

November 12, 2025



Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

Commissioner's Corner



Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, addresses the audience during the State Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 2025.

Veterans Day

Yesterday, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs had the distinct honor of hosting our state's observance of Veterans Day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel.

Together, with elected officials, community leaders, and, most importantly, Veterans and their families from across New Jersey, we gathered to pay tribute to those who served. Governor Philip D. Murphy presided over a heartfelt ceremony of joy and celebration of the contributions made by the over 300,000 Veterans who call New Jersey home.

Those of us who wear or have worn a uniform know that service is not a chapter in life, it is a way of life. That's the legacy of our Garden State Veterans. It is found in every act of service that follows the final salute, and in every hand extended to lift each other up.

Here in New Jersey, we see that spirit of service every day. We see it in our Veteran Service Officers who work tirelessly to help Veterans and their families. We see it in our Soldiers and Airmen mobilizing in overseas and domestic missions. We see it in the families who hold steady through deployments and training, keeping loved ones and community strong.

To all of our Veterans, and to those we hold in memory, thank you. You've carried the torch of service, and you continue to light the way. We owe you our thanks, we owe you our respect, and we owe you our freedom.

May we continue to serve together with the same courage, humility, and devotion that built this country and keeps it strong.

As always, thank you for staying connected to DMAVA.

We invite you to share ideas, events and



feedback. Please email our team at
outreach@dmava.nj.gov.

Brigadier General Yvonne L. Mays
Adjutant General & Commissioner



Featured Events

— ★ ★ ★ —

VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 13
3 PM - 7 PM
621 Washington Ave,
Belleville NJ 07109

— ★ ★ ★ —

Discover the wide range of resources and support available
to veterans, active duty members, and their families.

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL MARIA (973) 450-0484

SPONSORS:





Braven
HEALTH



VETERANS HEALTH FAIR & CAREER EXPO

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COUNTY • NJ

Join us on 11/14/2025 in Woodbridge, NJ at the Woodbridge
Community Center, 600 Main Street, Woodbridge

Lunch Provided by Red White & Que Smokehouse

In Collaboration with:



Commissioner Director
Ronald G. Rios



Mayor John McCormac



Friday
November 14th, 2025



Time
10.00 AM - 2.00 PM



600 Main Street,
Woodbridge, NJ

JOIN US



Health Fair



Employer Registration



OCEAN COUNTY VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

NOV. 20, 2025

10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

**JAKES BRANCH COUNTY PARK
1100 DOUBLE TROUBLE ROAD
BEACHWOOD**

Meet with representatives from Veteran organizations,
Ocean County Government Departments and more
to learn about programs and services
that are available to veterans

The Ocean County Board of Commissioners

John P. Kelly, *Director* - Frank Sadeghi, *Deputy Director*

Robert S. Arace - Jennifer Bacchione - Virginia E. Haines



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.

- November 13 | Belleville
[Veterans Resource Fair](#)
- November 14 | Woodbridge
[Veteran Health Fair & Career Expo](#)
- November 14 | Bordentown
[Info Session: Navigating Life After the Loss of a Soldier](#)
- November 14 | Virtual
[Honoring Veterans through Oral History & Service](#)
- November 15 | Bordentown
[Military Transition / Retirement Seminar](#)
- November 15 | Union
[Veterans Luncheon](#)
- November 18 | William Paterson University
[Navigating Veterans Resources](#)
- November 21 | Hainesport
[State Medal Ceremony & Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)

Community Calendar

We add new events to our calendar on a daily basis so please bookmark and check back often.

[View Full Calendar](#)

Veterans Day





State Veterans Day Ceremony

New Jersey Gov. Philip D. Murphy addresses the audience during the State Veterans Day Ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, Vietnam Era Museum and Educational Center in Holmdel, NJ on November 11, 2025.

Veterans Day celebrates and honors America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

[View Images](#)



Veterans Day Celebration

On November 10, 2025, New Jersey Gov. Philip D. Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy held a Veterans Day Celebration at Drumthwacket, the official residence of the Governor of New Jersey in Princeton, NJ.

Among the honored guests were Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, and Vincent Solomeno, Commissioner-Designate of Veterans Affairs.

[View Images](#)

NJ National Guard



NJ Army National Guard

The NJ Army National Guard was out in force at the Rutgers University Military Appreciation Football Game on November 8, 2025.

The Scarlet Knights triumphed over Maryland by a score of 35-20.

Join Our Team

100% Free College Tuition

Bonuses | GI Bill

Student Loan Repayment



DMAVA Veterans Services



Somerset County and NJ TRANSIT Coordinate Fare-Free Shuttle Service to Lyons VA Medical Center for

Veterans Beginning November 7

Somerset County | November 6, 2025

Beginning November 7, 2025, at 8:30 a.m., Veterans traveling to the [Lyons VA Medical Center](#) in Bernards Township from the Lyons Train Station will be able to catch a fare-free ride thanks to a cooperative partnership between Somerset County, the Lyons VA Medical Center, NJ TRANSIT, and the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA).

“Finding ways to support my fellow Veterans is always top of mind for me,” said Somerset County Commissioner Director and Air Force Veteran Shanel Y. Robinson. “I have long recognized the excellent medical and rehabilitation services that our Lyons VA Medical Center provides, and I’m pleased that through this transportation partnership, our Veterans will no longer face barriers to accessing this vital care.”

The new Veterans Lyons Shuttle will run 5 days a week, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. The shuttle will run from the Lyons Train Station to the Lyons VA Medical Center and back, in a loop, approximately 8 times daily, supporting and coordinating with the preexisting Morris & Essex Line rail schedule.

“We are pleased to support this shuttle connection, which will make it easier for veterans to access the care they need at the Lyons VA Medical Center,” said NJ TRANSIT President & CEO Kris Kolluri. “This partnership helps us close another gap in first- and last-mile service that will directly improve the travel experience for those who depend on public transit for their healthcare needs.”

In addition to Veterans, employees from the Lyons VA Medical Center as well as friends and family will be able to use the shuttle for greater ease of travel.

“The State of New Jersey is investing more, doing more, and achieving more for veterans than at any time in our history,” said Vincent Solomeno, Commissioner-Designate of Veterans Affairs.

“The shuttle is a reflection of our commitment to Garden State heroes and what can be achieved when we work together.”

“For too long, New Jersey veterans with disabilities have faced challenges accessing reliable transportation to the Lyons VA Medical Center. That changes with the launch of the Lyons VA Shuttle Service,” said Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. (NJ-07). “This milestone demonstrates what we can achieve when we work together across all levels of government. On the federal level, I am also pleased to build on this progress by introducing legislation to ensure this service remains a sustained, long-term solution. With Veterans Day just around the corner, this launch could not be more timely - it will improve lives, ease burdens, and honor those who have served our nation.”

The ADA accessible shuttle, which was funded under the Casino Revenue Program (SCDRTAP) through the FTA Section 5310 program administered by NJ TRANSIT, will seat 16 passengers and additionally has 2 wheelchair securement locations. Somerset County will operate the shuttle as well as maintain the vehicle for use.

[Somerset County News Article](#) | [View Images](#)



Groundbreaking of the Gordon H. Mansfield Veterans & Senior Village

Commissioner-Designate Vincent Solomeno joined state, county, and local partners in West Deptford to mark the groundbreaking of the Gordon H. Mansfield Veterans and Senior Village, a new affordable housing community for senior veterans.

In the spirit of New Jersey's motto, liberty and prosperity, this effort reflects our shared commitment to ensuring every veteran has access to safe and affordable housing.



State Medal Ceremony

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs held a State Medal Ceremony at the Arbor Terrace Middletown in Middletown, NJ on November 6, 2025.

[View Images](#)



Get Connected to Resources & Services

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has partnered with Unite Us to connect individuals and families to a wide variety of services and resources.

Unite Us is a coordinated care referral network of health and social service providers. Unite Us can connect our New Jersey military and veteran community to resources to obtain benefits, food assistance, housing, education, transportation, behavioral health services, peer support and more.

[Learn More / Request Assistance](#)



Veteran Homelessness

The mission of Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) is to effectively end veteran homelessness in New Jersey by enhancing existing systems, creating rapid access to housing, and ensuring homelessness becomes rare, brief and non-recurring.

BVH creates a clear path to stable housing for veterans experiencing homelessness through a coordinated network of services and support.

[Learn More / Refer a Veteran](#)

**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**

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

NEW JERSEY

YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.



Now accepting applications
for Class 61 - January 2026!

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NOW!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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rpm@dmava.nj.gov



(800) 997-5587 / (732) 974-6516

**TUITION
FREE**



NJ MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE

* /njarngfac



NJNG Child & Youth Program

* /njngcyp

A graphic with a light blue background. The word "COMMUNITY" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Surrounding the word are various smaller words and icons related to community, such as "SOCIAL", "PEOPLE", "RELATIONSHIP", "TOGETHER", "DIVERSITY", "BELONGING", "SOCIETY", "GROUP", "TEAM", "PUBLIC", "COMPANIONSHIP", "CONNECTION", "SUPPORT", "ORGANIZATION", "TOGETHER", "DIVERSITY", "RELATIONSHIP", "TOGETHER", "DIVERSITY", "BELONGING", "SOCIETY", "GROUP", "TEAM", "PUBLIC", "COMPANIONSHIP", "CONNECTION", "SUPPORT", "ORGANIZATION". There are also several small illustrations of diverse people, including a man in a blue shirt, a woman in a black dress, a man in a red shirt, and a woman in a green shirt. A red heart icon is also present.

Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

DEIB Newsletter

State Partners





Governor Murphy Pardons 11 Veterans in Commemoration of Veterans Day

Governor's Office | November 11, 2025

HOLMDEL - In honor of Veterans Day, Governor Phil Murphy today announced 11 pardons for New Jersey veterans, reaffirming his Administration's commitment to rehabilitation and respect for those who have served our nation. Today's pardons come on the heels of yesterday's historic fourth round of clemency actions that surpassed 200 cumulative grants of clemency in the past 16 months. With today's pardons, Governor Murphy has exercised his executive authority to grant clemency to a total of 228 individuals.

"Actions taken during a person's hardest chapter should not define them - especially for those who have sacrificed so much in service of our nation," said Governor Murphy. "Today's pardons are a declaration of who we are: a state that believes in redemption, responsibility, and opportunity."

"This initiative reflects our values as a state - compassion, justice, and responsibility," said Lt. Governor Tahesha Way. "By offering clemency to deserving veterans, we're ensuring that those who served our country are given a true chance to rebuild their lives and continue to contribute to their families and communities."

Today's announcement marks a new phase of the Governor's historic clemency initiative, building on its foundation by recognizing the unique experiences and contributions of veterans and the efforts they have taken to rehabilitate their lives.

[Read Full Press Release](#)

- Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicides among Service Members, Veterans & Their Families
- The New Jersey's Governor "We Value Our Veterans" Awards
- Bringing Veterans Home
- 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
- Veterans & Spouses Entering the Educator Workforce
- Journey Through Jersey

Federal Partners

TRICARE Open Season

TRICARE Open Season
2025

Start:

Nov. 10, 2025

End:

Dec. 9, 2025



padlet

JB MDL Virtual Message Board



theSITREP Podcast

By: Department of Veterans Affairs
Podcast



VIETNAM



GULF WAR



POST - 9/11



**WERE YOU EXPOSED TO BURN PITS,
NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CHEMICALS,
AGENT ORANGE, OR OTHER TOXINS
WHILE SERVING IN THE MILITARY?**

Apply for VA health care today at VA.gov/PACT.

VA |  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

 **Have questions?**
Call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 0 to speak with someone right away.

The Women Veterans Call Center is Your Guide to VA

Live women representatives, many of whom are Veterans, are standing by to help.

Call or text 1-855-VA-WOMEN
(1-855-829-6636)
or chat with us online

Weekdays 8:00 am – 10:00 pm ET
Saturday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm ET

  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA |  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Featured Links

- [National Parks Pass](#)
- [VALife Insurance](#)
- [VA Urgent Care Services](#)

- [VA Caregiver Support Program](#)
- [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](#)
- [VA Resource Navigator](#)

Community Spotlight



Atlantic Healthcare Systems

New Jersey Gov. Philip D. Murphy along with Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, and Vincent Solomeno III, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, presented the New Jersey's Governor "[We Value Our Veterans](#)" Employer Award to Christopher Heacock of Atlantic Healthcare Systems.

The award presentation took place during the State Veterans Day Ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, Vietnam Era Museum and Educational Center in Holmdel, NJ on November 11, 2025.

The award recognizes communities, businesses, and academic institutions who honor the sacrifices, patriotism, and bravery of New Jersey's service members and veterans.

In The News



Morris County Honors Eight Veterans, Marine Corps' 250th Anniversary

morriscountynj.gov | November 6, 2025

Eight local veterans were honored last night by the Morris County Board of County Commissioners at their annual Veterans Day Observance Ceremony, where they also celebrated the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps and paid tribute to a Civil War Medal of Honor recipient.

[Read Full Story](#)

In Memoriam



Robert Perricelli

SFC Andrew Walker | Curator | National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey

We lost a dear friend recently.

Bob Perricelli, a loyal volunteer and friend of the museum passed away. He started volunteering at our museum after a long Army civilian engineer career that ended at nearby Fort Monmouth.

Bob seemed to enjoy juggling multiple roles, managing multiple rooms at [InfoAge Science and History Museums](#), all while helping us to organize huge backlogs of artifacts and documents. His tenure with us started in 2010, not long before the devastating effects of Irene and Sandy did immense damage to our collections.

Bob was a joy to be around and always able to look on the bright side of things. Despite all of the projects and sometimes daunting workload of organizing our spaces here and elsewhere, Bob was happy to keep his head on what we could accomplish and always keep his attitude light.

His deep laugh was unmistakable and always went well after a few stories from his time as an electronics engineer or whatever was going on at InfoAge.

Our hearts go to his family and friends. Please know that we were so happy to have met and worked with Bob. The staff, interns, and volunteers at the museum thought the world of him and are sad to see him go.

Never Forget





New Jersey Fallen Heroes Memorial

In Honor of all those from New Jersey who gave their lives in the fight against terrorism during Operation Enduring Freedom & Iraqi Freedom.

In humble gratitude, we remember their sacrifice.

Memorial Inscription

"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





Chaplain Major Charles J. Watters

November 11, 1918

At 11:00 AM the World War I Armistice began, ending active combat for the National Guard soldiers of the New Jersey National Guard in the 29th Division and drafted Jersey men in the 78th and other divisions and New Jerseyans in the USMC and Navy.

November 16, 1776

A British and Hessian force stormed Fort Mifflin, New York, and captured 2,600 Americans. Morale on the New Jersey side of the Hudson, where soldiers watched the disaster, plummeted, and the Americans evacuated supplies inland as

November 19, 1967

U.S. Army Chaplain Major Charles J. Watters of Jersey City, a Seton Hall University graduate and Catholic priest, was killed by "friendly fire" when a mistakenly dropped American bomb landed on his position near Dak To, Vietnam. Watters, assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, had repeatedly risked his life retrieving wounded men under enemy fire, and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

November 21, 1776

As the main American Army under General George Washington withdrew across New Jersey, Governor William Livingston

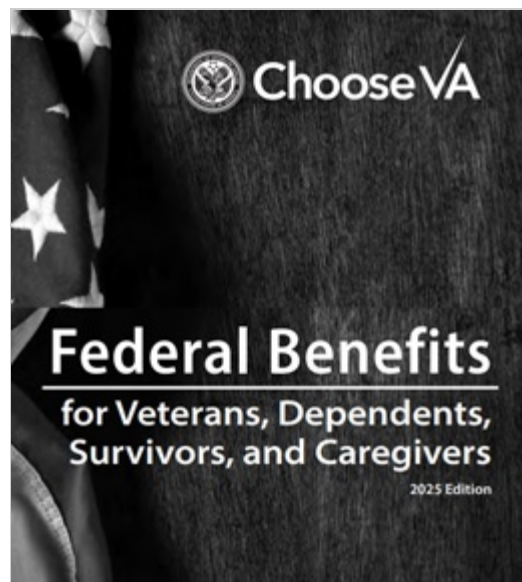
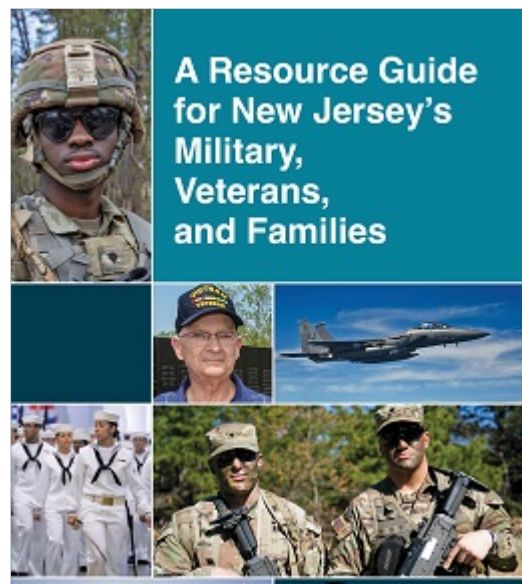
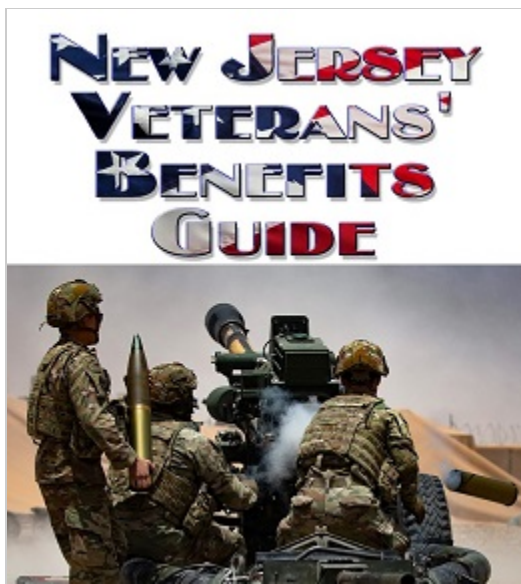
British raiders began to cross the river, isolating Fort Lee.

November 16, 1945

The United States Army Air Force returned control of Convention Hall in Atlantic City, used as a training headquarters since July, 1942, to civilian authorities.

ordered his militia to rally to support Washington's retreat and control potential Loyalist uprisings. The initial response was less than stellar, prompting some caustic comments from Washington, but British looting provided an incentive for a militia revival as December dawned.

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



[Click Here](#)

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.

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