



DMAVA Highlights

February 9, 2007

Volume 6, Number 6

***NJ Dept of Military
and Veterans
Affairs***

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth
The Adjutant General

Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-
Dodson
Deputy Adjutant General

Col. (Ret) Stephen G. Abel
Deputy Commissioner for
Veterans Affairs

Contacting us is easy!

Public Affairs Office

Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison
barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us

Or

609-530-7088

We're on the Web!
www.state.nj.us/military

**Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison will be back next week.
Please send all articles and other information to her at
barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us.
Her phone number is 609-530-7088. Deadline is still noon,
Thursday for each week's issue.**

News For Your Views

The History of the New Jersey National Guard (Part 5)

Civil War

The fall of Fort Sumter and President Lincoln's call for aid from the several states, found the militia almost totally unprepared. The legislature had made no provisions to equip, arm, and train the militia. For years, individual patriotism and local funds supported the militia, with little or no encouragement from the State. Year after year reports of the Adjutant General depicted neglect, indifference, and the impossibility to meet the responsibilities of military training. General Thomas Cadwalader, from 1848 to 1856, complained of this neglect but at the same time, unwittingly demonstrated the consistently high calibre of the men who headed New Jersey's Military Department.

A great engineer and artilleryman, General Cadwalader, had gone to Europe to inspect the improved ordnance of the French, Prussian, and Austrian armies. Quick to realize the potential of grooved barrels in both muskets and artillery which he saw in Europe, he go reported to both Governor Rodman M. Price of New Jersey and the Federal government urging the adoption of the new weapons by American military forces.

In his final report to the governor in 1857, General Cadwalader said, "The adoption of the grooved bore is about to create a new era in modern warfare. From its long-range and unerring aim, it is certain to place irregular troops on a more equal footing with the veteran soldier..."

The first-call for troops was made on April 15, 1861, requiring that four regiments be detached from the state militia to serve in Federal Service. The first militia unit actually received and mustered was the "Olden Guard" of Trenton.

Despite the lack of preparedness, the First New Jersey Brigade, responding to the call of The President for troops, was the first complete organization to reach and participate in the defense of the National Capital.

The lack of a provision in a Federal Law for extended military service in national defense prevented the retention of the 1st brigade and the troops to New Jersey for mustering out of service at the expiration of a three month tour of duty. However, the majority of the officers and men of this first muster (mobilization) formed the nucleus of the 38 regiments raised in New Jersey for the Civil War.

In the four-year period from April, 1861, to April, 1865, New Jersey furnished a total of 79,348 men for service. New Jersey Regiments participated in every major engagement and, in every campaign from the Potomac to the Wilderness, to Florida, to the West. The heroic figures are too numerous to list, but names like Kearney, Mott, Kilpatrick, McAllister, Karge, Hexamer, Clark, Stryker are but the highlights in a broad canvass of courage and daring.

One notable event occurred in June 1863 when General Robert F. Lee invaded Pennsylvania. The governor of that state appealed to New Jersey for aid in defending the capital at Harrisburg. The



Veterans' Organizations

Contact Information

State Veterans Service Council

Mr. Richard Clark
RJClark21@msn.com

NJ Advisory Committee for Women Veterans

Mrs. Anna Hoffman
AnnaMHoffman@gmail.com

BG William C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council

Mr. William Rakestraw
warjrnj@msn.com

Veterans Hotlines



Benefits & Entitlements

1-888-8NJ-VETS
(1-888-865-8367)

Mental Health

1-866-VETS-NJ4U
(1-866-838-7654)

NJ World War II Memorial



For information or to make a donation, call 609-530-7049

call issued by the Governor was promptly answered, and Company A, Company B, and Company C of the National Guard of Trenton, and Company D, National Guard of Lambertville, were placed under the command of Colonel William R. Murphy and sent to Harrisburg. They were assigned to guard and protect various bridges on the Susquehanna. While they did not participate directly in the battle of Gettysburg, other New Jersey Regiments and Artillery fought there.

The History of Black History

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month."

What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied-or even documented when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and later enrolling in high school at the age of twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. Woodson was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, Woodson launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. February has much more than Douglass and Lincoln to show for its significance in black American history. For example:

February 23, 1868: W. E. B. DuBois, important civil rights leader and co-founder of the NAACP, was born.

February 3, 1870: The 15th Amendment was passed, granting blacks the right to vote.

February 25, 1870: The first black U.S. senator, Hiram R. Revels (1822-1901), took his oath of office.

February 12, 1909: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded by a group of concerned black and white citizens in New York City.

February 1, 1960: In what would become a civil-rights movement milestone, a group of black Greensboro, N.C., college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter.

February 21, 1965: Malcolm X, the militant leader who promoted Black Nationalism, was shot to death by three Black Muslims.

DMAVA celebrates the contributions of African-American service members and their importance to the nation in the past, present and future. In celebration of Black History Month, DMAVA will highlight major accomplishments and African-American contributions to military service.

Bill Extends Education Eligibility

A bill which extends eligibility for higher education tuition assistance to certain former members of New Jersey National Guard and increases the number of tuition-free credits available to National Guard members and their dependents was signed into law by Governor Jon. S. Corzine on Jan. 24.

The legislation would allow National Guard members who are called into active duty to utilize state tuition assistance credits after their enlistment expires.

Under the old law, active members of the New Jersey National Guard may receive up to 15 credits per semester tuition free from public institutions of higher education in the State. Similarly, the child or surviving spouse of a National Guard member killed in the performance of his duties may also receive this benefit.

This bill, A-2542, amended the law to extend eligibility for this higher education tuition benefit to



New Jersey Freedom Loans

What is a Freedom Loan?

- * Up to \$10,000
- * Annual APR 6%
- * Term: 5 years (no pre-payment penalty)
- * Unsecured Loan (no collateral required)

Who is eligible to apply?

NJ residents who are:

- * Members of the National Guard or Reserve
- * Mobilized for one year or longer to fight in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) - excluding routine training.

Or

- * Served 90 or more consecutive days in the GWOT on federal or state active duty (excluding routine training) and have received orders extending cumulative active duty a year or longer.

How do I apply?

- * Contact participating banks. Call or visit your local branch office to obtain an application.

members of the New Jersey National Guard whose use of the free tuition benefit is interrupted by a deployment to active duty. The change would permit these soldiers to receive their earned educational benefits should their enlistment expire, or should they be medically discharged, prior to completing their studies.

The new law will also increase the number of credits eligible for funding under this program from 15 to 16 per semester.

Change of Command Ceremonies

CORRECTION

The 2nd Battalion 113th Infantry will hold a change of Command ceremony at the National Guard Armory at Sea Girt on Feb. 11 at 11 a.m.

Outgoing Lt. Col. Nicholas Chimienti assumes command of the Battalion from Lt. Col. James A. Hayes.

Col. Jorge J. Martinez will assume command of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Col. Frank S. Caruso on March 18, at 2 p.m. on the drill floor of the Lawrenceville Armory.

Change of Authority Ceremony

You are cordially invited to attend the Change of Authority Ceremony for the Command Chief Warrant Officer

Outgoing Chief Warrant Officer Five Albert G. Curving

Incoming Chief Warrant Officer Five Randy Niedt

Joint Force Headquarters Drill Floor

3650 Saylor's Pond Road, Fort Dix, New Jersey 08640

Saturday, Feb. 10, at 1 p.m.

Military; Duty uniform – civilian; business casual

Please RSVP to Spc. Laurie Leskanic 609-562-0962 NLT Feb. 7

Black History Month Luncheon

The New Jersey Air National Guard Special Emphasis Program Manager Presents

Of the Past - Present - Future

The featured speaker is

Lt. Col. Thomas Highsmith Jr.

Ret. United States Air Force Tuskegee Airman

Friday – Feb. 23 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

At the 177th Fighter Wing Dining Hall

Tickets are \$12, Please RSVP by Feb. 16

Tickets can be purchased from the following individuals: Master Sgt. Tyra Causey – (609) 645-6171, Master Sgt. La Verne Frazer – (609) 645-6116, Master Sgt. Michelle Pierce – (609) 645-6010, Tech. Sgt. Donald Griffin - (609) 645-6222, Staff Sgt. Donna Pugh – (609) 645-6070

Pancake Breakfast to support the Troops and families

The New Jersey League of Municipalities, the National Guard State Family Readiness Council, American Legion Post 414 and the Lawrence Lions are holding a Support the Troops and Families Pancake Breakfast

It will be held on Sunday, April 15, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lawrenceville Army National Guard Armory on 151 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, N.J.

* Guardmembers, Reservists, or family members with Power of Attorney must submit copies of current mobilization orders with the bank's Freedom Loan application.

Current participants:

- ☺ Commerce Bank
1-888-751-9000
- ☺ Credit Union of NJ
609-538-4061, ext. 401
- ☺ First Morris Bank & Trust
1-888-530-2265
- ☺ Manasquan Savings Bank
732-223-4450
- ☺ North Jersey Federal Credit Union
1-888-78NJFCU
- ☺ Peapack-Gladstone Bank (908) 719-BANK
- ☺ Pennsville National Bank
856-678-6006
- ☺ PNC
1-866-PNC-4USA
- ☺ Sovereign Bank
1-877-391-6365
- ☺ Sun National Bank
1-800-691-7701

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

For more information, contact Jack Stoffa at (609) 530-685 or Joe Lech at (609) 530-7015. They also need volunteers to serve and bus tables after the patrons eat. Contact Jack or Joe for more details.

Brig. Gen. Frank R. Carlini's Last Call

38 Years Service in the United States Army and the New Jersey National Guard

Wednesday, Feb. 28

Burlington Armory, 559 High Street, Burlington NJ

Time: 4 p.m. to ?, Duty Uniform/Civilian

Cost \$10 RSVP by COB Feb. 9

Col James Grant 609-562-0959, Col. John Nunn 732-418-3312 x101

Col. Anthony Formica 609-562-0530, Lt. Col. Dennis Devery 609-530-7095

Lt. Col. James Hayes 732-974-5902, Lt. Col. Christopher Perron 609-562-0954

Lt. Col. John Sheard 609-562-0703, Maj. William Morris 609-671-6608

Maj. Jemal Beale 609-441-3190 x104

Retirement Dinners

Retirement Dinner in honor of Col. Brian Webster

Friday, March 16

Borgata Casino & Hotel, (Salon C 2nd Floor of the Borgata)

Time: 6 p.m.

Cost \$40 RSVP NLT March 12

Capt. Yvonne Mayes 609-645-6206 or Connie Cisek 609-562-0901

Checks Payable (177FW Central Fund)

Business Casual

Retirement Dinner in honor of Chief Master Sgt. John Artigliere

Saturday, March 17

McGuire AFB Club

Time: 6 p.m.

Cost \$35 RSVP NLT March 9

Connie Cisek 609-562-0901, Checks Payable (Air Officers Fund)

Business Attire

Retirement Dinner In honor of Command Chief Master Sgt. Herbert E. Mimler Jr.

Saturday, April 21

Renault Winery Tuscany House, 72 N. Bremen Avenue, Egg Harbor City

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Cost \$35 RSVP NLT April 16

Capt. Mays 609-645-6206 or Master Sgt. Orme 609-645-6012

Cash or Checks Payable: 177FW Chief's Council

Mess Dress or Semi-formal

Contact name
and number for
DMAVA
Highlights

Please submit any
articles and all
and information

to:

PAO Office
DMAVA Highlights
ATTN:

Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen

DEADLINE IS
NOON
THURSDAY

Staff Sgt. Barbara
Harbison

[barbara.harbison@njdmava.](mailto:barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us)

state.nj.us

Or Call

609-530-7088

Energy Tip For
The Week

*In the home, check
your heating ducts
for leaks. First look
for sections that
should be joined
but have separated,
and then look for
obvious holes.
Repair and seal
your ducts with
Underwriter
Laboratories (UL)
logo duct tape.*

NJARNG Honor Guard Program

We Need You!

Volunteer Today!

One Day of Pay (Minimum \$50)

One Retirement Point (TDG's only)

Selfless Service and Personal Satisfaction.

Call 609-530-7090 Today To See If You Qualify.

Deployed Military Spouses Assistance Program Award

The Deployed Military Spouses Assistance Program provides direct assistance and referrals to existing programs for spouses of deployed military personnel (active duty, reserve and National Guard) who face unusual financial and emotional stress as a result of the deployments.

Applicants should contact Fawn Mutschler at 609-543-6200 ext. 325 or wocmilitarygrant@ymca-bc.org to obtain an application. In addition to the completed application form, applicants will also need to submit the following documentation: LES/paystub for applicant and spouse; statement of Financial Need (i.e. reason for applying and how the grant will help); bill or pricing of expenditure as well as any other supporting information the applicant feels may be helpful. Additional information can be found at: www.state.nj.us/dca/dow/depmilspouseasst.shtml

NJNG is looking for runners

The New Jersey National Guard is looking for a few good runners to represent the state in the 2007 National Guard Marathon in Lincoln, Neb., on May 6.

Each year hundreds of National Guardsmen from around the nation compete in the Marathon. Qualifying times to attend the race (fully funded TDY) are: four hours for men under 40; 4:15 for men 40 and over; and 4:30 for women. The qualifying time must have been accomplished within the last 18 months. The top runners in Lincoln are selected for the National Guard Running Team and compete in races across the nation. Interested Guardsmen should contact Maj. Arnstein at 609-562-3239.

Nutter Run beneficiary is Guard daughter, granddaughter

Please join the 2007 Nutter Run at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt on May 19. The run starts at 10 a.m. This year's beneficiary is Caitlyn McGuire.

Caitlyn is the daughter of New Jersey Army National Guardsman, Spc. Robert McGuire and the granddaughter of another New Jersey National Guardsman; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mickey McGuire.

The run will also feature live music, food, giveaways, raffles, prizes, games for children and much more. To see the flyer for the event, visit www.nutterrun.com.

If you can't participate in the run/walk, please help us help Caitlyn by spreading the word and raising awareness about this event. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated.

NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Vietnam Era Educational Center's upcoming event schedule

Feb. 17 at 1 p.m. "Operation Babylift--Homeward Bound," a screening of the 2005 documentary film about Vietnam Babylift adoptees – Vietnamese orphans airlifted prior to the fall of Saigon – returning to the land of their birth.

Following the film there will be a group discussion led by Babylift adoptive mother Lana Noone, along with a tribute to the late President Gerald R. Ford for his role in Operation Babylift.

"The On Guard" is searching for charter Air Guard members

The On Guard – the National Guard's bi-monthly newspaper – is searching for charter Air National Guard (ANG) members to interview for an upcoming series of articles leading up to the ANG's 60th Birthday.

Quote for the week

*Laughter is
the shortest
distance
between two
people.*

- Victor Borge

Please call Public Affairs Office at 609-530-7088 if you know of any veteran Airmen from the 1947 Air National Guard who would be willing to answer a few questions about their service.

2007 Annual Dinner/Dance

The 1-114th Infantry Officers' Association's 2007 Annual Dinner/Dance will be hosted this year on board the Spirit of Philadelphia Cruise Ship on Saturday, March 17.

Tickets are \$45 per person or \$90 per couple; Please RSVP no later than March 7. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with dinner, dancing and socializing beginning at 7 p.m. and concluding at 10 p.m.

For more information or forms contact the 1-114th Infantry Officers' Association at:

1-114th Infantry Officers' Association

Commander, 1st BN (M), 114th IN

ATTN: Capt. David Hampton

658 North Evergreen Ave.

Woodbury, NJ 08096-1399

Microsoft software available for Army Guardsmen

The Microsoft Home Use Program (HUP) is eligible to all Army personnel including, active duty, reserve, Guard, and civilians currently employed by the Army.

The program allows individuals to get a licensed copy of Microsoft Office desktop applications to install and use on a home computer.

The Army awarded a six – year Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) for Microsoft products on May 30, 2003. The MS ELA established by the Army is a "Volume License" agreement with Software Assurance, and as a "Volume License" owner, the Army is entitled to exercise the Home Use Program.

Army Guard members taking advantage of this offering are responsible for paying the administrative costs for obtaining the software and may use the software as desired. Guard members can only obtain one version of the software at any given time.

Go to this website for more details: <https://ascp.monmouth.army.mil/scp/software/hup.jsp>

Youth Camp Forms Available

The thirteenth Annual New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp will be held July 29 to Aug. 4 at the New Jersey National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt.

Applications are available at: www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html

Children, ages 9-13 are invited to apply. The camp fee is still \$100. Campers must be children, grandchildren or legal dependents of an active or retired member of the New Jersey National Guard. A variety of volunteer positions are available.

For more information, call the Family Programs Office at (609) 562-0668.

Upcoming ESGR Boss Lift

The New Jersey Committee for Employer Support to the Guard and

Reserve (ESGR) will be conducting a Boss Lift to Jacksonville, Fla. on April 11-13.

The purpose of the Boss Lift is to provide employers with a better understanding of what their employees do when they are away from their civilian occupation for duty with their military units. Nominations for relatives, minors or assistance cannot be accepted. Commanders and Primary Staff officers should encourage Guard members to nominate employers for participation in this trip.

Nomination forms can be found at the ESGR website at www.njesgr.org

The Forms can then be submitted to:

DMAVA, NJESGR

ATTN: Hank Pierre

101 Eggert Crossing Road

Lawrenceville, NJ 08640.

Additional information can be obtained from Hank Pierre at 609-530-6879.

“Troops to Teachers” program helps service members become teachers

Troops to Teachers (www.ProudtoServeAgain.com) is administered by the Department of Defense and Department of Education and managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES). The program helps eligible military personnel begin second careers as public school teachers by providing referral assistance, placement services, and - for those electing to teach at high-need schools - financial stipends and bonuses.

Members of the National Guard and Reserves with 10 or more years of service are eligible for the program, provided they commit for an additional three years.

2007 Freedom Award Nomination season open

The 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Nomination deadline is Feb. 28. Please visit the ESGR website at www.esgr.mil to nominate supportive employers for this award.

Honorable Mention

Hire A Hero - new program to help find jobs

HQ Group, who currently runs the Helmets to Hardhats program, is expanding! Hire A Hero is our newest initiative that helps transitioning military personnel, Guard members and Reservists find jobs with all industries.

Hire A Hero is a non-profit initiative that is powered by the Armed Forces Support Foundation. To find out more about these programs, visit the following Web sites: www.hireahero.com/ or <http://armedforcessupportfoundation.org/>

Discounts offered for State employees

Are you a state employee looking to save a few \$\$\$?

Visit www.state.nj.us/personnel/discounts/index.htm and you can find a number of businesses who offer discounts to New Jersey state employees. From amusement parks to fitness to computer to phones and lots of other discounts between, you will find many ways to save money. For more information, please contact Patty Smith at patty.smith@njdmava.state.nj.us or call 609-530-6847.

Free Military Handbooks on website

Military Handbooks has announced the launch of its new website and the release of its latest seven FREE handbooks for military personnel. Military Handbooks is a small company owned and operated by former federal employees and veterans. Their offices are located in Alexandria, Va.

These free handbooks were written specifically for military members. To get your own copies of these free handbooks, simply go to their new website: www.militaryhandbooks.com The handbooks include:

- 2007 U.S. Military Handbook
- 2007 U.S. Military Retired Handbook
- 2007 Getting Uncle Sam To Pay For Your College Degree
- 2007 After The Military Handbook
- 2007 Benefits For Veterans And Dependents Handbook
- 2007 Veterans Healthcare Benefits Handbook
- 2007 Military Children's Scholarship Handbook

DMAVA Hotline

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Emergency Hotline is:

1-866-232-5798

You will hear the following message:

You have reached the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Emergency Information Number. Please listen to the following menu choices and select an appropriate option:

State employees – press 1

Federal employees – press 2

National Guard employees – press 3

Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey

Give our state a larger voice by becoming a member of the Enlisted Association. The increased numbers will help us speak on all legislative issues that will benefit you and your families. The association works hard for you at the Federal & State level on all important issues. Visit the web site EANG-NJ.org, click on *Become a Member* for the application and find out more about what the association does.

For the Families

ACS at Fort Dix offers programs to Soldiers and family members

The Army Community Service (ACS) office at Fort Dix has several programs to support the Soldier and his/her family during mobilization and deployment. Their number is (609) 562-2767 or (800) 877-2380 and they are located in Building 5201 at Maryland Ave and 8th Street. Some of the programs available are:

Army Emergency Relief: Provides emergency financial assistance to active duty military personnel, retirees, National Guard and Reserve Component on active duty for over 30 consecutive days and their family members (with ID card and power of attorney).

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP): Entitles member to additional benefits through TRICARE's Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) Program. Provides information, referrals, crisis intervention, community support and assistance to meet individual needs.

Family Advocacy Program: Provides for the identification, reporting, prevention, and treatment of child abuse and domestic violence.

Employment Readiness Program: Offers information and referral for employment, education (resume writing and interviewing), volunteer and training opportunities.

Free SAT/ACT Offer Extended

A group of NFL, NFL Europe, AFL, and CFL football players have announced they are extending their sponsorship of the SAT/ACT training to all military families.

The sponsorship allows any military person (active, Guard, reserve, or retired) to request as many programs as they need for the students in their lives. There is a secure website to confirm a person's military status before directing the user to the software order site. Logon to:

www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/portal/page/itc/MHF/MHF_DETAIL_0?current_id=20.20.100.30.0.0.0.0

Programs are shipped to domestic U.S. addresses and APO addresses. The sponsorship covers the purchase price of \$199 and the family pays only the shipping and handling of \$9.95.

Family Readiness Council offers Tier I and II grants

The New Jersey National Guard State Family Readiness Council has expanded its Family Grants Program to include an additional grant. There are now two levels of Family Grants; TIER I is the \$2,500 grant that has been in place for the past couple of years. The TIER II opens family grants to New Jersey Army and Air National Guard non-deployed service members who were on State Active Duty or State Missions (e.g., hurricanes, floods, border missions) for more than 20 consecutive days. Service members meeting these criteria are eligible to apply for a financial hardship grant up to \$1,500. Applications are available at all New Jersey Army and Air National Guard Family Assistance Centers.

Harlem Globetrotters Tickets

The Harlem Globetrotters and Continental Airlines Arena would like to offer to all military members, friends and family a special \$16.50 lower level ticket that is regularly priced at \$35.

This offer is valid through Friday, Feb. 16 at 3 p.m. Military members can call the Meadowlands office at 201-460-4370 to request an order form or to find out more about this offer. There will not be any person/box offer discounts for this event.

Here's To The Heroes

Here's to the Heroes provides a single day's free admission to any one SeaWorld or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place, Adventure Island or Water Country USA for the service member and as many as three direct dependents.

Any active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service member or Guard member is entitled to free admission under the program. He or she need only register, either online at www.herosalute.com or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a Department of Defense photo ID.

Tickets Offer

Pittsburgh Penguins versus the Devils, Friday, Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$28 each. Go to: www.nidevilsticketprograms.com and use offer code: DFM021607

Scholarship News

NJ Vietnam Memorial Foundation offers scholarships

Two \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded by the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation. Information about the scholarships, including application form, can be found at www.njvvmf.org. Applications must be received at the foundation office by 5 p.m. **April 20**. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. Recipients will be notified prior to the award ceremony on May 28.

MOAA offers scholarships

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has a scholarship program for the children of MOAA members as well as the children of active duty, retired, Reserve and National Guard enlisted personnel. The application period for the 2007-2008 school year deadline is **March 1**. For more information visit www.moaa.org, and click the Educational Aid button.

Defense Commissary Agency offers scholarships

The deadline for the Defense Commissary Agency Scholarships for Military Children program is Feb. 21.

Applications for the \$1,500 scholarships are available at 264 commissaries worldwide, or can be downloaded through links at www.commissaries.com/, www.militaryscholar.org/, or www.dodea.edu/. The program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of military active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card. The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college, or university full-time in the fall term of 2007 or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

Colleges

Grantham University scholarships: Grantham University offers a scholarship program to severely injured service members and their spouses and adult children. Go to www.grantham.edu for more information. They also have scholarship programs for military veterans, service members, and family members.

Widener University CARES Scholarship: Widener University, Chester, Pa., has a full scholarship program for children of Global War on Terrorism service members who were killed in action. Contact the Office of Admissions at 610-499-4126 for more information.

Scholarship information on BBB Military Line

There are many scholarships available to military family members. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) Military Line suggests that you not pay someone to find scholarships for you. Why? Because these researchers will use the same sources on the internet that you will use, so why pay them to

do so? For suggestions on where to find scholarships for which you might be eligible, visit: www.enebuilder.net/cbbbmilitary/e_article-000694547.cfm?x=b8r7v3.

For information to help military families avoid financial pitfalls, visit: <http://military.bbb.org>

Veterans Information

DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues

The DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues with kiosk displays at selected malls throughout New Jersey. The schedule is as follows:

Feb. 28, March 1-2	Hamilton Mall
March 14*, 15, 16	Paramus park Shopping Center
April 4-6	Cherry Hill Mall
May 16, 17*, 18	Ocean County Mall

*Medal ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. on these dates.

The kiosk will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the identified dates.

NJDSM recipient receives Legion of Honor in Washington, D.C., Ceremony"

James J. Sheeran, one of the first New Jerseyans to receive the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal, was honored by the Republic of France at a ceremony and dinner reception at the French Ambassador's residence, in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 31.

More than sixty of Jim Sheeran's friends and relatives attended the ceremony and were then Ambassador Jean-David Levitte's guests for dinner at his residence. Representing the State of New Jersey at the event was Gary R. Englert, the Director of the Division of Veterans Services, of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, who presented congratulations on behalf of Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General.

Ambassador Levitte, recounted Sheeran's extraordinary exploits during World War II, and presented him with the medallion signifying his being named a Chevalier of the Order of the Legion of Honor. Established by Napoleon Bonaparte and first awarded in 1804, The Legion of Honor recognizes individuals for their extraordinary contributions to the French Republic.

Ambassador Levitte recounted the incredible saga of Jim Sheeran, who served as Mayor from 1958 to 1966, grew up in the Township and graduated from West Orange High School in 1942. His father Jack, who saw service in Europe during World War I, returned home from that conflict with a French bride, the former Lucy Muniere. Jack and Lucy Sheeran would later move to West Orange and raise their family on Collamore Terrace. That Jim Sheeran's mother was a French national would have considerable consequence during his wartime exploits.

As did so many others of his generation, Sheeran enlisted in the United States Army, after his high school graduation. Volunteering for the Paratroops, he jumped on Normandy, France with the 101st Airborne Division, in the pre-dawn hours before D-day, June 6, 1944. Separated from his unit and finding himself alone and in a swamp, Sheeran was captured by German soldiers late in the day on June 6. Paraded like a trophy through the streets of Paris by the Nazis, Sheeran was placed on a railroad car, with other Allied prisoners, for transport to POW camps in Germany.

It was at this point that Jim Sheeran's wartime odyssey became truly remarkable. In concert with four other paratrooper-POWs, Sheeran managed to kick open the boarded up window of the wooden cattle car in which they were riding. Believing they had already entered Germany, the five men jumped off the train. Three of the five were shot, and presumably killed, by the German soldiers "riding shotgun" on top of the railcars. Sheeran and another paratrooper, a Native-American named Bernie Rainwater, managed to escape unharmed.

Without benefit of a map or compass, Sheeran and Rainwater began heading in a southerly direction, through German occupied France, hoping to reach the border of neutral Switzerland. Along the way, they contacted members of the Maquis (the French Resistance), instructed resistance members on the use of American weaponry that had been air-dropped to them and also assisted them in clandestine military operations. Separated from their new French comrades during one of these operations, the two paratroopers continued their journey south.

Through sheer luck and having traversed a total of nearly 130 miles through occupied territory, the two made their way to the village where Jim Sheeran's mother was raised, Donremy, France. Never having been there, and not speaking the language, Sheeran realized where they were from the Mirabelle fruit trees his mother had told him about, which were unique to that part of France.

Again intercepted by members of the Resistance, Sheeran and Rainwater were taken to a village elder: an eighty-year old woman who had taught Sheeran's mother as a school girl. She instantly recognized the family resemblance in Jim's brilliant blue eyes and confirmed that this was the son of Lucy Muniere. Now united with cousins he had never met, Jim Sheeran, and Bernie Rainwater would be safeguarded by the people of Donremy until the allied advance reached the area in September 1944.

Perhaps the most remarkable part of this stranger-than-fiction story is the fact that Donremy is also the birthplace and childhood home of Joan of Arc, the Patron Saint of Soldiers. The stone hut in the woods, in which Sheeran and Rainwater were often hidden, was, as legend would have it, Joan of Arc's girlhood home.

Repatriated by American Forces on Sept. 15, 1944, Sheeran and Rainwater were immediately returned to England. As an escaped prisoner of war, Jim was given the opportunity to return home but opted to rejoin his unit. Within a day, he was back in combat, having jumped on Eindhoven, Holland with the 101st Airborne Division in Operation Market-Garden. Sheeran would remain with the "Screaming Eagles" through the siege at Bastogne, where he was wounded in combat.

Among Mr. Sheeran's military decorations are the Combat Infantry Badge, the Parachutist Badge (with two combat jump stars), the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Following the war, Sheeran completed college and law school, joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent and then began a private law practice. In 1958, at the age of thirty-two, he was elected the youngest Mayor in West Orange's history and served two terms. In 1974, Sheeran was appointed as the Commissioner of Insurance, by then Governor Brendan T. Byrne, and served in that capacity until 1984. He is an acknowledged expert in the field of automobile insurance and currently serves as the Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of NJCURE, the state's largest reciprocal insurance consortium.