

View in Web Browser

February 28, 2024



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

Commissioner's Corner



Governor Phil Murphy delivered his seventh annual budget address on February 27, 2024, outlining spending priorities for Fiscal Year 2025.

From the Commissioner

FY 2025 Budget Proposal

New Jersey is doing more for state-delivered Veterans programs and services than we ever have. Yesterday, Governor Philip D. Murphy delivered his seventh annual budget address to the legislature. The Governor introduced a \$55.9 billion spending plan that includes a proposed surplus of \$6.1 billion and redirects nearly 74% of the total budget back to communities in the form of grants-in-aid for property tax relief, social services, and higher education, as well as State aid to schools, community colleges, municipalities, and counties.

From my vantage point, the proposed budget includes historic investments to New Jersey Service Members, Veterans, and their families.

The Governor proposes an allocation of \$21 million to modernize the Menlo Park and Paramus Veterans Homes to enhance their ability to prevent and contain future infectious disease outbreaks. Specifically, this investment provides the state cost share to complement a 65% federal match that will fund the conversion of resident rooms from dual occupancy to single occupancy consistent with nationwide long-term care best practices. In addition, the Governor's request includes critical funding to upgrade beds and medical equipment at the Menlo Park, Paramus, and Vineland Veterans Memorial Homes.

This builds upon last year's budget that enabled the implementation of electronic medical records systems along with salary and wage increases across the three Veterans homes. These increases are competitive with private sector long-term care facilities and reflect the Murphy Administration's commitment to attracting and retaining high quality talent to provide care to the Veterans, Veteran Spouses, and Gold Star Families who call these facilities home.

The Governor's budget translates values into action through a bold, interagency effort to eliminate veteran homelessness over the next two years. Our goal is functional zero. That means that all existing homeless Veterans are housed, and any newly homeless Veterans will be housed within 30 days. The funding of more than \$30 million supports interventions and long-term investments to get the 993 sheltered and 174 unsheltered homeless Veterans into stable housing and provide short-term services and long-term support. This initiative reflects our state's deeply held commitment to functionally end veteran homelessness in New Jersey.

These historic investments yield both tangible and intangible returns. One data point that demonstrates this – in 2023, State of New Jersey Veterans Service Officers secured more than \$129 million in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs initial benefit awards for eligible Veterans and their survivors. That money helps our fellow citizens and our local economy. These strides would not be possible without the support of the Governor, the Legislature, New Jersey Veterans service organizations, and the people who work on the front lines each day helping our community.

This budget sets the foundation for critical support to our Garden State heroes and those who love them.

Thank you, as always, for your interest in DMAVA.

We invite you to share ideas, events and feedback. Please email our team at outreach@dmava.nj.gov.

Major General Lisa J. Hou, D.O.
The Adjutant General & Commissioner



Featured Events



Multiple Dates and Locations
Free Eight-Hour Training Sessions

Mental Health First Aid Training

Learn How to Support Veterans

Intended for community organizations that interact with Service Members, Veterans, and their families at the local level, but is open for all interested participants.

[Learn More and Register](#)

★ ★ ★ NJ KOVA INITIATIVE PRESENTS ★ ★ ★

NORMALIZE THE CONVERSATION

• • • Veteran Night Out & Unfiltered Discussion • • •

1ST

MARCH, 2024

FRIDAY

5:30PM - 8:00PM

AT
MISSION POINT CHURCH
900 W NEW YORK AVE.
SOMERS POINT, NJ 08244

FREE
ADMISSION



Please join NJ KOVA for unfiltered stories regarding Veterans mental health, what helped them during recovery and transition, and the effects on their loved ones.

Dinner & Childcare Provided On-site

Dinner Served at 5:30PM
Program begins at 6:30PM



Scan To Register
Or
Use the link Below



To Register Please Visit: KOVA South Jersey



PACT Act

Information & VA Claims Consultation/Clinic



WHEN: Saturday, March 2, 2024/10AM – 2PM

WHERE: Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst
Commissary Parking Lot
3452 Broidy Road, Fort Dix, NJ 08640

WHO: Veteran, service members and dependents eligible to receive VA benefits

WHY: PACT Act information about VA entitlements and benefits, compensation and VA Healthcare

For more information call: 973-297-3384 or jennifer.myers6@va.gov

The Camden County Board of Commissioners Presents

EMPOWER HER

Addressing the Needs of Female Veterans


Sunday March 10th, 12PM-3PM
 Collingswood Ballroom | 315 White Horse Pike, Collingswood, NJ

Join us for an afternoon dedicated to recognizing women veterans with a panel discussion and resource fair highlighting topics of interest to women veterans. Lunch will be provided.





Panel Discussions will be moderated by
Commissioner and Gold Star Mother Melinda Kane

Topics Include:



- Veteran Women Stigma
- Whole Health Wellness / Self Care
- Veteran Trauma



Scan the QR code to learn more, RSVP, or sign up to be a resource

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 Veterans Health Administration
 Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center

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.

- February 29 | Paramus
[Centennial Celebration](#)

- March 2 | Bordentown
[First Aid/CPR/AED Certification Training](#)
- March 2 | Ridgefield
[Community Veteran Resource Outreach Fair](#)
- March 5 | County College of Morris
[Veteran Suicide Awareness Seminar](#)
- March 13 | Woodbridge
[Quarterly Women's Open Forum](#)
- March 14 | Rahway
[State Medal Ceremony](#)
- March 27 | Barnegat
[Barnegat's Vietnam War Veterans Day](#)

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



Live Fire Exercise

Soldiers of Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery Regiment, [44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#), New Jersey Army National Guard, conduct a live fire exercise utilizing the M777 howitzer on February 16, 2024 at Fort Bliss, Texas. The 44th IBCT is conducting training exercises at multiple sites on Fort Bliss.

[View Images](#)



RQ-11 Raven

Soldiers assigned to the 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, perform training on the RQ-11 Raven unmanned aerial system on February 17, 2024 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

[View Images](#)



RQ-7 Shadow

Soldiers of Delta Co., 104th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, launched the AAI RQ-7 Shadow unmanned aerial vehicle on February 19, 2024 at McGregor Base Camp, New Mexico.

[View Images](#)



Sling Load

On February 22, 2024, Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery Regiment conducted sling load training with the help of 2nd Battalion (General Support), 501st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, in the vicinity of the Dona Ana Training Complex at Fort Bliss, Texas. Soldiers from Charlie Battery rigged their M777A2 155mm Howitzers and attached them to CH-47F Chinook Helicopters.

[View Images](#)



Mounted Live Fire Exercise

Soldiers of Delta Co., 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry Regiment, 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, performed a mounted live fire exercise with AH-64 Apache helicopter support from the 1-501st Attack and Reconnaissance Battalion, at Fort Bliss, Texas on February 25, 2024.

Join Our Team

100% Free College Tuition
Bonuses up to \$20,000
Student Loan Repayment



DMAVA Veterans Services



The February 2024 edition of the Veterans Journal is now available.

Get New Edition



Nancy Marty and Cornelious Jones

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Nancy Marty and Resident, Mr. Cornelious Jones, talk about their relationship and the love they have for where they live and work in the [Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland](#).

Cornelious is a 94-year-old WWII Navy Veteran and Nancy has served those who reside at the Vineland Home for 19 years.

[Watch Video](#)



State Medals Ceremony

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs held a State Medal Ceremony at the New Jersey Casino Control Commission in Atlantic City, NJ on February 23, 2024.

[View Images](#)



SMS Alerts - Text "NJVets" to 78015

Opt-in now to receive SMS Alerts from DMAVA! Text "NJVets" to 78015 or scan the QR code above and send. You will be immediately opted-in to receive alerts and important messages from the Division of Veterans Services.

This service is provided free of charge, however, carrier messaging and data rates may apply. To opt-out at any time, simply reply "Stop".

**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

Soldier & Family Readiness Team

<p>BORDENTOWN Michele Daisey Office: 609-496-9230 Cell: 609-802-2241 michele.daisey1.civ@army.mil</p>	<p>TEANECK Denise Gonzalez Office: 201-268-7454 Cell: 609-668-5282 denise.l.gonzalez2.civ@army.mil</p>	<p>MORRISTOWN Diana Becker Office: 973-829-4017 609-802-6921 diana.e.becker2.civ@army.mil</p>
<p>VINELAND Phillip Morse Office: 609-572-5227 Cell: 609-864-9282 philip.c.morse.civ@army.mil</p>	<p>SEA GIRT Brenda Irwin Office: 732-820-6094 Cell: 609-341-6579 brenda.l.irwin2.civ@army.mil</p>	<p>SOMERSET Melissa Nicolato Office: 732-867-0920 Cell: 609-351-0999 melissa.k.nicolato.civ@army.mil</p>
<p>WOODBURY Kenneth Lucas Office: 856-537-6133 Cell: 609-802-6924 kenneth.d.lucas2.civ@army.mil</p>		<p>LAWRENCEVILLE Dawn Jimenez Office: 609-671-6681 Cell: 609-802-6911 dawn.m.jimenez.civ@army.mil</p>

NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.



**YOUTH
CHALLENGE
ACADEMY**

Now accepting applications
for Class 58 - July 2024.

**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



Governor's Challenge

On February 26, 2024, stakeholders from around the state came together for a full-day workshop as part of the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and Their Families.

Learn more about this initiative and its important work at [SaveNJVets.org](https://www.nj.gov/military/outreach/newsletters/20240228.html).

Military / Veteran-owned Business Grants



Burlington County Commissioners Offer Eligible Military/Veteran-owned Businesses Up to \$20,000

Eligibility:

- Located in Burlington County, New Jersey
- At least 51% owned by veterans, reservists, guardsmen, or active duty military personnel
- Have incurred an eligible COVID-related loss

Scan for More Information



Questions?

Call: (609) 755-5711 or email: BurlCoVets@cpgh.net

Mercer County VETERANS SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP!

To honor National Vietnam War Veterans Day, we would like to display your photos on a continuous slide show on the Mercer County Veteran Services web page.

Photographs may be submitted by Veterans or their family members. Include the Veteran's name, unit, and service dates, if known. All photos will become the property of Mercer County and will not be returned.

Submit photos to:
MCVeteranServices@mercercounty.org

You can also drop off images to:
Mercer County Veteran Services
640 South Broad Street, Trenton

Mercer County Connection
957 Highway 33, Hamilton

ATTENTION VIETNAM VETERANS

SUBMIT PHOTOS BY MARCH 13, 2024



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
CSC
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Civil Service Commission's
**Statewide
Job Fair**

Government Agencies, Colleges & Universities are looking for talented individuals like you.

Date
Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Time
9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Location
Rowan College of South Jersey - Scott Hall
1400 Tanyard Road
Sewell, New Jersey 08080

- ◆ Please bring copies of your resume.
- ◆ Onsite Typing Certification Test will be conducted. (Room 721)
- ◆ Information, Application and Resource Sessions (Room 705 & 706)
- ◆ Parking available in Lot D.

Register using the link below
<https://forms.office.com/g/lwdra5e3Qd>



Connecting Talents, Building the Future 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](#)
- [Troops to Teachers](#)
- [Journey Through Jersey](#)

Federal Partners



In one of the largest-ever expansions of Veteran health care, all Veterans exposed to toxins and other hazards during military service - at home or abroad - will be eligible for VA health care beginning March 5

VA News | February 26, 2024

WASHINGTON - Today, VA announced that all Veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military - at home or abroad - will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care beginning March 5, 2024. This means that all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11 will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Additionally, Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States will also be eligible to enroll.

As [directed by President Biden](#), this expansion of VA health care eliminates the phased-in approach called for by the PACT Act — meaning that millions of Veterans are becoming eligible for VA health care up to eight years earlier than written into law. This is a critical step forward because Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than non-enrolled Veterans, and VA hospitals have dramatically outperformed non-VA hospitals in [overall quality ratings](#) and [patient satisfaction ratings](#). Additionally, VA health care is often [more affordable](#) than non-VA health care for Veterans.

VA encourages all eligible Veterans to visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) or call 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more and apply for VA health care beginning March 5. Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law on August 10, 2022, more than 500,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care.

[Read Full News Release](#)

VA proposes rule to extend presumed areas of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides, making it easier for exposed Veterans to receive their earned benefits

VA News | February 9, 2024

WASHINGTON - Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs issued a proposed rule outlining plans to expand the locations and time frames for which VA presumes exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. If this proposed rule becomes final, VA will implement a new presumption of exposure to locations where herbicides were tested, used, or stored outside of Vietnam.

Specifically, this proposed rule would add locations in the United States ([full list of US locations where Agent Orange was tested or stored](#)), [Canada](#), and [India](#) to the existing presumptives for Agent Orange in Vietnam, Cambodia, Johnson Atoll, Guam, American Samoa, Korea, Laos, and Thailand.

A presumption of exposure means that VA automatically assumes that Veterans who served in certain locations were exposed to certain toxins. Presumptives lower the burden of proof required to receive disability benefits, helping Veterans get the benefits they deserve as quickly as possible. This expansion of presumptives will help Veterans who served in the specified locations receive health care and benefits for [certain cancers and chronic conditions](#).

To be eligible, a Veteran must have served in the identified location(s) during a specific time period and currently have a condition(s) presumptively associated with herbicide exposure.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Featured Links

- [National Parks Pass](#)
- [VALife Insurance](#)
- [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](#)

Community Spotlight



ATTENTION CLASS OF 2024
APPLICATION DEADLINE
APRIL 15, 2024

APPLY NOW!

NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERANS'
★ **MEMORIAL FOUNDATION** ★

2024 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Each year, two eligible New Jersey high school seniors are awarded \$2,500 toward higher learning at the college, university, or trade school of their choice.

Scholarships will be presented to the winners at the NJVVM 2024 Memorial Day Ceremony

For more information contact scholarship@njvvmf.org

2024 SCHOLARSHIPS MADE POSSIBLE BY  **North Jersey**
COUNTRY CLUB

Never Forget

In Honor of all those from New Jersey who gave their lives in the fight against terrorism during Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In humble gratitude, we remember their sacrifice.

March 3, 2008
Operation Enduring Freedom
CPL Steven R. Koch
U.S. Army
Milltown, New Jersey

March 4, 2005
Operation Iraqi Freedom
CPT Sean Grimes
U.S. Army
Dover, New Jersey

"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



Essex Troop in Washington, D.C. in 1913

February 29, 1780

Continental Army Quartermaster General Nathanael Greene wrote from Morristown: "Our provisions are in a manner, gone. We have not a ton of hay at command, nor magazine [supply point] to draw from. Money is extremely scarce, and worth little when we get it. We have been so poor in camp for a fortnight, (two weeks) that we could not forward the public dispatches, for want of cash to support the expresses."

February 29, 1824

Arabella Wharton Griffith was born in Somerville. In 1861, Griffith married Francis Channing Barlow, a New York attorney ten years her junior. Barlow rose to the rank of brigadier general in the Union army and when her husband was badly wounded at Antietam in 1862 and at Gettysburg in 1863, Arabella brought him back to Somerville, where she nursed him

March 2, 1933

President Herbert Hoover signed legislation making George Washington's headquarters and his Army's winter camp at Morristown the first National Historical Park in the United States.

March 4, 1913

New Jersey Governor Woodrow Wilson was inaugurated as President of the United States. Wilson's inaugural parade was led by the Essex Troop, a New Jersey National Guard cavalry unit from Newark wearing British-influenced full dress uniforms custom tailored by Brooks Brothers in New York City.

March 9, 1968

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

back to health. In July, 1864, she contacted typhus nursing sick Union soldiers at City Point, Virginia, and died of the disease in Washington on July 27. She was buried in Somerville.

March 2, 1902

Morris "Moe" Berg was born in New York City. Raised in Newark's Roseville section, Berg became the best baseball player the city ever produced, with a brilliant mind to boot, graduating from Princeton University and Columbia University Law School. He became a major league baseball player and coach, World War II OSS agent and legendary eccentric Roseville character. Berg died in Belleville on May 29, 1972. His last words were "how did the Mets do today?"

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.



March 6, 1962

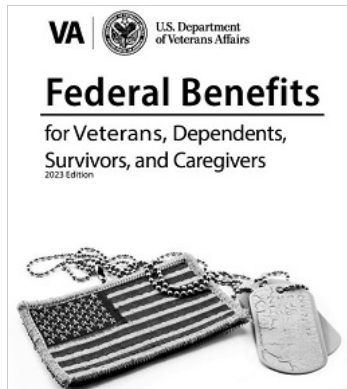
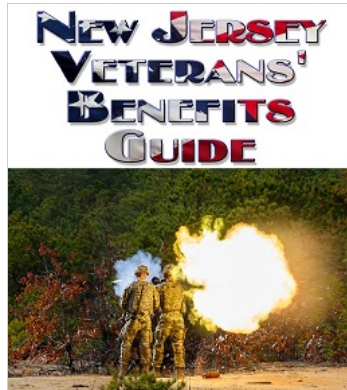
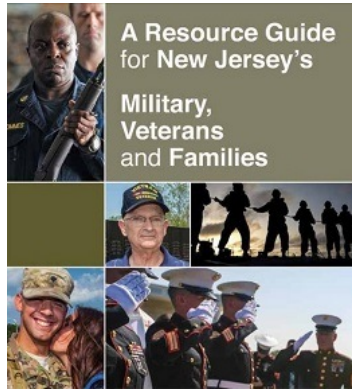
On this day in New Jersey National Guard history...New Jersey and much of the Mid-Atlantic was hit with the "Ash Wednesday" storm of 1962. According to the annual New Jersey Dept. of Defense report of 1962,

"...agencies of the Department became very deeply involved in rescue and relief operations in our shore and other tidal areas during the storm which commenced on 6 March and dealt such tremendous havoc to our coastal areas.

Our State, County, and Local Civil Defense Agencies conducted rescue and relief operations to the extent of their capability and they were immediately reinforced as required by elements of the New Jersey Army National Guard, the Active Coast Guard, Navy, and the 119th Tactical Fighter Squadron, New Jersey Air National Guard.

In all, 351 National Guard personnel using 174 vehicles evacuated approximately 3000 citizens from the shore area on Long Beach Island, Atlantic City and Cape May County. Approximately 200 others were evacuated from the Port Norris - Fortescue area and Keansburg."

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

NJ Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
101 Eggert Crossing Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

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