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## Statement From Governor Chris Christie on Veterans Day

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Wednesday, November 11, 2015

Tags: Statements



Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie issued the following statement marking Veterans Day:

"As Americans we owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude and appreciation to the brave men and women who have served or currently serve in our Armed Forces. These individuals defend our freedoms and preserve our way of life on a daily basis, all while putting their own lives at risk. New Jersey is home to over 400,000 veterans who have served our country honorably. We can never fully express our thanks and appreciation to our veterans and their families for their countless sacrifices to serve. Today we honor our veterans and express our appreciation for their patriotic service throughout our nation's history."

In October 2015, Governor Christie signed legislation bolstering opportunities for service members and their families. The legislation reaffirms Governor Christie's commitment to encouraging entrepreneurship, providing educational opportunity assistance and protecting the honor of the service of New Jersey's military men and women.

- •A976/S1353 (Assemblymembers Spencer and Schepisi/Senators Bateman and Smith): Creates State Contract Set-Aside programs for businesses owned and operated by disabled veterans;
- •A2849/S1812 (Assemblymembers Mazzeo, Eustace, Johnson, Wilson, Brown, Moriarty/Senators Whelan, Beach): Creates the Military Dependents Scholarship Fund Act to provide college scholarships to the spouses and children of those killed, missing in action or disabled in Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn;
- •A4104/S2704 (Assemblymembers Andzejczak, Garcia, Lagana, Mazzeo, Mukherji, Tucker/Senators Cruz-Perez Van Drew): Creates the Stolen Valor Act, which makes unauthorized use of military uniforms, medals, or insignias to obtain benefit a third degree crime.

Throughout his term in office, Governor Christie has supported New Jersey's veterans and their families through increased funding and support for various veterans-based housing, employment, and educational services and programs. In the FY2016 budget, Governor Christie maintains his commitment to New Jersey's veterans by providing \$8 million in new funding to expand access to health care for our veterans. This funding has been utilized to continue the Vets4Warriors Program at Rutgers University, a 24/7 toll-free peer support line staffed entirely by veterans, following news that the US Department of Defense would discontinue federal funding for the program. Since its inception in December 2011, Vets4Warriors has made over 130,000 veteran contacts and has continuously employed over 40 New Jersey veterans.

Additional information for veterans programs and services is available on DMAVA's website here.

Governor Christie also proclaimed November 11, 2015 as "Veterans Day" throughout New Jersey.

A copy of the Governor's proclamation [pdf 365kB]

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New Jersey Veterans' Day Ceremony November 11, 2015

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