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May 28, 2025



DMAVA

**Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs**

Ready To Serve ★ Proud To Have Served

Commissioner's Corner



Soldiers with the 63rd Army Band, New Jersey Army National Guard, march in the parade at the start of the State Memorial Day Ceremony at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ on May 24, 2025.

Memorial Day Observed

Last weekend, I joined thousands of other New Jerseyans at ceremonies and events intended to pay special tribute to the brave New Jerseyans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and never returned home. From the beaches of Normandy to the mountains of Afghanistan, from Korea's frozen terrain to the jungles of Vietnam - the sons and daughters of the Garden State answered the call. Their names are etched in granite, but their memory lives in us.

As I traveled the state, my thoughts were especially with those who are still missing in action. Their absence is a wound that has never fully healed. I am grateful that we live in a country that continues the

search, that carries their memory forward, and honors them with unwavering resolve.

This year marks another important milestone - fifty years since the end of the Vietnam War. For far too long, the Veterans of that conflict returned home to a nation struggling to understand their sacrifice. While Memorial Day is about honoring our war dead, this weekend enabled me to say with unity and conviction to our heroes who served all those years ago, "Welcome home. We see you. We honor you. And we are grateful for your service."

I am mindful of the continued commitment of the Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard. Those who are always ready, always there. From disaster response to overseas deployment, the units of the New Jersey National Guard represent the best of our state: service, sacrifice, and strength. In the coming days, we will commemorate the lives of New Jersey National Guard Soldiers killed in action in Iraq. May their memory continue to be a blessing.

The United States commemorated Memorial Day on the eve of its 250th birthday. As I looked out upon patriots gathered up and down our great state, I was reminded of the enduring promise of democracy - that freedom must be defended, not just once, but in every generation. The lives we honored last weekend are part of that great American story. Their sacrifice secured our future. Their legacy shapes our present.

So let us not only remember, let us also recommit ourselves to live lives worthy of their sacrifice. Let us strengthen the institutions they

died defending and carry forward the ideals that they and millions others fought for and believed in.

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 Health Fair & Luncheon

Provided by:



Sponsored by:



Helping veterans get access to information and healthcare services.

Essex County, New Jersey

Providing support to the veterans community through:

- CANCER SCREENINGS
- DIABETES ASSESSMENTS
- EDUCATIONAL CLASSES
- SLEEP ASSESSMENTS
- STROKE ASSESSMENTS
- BRAIN GAMES
- MENTAL HEALTH CHECKS
- ASTHMA SCREENINGS
- RESOURCES FOR VETERANS

Our Services



Healthcare Checks

Providing our warriors with clinical assessments & screenings designed to meet the healthcare needs of the veterans community.



Biometric Screenings

Blood pressure, heart rate, BMI, cholesterol, mammograms, visual acuity tests, and so much more!



Event Registration:

FeedingOurHeroes.org/registration
1-732-769-7951

Strategic Partners



Hackensack
Meridian Health



Friday, May 30, 2025 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

www.thevfa.org

Cherry Blossom Welcome Center, Branch Brook Park Drive, Newark, NJ 07104

jeff@thevfa.org



ASSEMBLYMAN ROY FREIMAN
ASSEMBLYWOMAN MITCHELLE DRULIS



DMAVA
Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

VETERAN RESOURCE FAIR

JUNE 9th

5:30PM-7:30PM

FLEMINGTON ELKS LODGE
165 NJ-31 FLEMINGTON NJ

Join us for a Veteran's Resource Fair
to learn more about benefits, health
care services, local community
services, and more!



RSVP HERE



Representatives will be on-site
to answer your questions!

- ★ NJSOS Vets
- ★ Claymore Vets
- ★ Community Hope
- ★ New Jersey Veterans Network
- ★ Riding with Heart
- ★ Veteran Farmers of New Jersey
- ★ Employing Veterans & Military Spouses LLC
- ★ Veteran Farmers of New Jersey
- ★ American Red Cross
- ★ Latino Veterans of New Jersey

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.

- May 28 | Ewing
[Legislative District #15 Community Outreach Event](#)
- May 29 | Mendham Borough
[NJMVC & Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)
- May 30 | Newark
[Veterans Health Fair & Luncheon](#)
- June 2 | Hamilton
[Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)
- June 3 | Lawrenceville
[Mobile NJMVC & Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)
- June 4 | Monmouth University
[Veterans Outreach Campaign](#)
- June 6 | Newton
[Veterans Stand Down](#)

- June 7 | Bordentown
[Navigating Life After Loss of a Soldier](#)
- June 7 | Passaic
[Veterans Stand Down](#)
- June 8 | Clifton
[15th Annual Army Tank Pull](#)
- June 9 | Flemington
[Veteran Resource Fair](#)
- June 11 | Bordentown
[Military Retirement / Transition Seminar](#)
- June 12 | Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.
[State Medal Ceremony for Women Veterans](#)
- June 13 | Sea Girt
[Neighborhood Nukes: NJ's Nike Missile Program](#)
- June 16 | Wildwood
[State Medal Ceremony for Women Veterans](#)

Community Calendar

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

[**View Full Calendar**](#)

Spotlight



State Memorial Day Ceremony

New Jersey Gov. Philip D. Murphy, Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, along with the New Jersey National Guard leadership, state veterans and community organizations, and several hundred attendees honored New Jersey's fallen service

members during the annual State Memorial Day Ceremony at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ on May 24, 2025.

[View Images](#)



Memorial Day Ceremony

On Memorial Day, Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, and Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Vincent Solomeno III joined former New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, Senator Declan O'Scanlon, Senator Vin Gopal, the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation, state veterans and community organizations, and over one hundred citizens to honor New

Jersey's fallen service members at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum in Holmdel.

[View Images](#)

NJ National Guard



Purple Heart Presentation Ceremony

Twelve U.S. Army Soldiers with the [44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#), New Jersey Army National Guard, were awarded the Purple Heart in a

ceremony at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville, NJ on May 17, 2025.

The Soldiers were awarded their Purple Hearts for wounds received while deployed to Syria in 2024 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

[View Images](#)



Army National Guard Region I Best Warrior Competition

PFC Makayla Panzer | 114th Public Affairs Det. | May 23, 2025

Sgt. Kristopher Piwowarczyk (right), a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 104th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard, and Spc. Adam Andrews, a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, Rhode Island Army National Guard, were named Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year, respectively, after winning the Region I Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition (RBWC), May 23, 2025, at the Edward Cross Training Center in Pembroke, New Hampshire.

The four-day event, held May 20–23, tested 15 top competitors from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey in locations across the state.

“I wasn’t competing against other competitors,” said Piwowarczyk. “The only thing I was up against was myself. I asked how I could perform at my highest level and learned from past weaknesses and failures.”

[Read Full Story](#)

Join Our Team

**100% Free College Tuition
Bonuses | GI Bill
Student Loan Repayment**



DMAVA Veterans Services



NJ Service Medals

The State of New Jersey awards medals to honorably discharged Veterans of the state who served in various conflicts and combat theaters.

State medals include the Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, POW/MIA Medal, Desert Storm Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

[Learn More](#)



NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland

The [New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland](#) celebrated National Skilled Nursing Care Week with this year's theme: "Tapestry of Life"

The theme highlights the connections, resilience and strength that unite everyone at the homes.

Thank you to all of the individuals who reside, work, and volunteer at our Veteran Memorial Homes.



Service Academy Nominees Honored

Earlier this month, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Vincent Solomeno III spoke at U.S. Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.'s 25th Annual Spring Awards Ceremony held at Middlesex County College in Edison.

Solomeno served as a keynote and joined the Congressman in recognizing high school seniors nominated to attend the United States Military Academy, Naval Academy, Coast Guard Academy, Merchant Marine Academy, and Air Force Academy.



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:

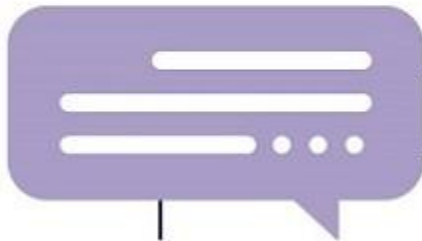
(888) 865-8387,

OR EMAIL:

VBB@DMAVA.NJ.GOV



SUPPORT IS PEER TO PEER



**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 60 - July 2025.

**APPLY
NOW!**

**TUITION
FREE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



njyca.org/admissions



rpm@dmava.nj.gov



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





NJ MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE

* /njarngfac



NJNG Child & Youth Program

* /njngcyp



Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

DEIB Newsletter

State Partners



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](#)
- [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



Share your story with “VLM for Living Veterans”

VA News | May 14, 2025

“VLM for Living Veterans” allows Veterans to share their life stories today.

Made possible by the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM), the new online feature is free and it enables Veterans to securely share their photos, autobiographies, military and life milestone achievements, and historical documents about their lives.

All you need to do is sign up for and be approved for a pre-need eligibility determination with VA. Pre-need eligibility is a way to find out if you’re eligible to be buried in a VA national cemetery ahead of time.

VA will keep your personal content secure until you pass and are approved for a burial or memorial benefit. Following approval, your content will become public and appear on your VLM personal page.

[Read Full Story](#)





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?**



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at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.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



55,000 Flags

More than 1,100 New Jersey Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, and family members placed more than 55,000 American flags on graves at the [Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery](#) at Wrightstown, NJ on May 23, 2025.

The Cemetery, dedicated in 1986, is New Jersey's sole state-operated veterans' cemetery and is managed by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. It is the final resting place for more than 92,000 veterans and family members.

[View Images](#)



Rutgers Army ROTC Commissioning

On Wednesday May 21st, we celebrated the Commissioning of 24 2nd Lieutenants into the United State Army. Congratulations to our Class of 2025. A new generation of leaders ready to serve with courage, commitment, and pride. The Rutgers Army ROTC Program is so proud and cannot wait to see what you are able to accomplish next!

A special thank you to our speakers, Rutgers President Jonathan Holloway and Rutgers ROTC Alum Col (Ret) Patricia Collins, for their inspirational speeches and guidance.

Image and caption courtesy [Rutgers Army ROTC](#).



Seton Hall Army ROTC Commissioning

On May 24th, the graduating MS4 ROTC cadets of Seton Hall University and sister schools, proudly celebrated their commissioning ceremony, marking the beginning of their journey as officers in the United States Army.

A heartfelt thank you to all the friends and family who joined us and supported their loved ones during this momentous occasion.

And to our departing MS4s, your presence, leadership, and camaraderie will be deeply missed. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and continued success in your military careers!

Image and caption courtesy [Seton Hall Army ROTC](#).



Blue Star Museums

Blue Star Museums is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and museums across America, offering free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve.

The 2025 Blue Star Museums program began on Armed Forces Day, May 17, 2025 and ends on Labor Day, September 1, 2025.

[Learn More](#)

Servicemember Spotlight



Staff Sergeant Justin Kahill

During the [177th Fighter Wing](#)'s drill in May, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Justin Kahill, 227th Air Support Squadron Joint Terminal Attack

Controller, received a Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious service in a combat zone.

Kahill was deployed to CENTCOM in March of 2024 and returned home in November of 2024. During his deployment, he would go above and beyond, showing high-level skill and resolve, which would earn him his Bronze Star.

“I was just happy to be able to go over there and accomplish the mission,” said Kahill. “I am glad everyone was able to come home.”

[Read Full Story](#)

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



Princeton Battle Monument Dedication in 1922.

June 1, 1813

Burlington-born Captain James Lawrence sailed the USS Chesapeake out of Boston Harbor to battle HMS Shannon.

Lawrence's crew was not yet properly trained, and the Shannon won the brief engagement, during which Lawrence was mortally wounded and gained eternal fame for his words "Don't give up the ship." They did.

June 1, 1815

Philip Kearny, nineteenth-century New Jersey's greatest war hero, with service in both the Mexican and Civil Wars, was born in New York City. Many historians cite his birthday as June 2, due to an early biographer's error. Kearny spent most of his formative years on a family estate near Newark. He commanded the First New Jersey Brigade in 1861 and early 1862 during the Civil War, and was killed in action at Chantilly, Virginia, on September 1, 1862, while leading the First Division of the Third Army Corps.

June 2, 1918

The day that became known as “Black Sunday” when the German submarine U-151 sank six U.S. ships and damaged two others off the coast of New Jersey in the space of a few hours.

June 6, 1780

Hessian General Wilhelm Von Knyphausen crossed from Staten Island to Elizabethtown with 6,000 British and Hessian troops at midnight, intending to push through Hobart’s gap to Morristown the following day.

June 6, 1878

John P. Holland of Paterson tested his first submarine design in the Passaic River. Although he claimed it seaworthy, the U.S. Navy rejected his plans.

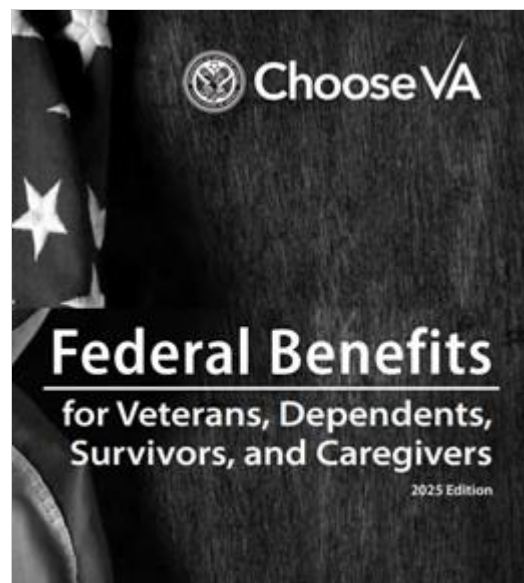
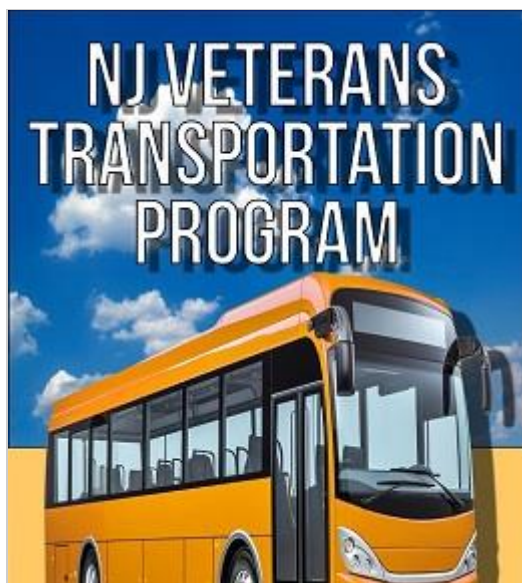
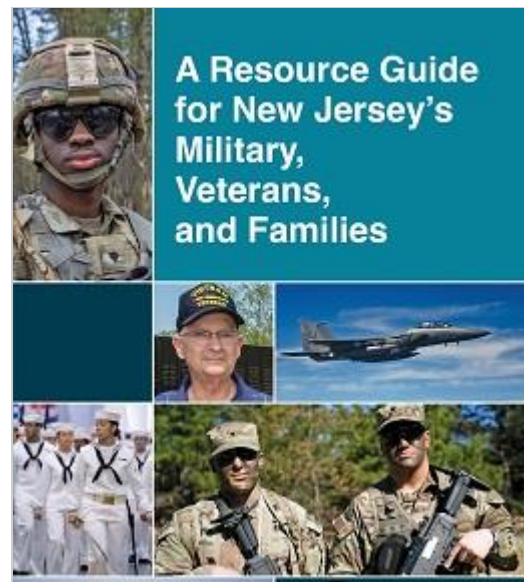
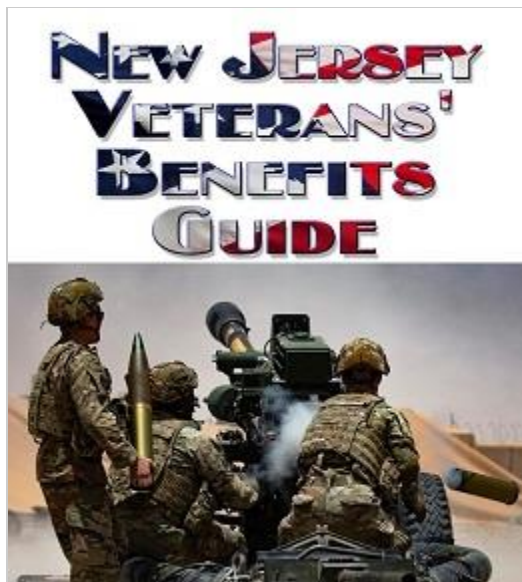
June 8, 1944

The men of the New Jersey National Guard’s 102nd Cavalry, who had floated offshore for two days, landed at Omaha Beach on D-Day plus two, as the beachhead had been expanded enough to accommodate the unit’s vehicles. In the following weeks, Sergeant Curtis Culin of Cranford and the 102nd devised the “Rhino Plow,” a device that, attached to the front of tanks, cut through the hedgerows of Normandy, vitally assisting the allied armies in breaking out of their beachhead. In the ensuing months, the 102nd fought its way across Europe, on the way gaining the honor of being the first United States unit to enter Paris in August 1944.

June 9, 1922

The Princeton Battle Monument, created by sculptor Frederick MacMonnies and architect Thomas Hastings to commemorate General George Washington's January 3, 1777 victory over the British, was dedicated by President Warren Harding. The sculpture depicts Washington leading his troops to victory and the mortal wounding of General Hugh Mercer, for whom Mercer County was later named.

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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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.

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