reservations and non-refundable fee (check made out to AMRS) can be mailed to ARMS, 64 Harding Road, Red Bank, NJ 07701. For more information, call 732-890-4914 or e-mail usslibertyhouse@comcast.net.

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.



Free community nights at the Franklin Institute for families

The Franklin Institute is introducing Target Community Nights at the Franklin Institute – free educational and fun-filled science nights, from 5-8 p.m., sponsored by Target. Everyone is welcome: join the fun and experience The Franklin Institute's exhibitions, special programs and themed activities.

Activities include FREE:

Access to all of The Franklin Institute's hands-on exhibits like Sports Challenge and The Giant Heart; tickets to the Tuttleman IMAX Theater; 3D shows in The Franklin Theater; live science shows; Fels Planetarium shows; and access to the Joel N. Bloom observatory. The monthly schedule varies and not all community nights offer free IMAX tickets, nor are the free IMAX tickets for feature length films.

The dates of the 2010 Target Community Nights are: July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20 and Nov. 17.

You will be asked to register when you arrive; the registration desk opens at 5 p.m.

Company offers free signs to welcome home the troops

BuildASign.com respects the continued service and sacrifice that our military personnel selflessly provide every day. To express their support of our brave men and women in uniform, they want to invite you to take part in their free "Welcome Home" banner promotion. To date, they have given away over 60,000 banners. All banners can be customized in full color, including pictures; they just ask that the customer pay the shipping and handling fee, which varies based on how much in advance of the event you need the banner. [Source: <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/News/2010/03/Banners>]

Et Cetera

VA center holding Welcome Home event at zoo, Sept. 1

The Philadelphia VA Medical Center invites veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom to the 2010 Welcome Home event at the Philadelphia Zoo on Sept. 1, 3-6 p.m.

You can enjoy the zoo and learn about your VA benefits at the same time. In addition to health care enrollment information (returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are automatically eligible for five years of free health care), there will be opportunities to learn about VA home loans, Post -9/11 GI Bill, employment and vocational rehabilitation.

Each veteran may bring up to three immediate family members or significant others. The day's events will take place rain or shine. Veterans are asked to RSVP through the Welcome Home Web site, www.philadelphia.va.gov no later than Aug. 27. A copy of the veteran's DD214 will be necessary on the day of the event.

Car parts company wants to makeover cars

Car trouble? Advance Auto Parts, Inc. wants to help.

The company has partnered with Operation Homefront to offering car makeovers worth \$2,500 to military families in South Jersey and Philadelphia as an expression of gratitude for their service. The company will also donate \$25,000 to Operation Homefront to go toward their support of active duty soldiers as well as veterans across the country.

As part of the car makeover, Advance Auto Parts will bring winner's cars up to inspection, address safety needs and replace parts where needed. The contest, which will run from Aug. 4-Sept. 10, is open to active service men and woman, veterans and their families. Advance Auto Parts invites military members, family and friends to log onto www.advanceautoparts.com/homefront to explain why they or a loved one is in need of the car repair. Local Advance Auto Parts shops will volunteer their time to work on these projects at no cost to the winners.

Congressman Holt looking for veterans for Oral History Project

By Terry Dearden, DMAVA Government Relations

New Jersey Congressman Rush Holt wants to interview veterans for the Library of Congress Veteran Oral History Project. He is looking to contact Veterans of all conflicts to share their story to be videotaped and recorded. Any Veteran interested should contact Matthew Hall in Congressman Rush Holt's office at 609-716-0497.

N.J. Honor Guard program has openings for new members

The New Jersey National Guard Honor Guard Program is looking for new members to serve at funerals of veterans around the state.

Retirees and active National Guard members of the Army and Air Guard can apply for the openings. Retirees with 20 years or more of service from any branch can also apply. The Honor Guard members are men and women, enlisted and officers.

All personnel must meet Army/Air Force height and weight standards of AR 600-9 and their appearance must meet AR 670-1 standards.

Current Guard members are paid one day's active duty pay, but no less than \$50 plus one retirement point for each day's work. Retirees receive \$50 per day.

Many days can find the Honor Guard with more than one mission; but each person registers for the time they are available. Most services take place within a 50 mile radius of their assigned Honor Guard Office; hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Some missions can be done in the evening hours. The Honor Guard provides services seven days a week, depending on the schedule of missions.

The N.J. National Guard Honor Guard Program provides services mostly for Army veterans but has worked at other branch's funerals.



There is an initial training period for all personnel. Everyone will be taught how to perform all assignments and phases of the ceremony. If someone has a special talent such as bugle playing for Taps, it is greatly appreciated.

Anyone interested must contact the program office at 609-530-7090. They will be referred to a local regional team leader to establish an appointment time and location for an interview or in the case of a bugler, an audition.

Unity Day at JT2DC, Sept. 16

Start planning now for the New Jersey National Guard 12th Annual Unity Day celebration on Sept. 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Joint Training and Training Development Center, Fort Dix.

Start the day off with the Fun Walk/Run at 8:30 a.m. Later you can donate blood at the Blood Drive in the Stow Bay Parking Lot, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Spend the day celebrating our ethnic and cultural diversity through food, music, entertainment and giveaways.

For information, volunteer opportunities or questions, contact the following people:

Event POC is Maj. Barbara Brown-Wilson, 609-562-0856, Barbara.g.brown@us.army.mil; Fun Run/Walk POC is Staff Sgt. Christina Ermi, 609-562-0941, Christina.d.ermi@us.army.mil; or, Blood drive POC is Sgt. Geraldo Rodriguez, 609-562-0880, Gerardo.rodriguez@us.army.mil.

Veterans & Military

Retirees - make sure DFAS has your correct address

Your mailing address is one of the most important pieces of information that you have on file at Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). If you've moved recently or have a new P.O. Box, please notify them to ensure that your Retiree Account Statements, tax forms and other important documents will reach you in a timely manner. If you are a retiree please mail your address change to:

DFAS U.S. Military Retired Pay
P.O. Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130
Fax DFAS Retired Pay at 1-800-469-6559

If you are an annuitant please mail your address change to:
DFAS U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
P.O. Box 7131
London, KY 40742-7131

Fax DFAS Annuitant Pay at 1-800-982-8459

Or, both retirees and annuitants may call DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay directly at 1-800-321-1080.

If submitting your request in writing, please include both your old and new mailing address, along with the effective date for the new address. In addition, please include your name, social security number and signature with date on your request.

MVC chief announces extensions for military

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission Chief Administrator Raymond P. Martinez has announced the issuance of Administrative Order 2010-02, which renews a 2009 order granting all New Jerseyans who are active duty military personnel serving in the war on terrorism, including the National Guard and Military Reserves, automatic extensions of valid driver license, registration and inspection expiration dates.

"This order is a simple, but helpful gesture to demonstrate the state's support for the troops and recognize the tremendous sacrifice that they are making on behalf of all New Jerseyans," said Martinez. "Easing this burden at home for our soldiers and their families is one way to thank them for their dedication and service."

Authorized each year, the extensions are granted to military personnel during active service in the war on terrorism (including Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom) or Operation Iraqi Freedom. License, registration and inspection documents will remain valid until two weeks after demobilization.

The law enforcement community is aware of the extension however, military personnel should carry a copy of the letter signed by Chief Administrator Martinez, which can be found on www.njmvc.gov, along with their active duty military credentials when operating a motor vehicle.

Join the 117th Cav for their biennial reunion

From the desk of retired Col. Dennis J. Dougherty, President, 117th Cavalry Association

Are You Ready for the 117th Cavalry Association 2010 Biennial Reunion? The 2010 Biennial Reunion promises to be a great event. Our reunion committee has outdone itself with a program of events that will please all in attendance. All who attend will have their own story and memories to share with friends and fellow troopers. The reunion takes place on Oct. 23, at Gibbs Hall, Fort Monmouth.



I hope to see you all at the reunion, so we as an organization can come together to honor those who have served and those who continue to serve.

We all have friends who we have served in Armor and Cavalry units whose lineage flows through 1-102nd Cavalry. Let them know you are planning to attend the reunion and you would like to share a table and lots of memories with them.

Cocktail hour is 6-7 p.m., dinner begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$45 per person if then money is received before Aug. 20; \$50 per person after that date. Meal choices are Chicken Francaise, prime rib and stuffed flounder.

Send reservations and money by Oct. 15, along with menu choice to:

COL (Ret.) Dennis J. Dougherty
615 Raymond Street
Westfield, NJ 07090

If you have any questions, check out www.117th-cav.org or e-mail doughertydj@comcast.net.

Monmouth University looking for volunteers for veterans program

Monmouth University is looking for volunteers to help launch its Yellow Ribbon Mentorship Program to help student-veterans as they pursue their degrees at the West Long Branch university.

Paul Gaffney, the university president a retired U.S. Navy vice admiral, said he envisions the mentorship program as an extra benefit to students who are attending the school using the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008.

Although the tuition assistance provided under the act is substantial, Gaffney wants the university to also be able to respond to all of the needs of their student-veterans. The volunteers could assist university staff with needs such as job networking, fellowship, and family help.

Gaffney believes students who have served in the military would benefit from having mentors who are veterans. If you live in the general vicinity of Monmouth University, and are interested in volunteering or finding out more...please contact program coordinator Jose Siandre at Jose.Siandre@glacialenergy.com.

Calendar

Hope for the Warriors Run Slated for 9/11

On September 11, Rutgers Army ROTC will be hosting a 5K run/walk for the Hope For The Warriors foundation.

The race begins at Rutgers Football Stadium on the Busch Campus at 9:00 a.m. Pre-registration begins at 7 a.m.

The foundation works to ensure the sacrifices of wounded and fallen warriors and their families are never forgotten nor their needs unmet. The foundation offers scholarships and other aid to wounded warriors and the families of the fallen.

All money raised from the race goes to support the foundation and their mission.

For further information and race registration, visit www.hope-forthewarriors.org.

POW/MIA ceremony, Sept. 16

Save the date – The POW/MIA ceremony traditionally held at Lakehurst, will be held on the Dix section of Joint Base McGuire-Dix Lakehurst this year. The event is being hosted by the joint base along with the Navy Lakehurst Historical Society.

The ceremony is scheduled for Sept. 16, 1 p.m. at the Timmerman Center. Guest speaker for the event is former POW, retired Admiral Jeremiah Denton.

Savino golf tourney, Sept. 24

The 14th Annual LTC Dave Savino Memorial golf tournament will be held on Sept. 24 at the Hanover Golf Course, Wrightstown. The tourney begins at 12:30 p.m. with a shotgun start and will be played in a two person scramble format (best ball).

Cost is \$100 donation per person and includes greens fees, cart, refreshments and door prizes. A buffet lunch will be served after the tournament at the course.

Send your payments to 108th WG/MXQ, ATTN: SMSgt Mike Balas, 3333 Wonnacott Blvd., JBMDL, NJ 08641. Make checks payable to LTC Dave Savino Memorial Fund. If you have any questions, call Balas at 609-894-4692.

The course is located at 133 Larrison Road, Wrightstown, 8 1/2 miles west of Great Adventure, just off route 537.

Somerset Patriots host veterans

Operation Jersey Cares is hosting the 8th Annual Veterans of America Day at TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater, on Aug. 29, starting at 4 p.m. There will be a celebration with a parade for the veterans with the guest of honor, Jack Gartenberg.

Gartenberg served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1944-1946 and is a Iwo Jima survivor.

After the celebration, the Somerset Patriots invite everyone to stay and enjoy the game between the Southern Maryland Blue Claws and the Patriots. Veterans can receive free tickets; cost of tickets for friends and family will be \$5. To order tickets, contact Marc Russinoff, Somerset Patriots, 908-252-0700, ext. 215 or e-mail mrussinoff@somersetpatriots.com.

Park promotion for the day is a camouflage Patriots hat to the first 2,000 fans in attendance.

Run for the Fallen, Sept. 25

For the second year, runners will embark on a 140 mile run to honor every New Jersey service member killed in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The "Run for the Fallen" will take place Sept. 25 starting at Cape May Lighthouse and ending at the New Jersey Vietnam Memorial in Holmdel.

The runners will mark every mile of the journey with an American flag and a personal biographical card in honor of every fallen service member. Runners are active duty and reserve Airmen and Soldiers from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

The New Jersey "Run for the Fallen" was started in 2009 by Master Sgt. Bubba G.V. Beason who was stationed in the McGuire section of the Joint Base. He is currently deployed to Afghanistan, but has made plans to return to New Jersey for the run.

If you are interested in participating in the run, or for more information on the run, visit www.njrunforthefallen.org.

Soldier Show, Sept. 25

Enjoy a free concert of the 2010 U.S. Army Soldier Show hosted by the Picatinny Arsenal at the Morris Knolls High School auditorium on Sept. 25 at 7 p.m.

All active duty, National Guard and Reservists, along with their families will be given priority and must request tickets by Sept. 3. All other requests will be accepted on a first come, first served basis, including retired military and Picatinny employees. Call 973-724-4014/4186/5515 to reserve your tickets. Tickets can be picked up at Picatinny or will be held at the door on the day of the show.

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.

August 29 TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater**

Somerset Patriots Veterans of America Day

**Outreach events only

Sept. 7*, 8, 9 Willowbrook Mall

Oct. 5*, 6, 7 Brunswick Square Mall

*Medal ceremony 10:30 a.m.

Deadline

Want to place an event or article in DMAVA Highlights?

Deadline for articles is noon Wednesday.

Send submissions to barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us.