

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE

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Governor Chris Christie Files Direct Appointments

Monday, May 25, 2015 • Tags: [Appointments](#)



Trenton, NJ - Governor Chris Christie filed the following direct appointments with the Secretary of State's Office.

DIRECT APPOINTMENTS

Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

Public Member

Appoint **Thomas V. Macchiaverna (Toms River, Ocean)**

Public Member - Individual or Family Member with Autism

Appoint **Elizabeth K. Bell (Pennington, Mercer)**

Autism Organization Representatives

Reappoint **Gary Weitzen (Lakewood, Ocean)**

Reappoint **B. Madeleine Goldfarb (Livingston, Essex)**

Appoint **Dana E. Spett, MSW (Mahwah, Bergen)**

Health Care Organization Representative

Reappoint **Caroline Eggerding, M.D. (Haddonfield, Camden)**

Academic Institution Recommendations

Reappoint **Ketan Kansagra, M.D., F.A.A.P. (Warren, Somerset)**

Appoint **Samuel Sheng-Hung Wang, Ph.D. (Princeton, Mercer)**



Appoint **Cheryl F. Dreyfus, Ph.D. (Short Hills, Essex)**

Appoint **Wilma Judith Friedman, Ph.D. (New York, NY)**

Garden State Preservation Trust

Governor's Public Member

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Appoint **Laura Overdeck (Short Hills, Essex)**

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Trenton, NJ – Honoring a commitment to assist and improve the lives of military members, First Lady Mary Pat Christie today named Jack McDonald, President of GI Tickets Foundation, as her fourth New Jersey Hero of 2015 and 35th Hero overall. McDonald is one of three New Jerseyans nominated for their efforts to make a difference in the lives of military members and their families throughout the Garden State. Ray Chimileski of Operation Chillout and Tom Cunningham of Operation Jersey Cares round out the nominees for this month's New Jersey Hero.

"I am truly inspired by Jack McDonald's initiative and commitment. As a high school junior, this young man had a unique vision to give back to our active military

members and their families who sacrifice so much for us as a state and a nation," said First Lady Mary Pat Christie. "He developed the GI Tickets Foundation as a way to say thank you and today, the organization continues to grow and provide even more opportunities for our soldiers to take part in high profile sporting events. During Military Appreciation Month, I am proud to name Jack McDonald as our 4th New Jersey Hero of 2015 for his dedicated efforts on behalf of our service members."

GI Tickets Foundation is a New Jersey non-profit organization that was established by Jack McDonald as he entered his junior year of high school in 2011. In 2013, he took a step back from the charity to focus on his transition from high school to college. With that transition complete, he assembled a team of Villanova and University of Penn students to help run the organization with the mission to send active duty soldiers and their families to major sporting events/concerts as a 'thank you' for their service.

"We are very grateful of our supporters, New Jersey Heroes, and First Lady Mary Pat Christie," said GI Tickets Foundation President Jack McDonald. "This award signifies how far we've come as an organization and how much more potential we have to impact the lives of those who are willing to give theirs for us."

GI Tickets works with monetary donors, season ticket holders, professional teams, and Fortune 500 companies to utilize unused tickets and tailor custom outings by providing premium seats and creating personal experiences with donors and the soldiers they serve.

As of April 2015, GI Tickets has generated nearly \$50,000 in donations and has worked with nearly a dozen professional teams across the country including the New Jersey Devils, New York Yankees, Cincinnati Red, Detroit Piston and New York Mets.

This is the second New Jersey Hero determined by the public via an online poll posted to the New Jersey Heroes website. There were more than 20,000 votes overall for May's New Jersey Heroes candidates.

For more information about the GI Tickets Foundation visit: <http://www.giticketsfoundation.org/>

New Jersey Heroes is an initiative First Lady Mary Pat Christie began in 2010 to showcase the positive and unique ways people and organizations are impacting New Jersey and their communities. To nominate a hero, go to newjerseyheroes.org and follow the application instructions to submit the person you believe is a true New Jersey Hero.

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