# DMAVA Highlights

## IN THIS ISSUE: MILITARY REVIEW 2016 NATIVE AMERICAN AIRMAN AWARDED OPERATION RODEO

ALSO:

COMMANDERS CALL Oral History Project Luncheon

#### COVER PHOTO

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie reviews the troops of the New Jersey National Guard during the 2016 New Jersey National Guard Military Review at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J., Oct. 30, 2016. (NJDMAVA-PA photo by Mark C. Olsen)



Drum Major 1st Sgt. Marc Winans directs the 63rd Army Band during the 2016 New Jersey National Guard Military Review at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J., Oct. 30, 2016.

Soldiers of A Battery, 3-112th Field Artillery, fire M2DA1 howitzers during to the 2D16 New Jersey National Guard Military Review at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J., Dct. 3D, 2D16.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie reviews the Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard during the 2016 New Jersey National Guard Military Review at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J., Oct. 30, 2016.





## MILITARY REVIEW 2016



New Jersey Governor Chris Christie thanks 2nd Lt. Jennifer Wain, A Battery, 3-112th Field Artillery, after receiving an engraved artillery shell during the 2016 New Jersey National Guard Military Review at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J., Oct. 30, 2016. The Military Review is a long-standing tradition that allows the governor – the commander-in-chief of the state militia – the opportunity to review the Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard.

(NJDMAVA-PA photos by Mark C. Olsen)

## NATIVE AMERICAN AIRMAN AWARDED

Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, NJDMAVA- PA

Staff Sgt. Thereasa Barker-Figueroa, a 108th Wing Airman, was recognized by the Society of American Indian Government Employees, as one of six service members selected for the 2016 Military Meritorious Service Award at a banquet in Catoosa, Oklahoma, June 9, 2016.

Formed in 2002, the Society is the first national nonprofit organization representing American Indian and Alaska Native Federal, Tribal, State, and local government employees. It provides a forum on the issues, challenges, and opportunities of Native Americans in the government workforce.

"It was an absolutely amazing experience," said Barker-Figueroa. "I received the award from three Native American Generals, including retired Maj. Gen. Rita Aragon, who was the first female Native American General in the Air National Guard."

The Society selected Barker-Figueroa based on her volunteerism and community service with the Air National Guard. She was bestowed with an additional award at the event: induction into the Warrior Society, an elite honor for military veterans.

Barker-Figuero traces her lineage to the Lenni-Lenape, a group of Native American people from the Algonquin nation who populated New Jersey as well as parts of Pennsylvania and New York. In the 18th Century, the Lenape were displaced to reservations in Ohio and Oklahoma.

It was while growing up in a Cleveland suburb that Barker-Figueroa learned about her heritage.

"When I was a little girl, I found a statue of a turtle, and for some reason I felt connected to it," said Barker-Figueroa. "My grandmother told me to remember the turtle, that it would be important. I remembered, but I didn't understand."

For years, the family heritage had been kept secret.

"Once my grandfather passed away, my grandmother got back into events on the Reservations, and told me the full story about our heritage when I was 17. I was shocked, and confused that our family wasn't more excited about our past. There were parts of my family that felt embarrassed about a mixed-race marriage between my grandfather and grandmother," said Barker-Figueroa.

It was during this time that Barker-Figueroa learned that she was part of the Lenape Unami-Turtle Clan, and that the turtle also was featured prominently on the clan's flag.

"It felt like things coming full circle from when I was a child, and I found that hidden meaning in the turtle statue," said Barker-Figueroa.

Barker-Figueroa stays active in the Native American community, attending Pow Wows and other cultural events. Pow Wows are the Native American people's way of meeting together, to join in dancing, singing, visiting, renewing old friendships, and making new ones.

"This was a tremendous honor and I was completely star-struck, it was a humbling experience," said Barker-Figueroa. "I don't want the awards to be about me, I want it to be a conduit for education and bringing awareness to current Native American issues."



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Thereasa Barker-Figueroa from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Wing holds her 2016 Military Meritorious Service Award she was presented by the Society of American Indian Government Employees, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Oct. 4, 2016. Barker-Figueroa traces her lineage to the Lenni-Lenape, a group of Native American people from the Algonquin nation who populated New Jersey as well as parts of Pennsylvania and New York. (NJDMAVA-PA photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released) A U.S. Air Force Airman from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Wing waits for an inspection of his Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST) during an Ability to Survive and Operate Rodeo at the 108th Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Oct. 30, 2016.

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Melissa Isidro, an Emergency Management specialist with the 108th Civil Engineering Squadron teaches Airmen how to properly wear the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST) during an Ability to Survive and Operate Rodeo at the 108th Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Oct. 30, 2016.

A U.S. Air Force Airman from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Wing puts on the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST) during an Ability to Survive and Operate Rodeo at the 108th Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Oct. 30, 2016.



## **108TH WING: OPERATION RODEO**

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Dannielle Garcia, right, from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Wing Emergency Management office, assists Airman 1st Class Jacqueline Garcia, her sister-in-law, with displaying how to properly wear the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST) during an Ability to Survive and Operate Rodeo at the 108th Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Oct. 30, 2016. (NJDMAVA-PA photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)



New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, right, shakes hands with state veteran organization members at the 2016 New Jersey National Guard Military Review at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J., Oct. 30, 2016. The Military Review is a long-standing tradition that allows the governor – the commander-in-chief of the state militia – the opportunity to review the Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard.





Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, addresses leaders from various state's veteran organizations during the Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Veterans Commanders' Call at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J., Oct. 30, 2016. The commander's call provides the leaders with updates on the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs various programs, services, and benefits, as well as future plans. (NJDMAVA-PA Photos by Mark C. Olsen)

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS**



## RAL HISTORY LUNCHEON



The New Jersey National Guard Militia Museum held a luncheon Wednesday to honor nearly two dozen Veterans who, over the past year, told the story of their wartime service as part of the Veterans History Project. Since 2001, the museum has collected 557 oral histories of Garden State veterans who service ranges from World War II to current operations around the world. The Veterans History Project is led by assistant museum Carol Fowler and is a partnership with the U.S. Library of Congress. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Woolley, NJDMAVA-PA)

### **VETERANS OUTREACH SCHEDULE**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2016 "BOOTS TO BUSINESS"** PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR VETERANS WHO WANT TO START, **EXPAND OR PURCHASE A SMALL BUSINESS** DMAVA WILL HAVE A VSO PRESENT TO HELP AND ASSIST ANY VETERAN American Legion Post 279, 133 Main Street, Lincoln

Park, NJ 07035

#### **NOVEMBER 12, 2016** VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR AT CITY HALL IN JERSEY CITY 1:00p.m. - 2:00p.m.

(Veterans Parade begins at 12 Noon at Harsimus Cemetery - ends at City Hall) (Military Art Exhibit and Veterans Resource Fair to follow) DMAVA WILL HAVE A VSO PRESENT TO HELP AND ASSIST ANY VETERAN 280 Grove Street, Jersey City, NJ 07303 (Hudson County)

**NOVEMBER 17, 2016** VETERANS BENEFIT PRESENTATION AT THE SALVATION ARMY KROC CENTER

- CAMDEN 12:15p.m. - 2:00p.m. A DMAVA VSO WILL MAKE A VETERANS BENEFIT INFORMATION PRESENTATION 1865 Harrison Avenue, Camden, NJ 08105 (Camden County)

**DECEMBER 7, 2016 "PATRIOT'S PRIDE DAY CEREMONY"** HOSTED BY THE MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF's DEPARTMENT A DMAVA MEDAL CEREMONY WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THIS EVENT 10:00a.m. - 2:00p.m. DMAVA WILL HAVE A VSO PRESENT TO HELP AND ASSIST ANY VETERAN 2500 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728 (Monmouth County)

# HELPFUL INFORMATION

#### New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs PO Box 340

Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

1-888-8NJ-VETS(8387) or www.state.nj.us/military



Raymond L. Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs (609-530-7062) Cheryl Henderson, Executive Secretarial Assistant (609-530-7045) Chuck Robbins, Assistant to DCVA/Outreach Coordinator (609-530-6855)

Fax: 609-530-7191

								Fax. 009-550-71
309-530-6967 Joseph Brandspiege Jonna Myers, Sec 309-530-6766 132 Evergreen Road Tignia Fiess, QA Coordinator Edison, NJ 08818-31		r, Sec n Road, PO Box 3013		Services (DVHS) Paramus Veterans Memorial Home Dianne Tabron-Felder, CEO Diane Callaghan, Sec 1 Veterans Drive Paramus, Nu 07652 201634-8525 Fax: 201-967-8658		Vineland Veterans Memorial Home Allyson Bailey, Acting CEO Sharon Frye, Sec 524 North West Boulevard Vineland, N. 00830-2995 856-405-4207 Fax: 856-696-6714		
Albert J. Bucchi, Director 005-530-6962 Synthia Barnes, Sec 005-530-6975 609-530-6975 Sac: 609-530-7075 Bernis Macombe 350 Provinceline 009-738-2400 Fr Maintenance/Cem Joseph Arroy & K	Juncchi, Director         Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemeter           52         Iven Dumas, State Supt – 609-738-2424           nes, Sec         Genia DiBella, Sec – 609-738-2404           75         Ornotic Duruin, Interment Office Supervisor, – 609-738-2407           0-7075         Dennis Macomber, Honor Guard, – 609-758-7505           350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08662           069-738-2400         Fax: 60-756-0169           Mantenance/Cemetries/Memorials           Joseph Arroy & Kenneth Smith Supervisor, 609-738-2406		1 Memorial Lane, PO Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733 732-335-0033 Fax: 732-335-1107 Korean Memorial Boardwalk/Brighton Park, Atlantic City, NJ 08401 War World II Memorial W State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608		Veterans Haven South Walter Nall, Supt – 609-561-4948 William Lobach, Asst, Supt – 609-567-3 Goriss Shufford, Sec 609-561-4990 ext. 120 301 Spring Garden Road, PO Box 80 Winslow, NJ 08095 609-561-0269 Fax: 609-567-5186		0	Veterans Haven North Sean VanLew, Supt – 908-537-1960 Laura Blaine, Sec – 908-537-1963 200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101 Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 908-537-1999 Fax: 908-537-1990
State Approving Agency-GI Bill Programs Charles Rowe, Bureau Chief – 606-530-6842 Marisol Meyer, Education Prog Asst – 609-530-6849 ym Yesalonia, State Admin – 609-530-6858 Joan Edwards, State Admin – 609-530-6948 ax: 609-530-7196		Vetrans Benefits Bureau Patricia A. Richter, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6949 Elizabeth Schofield, Prin Staff Officer – 609-530-6954 Paul Kale, Staff Asa. – 609-530-6826 Susan Kobin, Clerk – 609-530-6952 Michele Johnson, Sec – 609-530-7035 Fax: 609-530-6970			Veterans Service Offices Joseph Buco, State Supervisor – 609-530-6830 Christopher Wambach, State Supervisor – 609-530-6863 Joseph E. Nyzio, VSO – 609-530-6857 VA Regional Office/Philadelphia Charles Piscopo, VSO – (Mon, Wed, Alternate Fridays) 5000 Wisshickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144 (215) 331-3012 65-6853-4184/4185/4186			
Atlantic City/Cape May Vacant/VSO Sherri Morris, Sec 1008 Absecon Boulevard, <u>Atlantic City</u> 08401-1999 ~ (Atlantic City Armory) 095441-3060/3061 Fax: 609-441-3899 ( <i>closed alternate Fridays</i> ) <u>Camden/Gloucester</u> Joseph Frost, VSO Tharles Piscopo, VSO ( <i>Tuesdays and Thursdays</i> ) Jane Rosci, Sec 38 N Evenreen Avenue, <b>Woodbury</b> 08096 ~ (Woodbury Armory)		Bergen/Passaic           Joseph Restivo, VSO           Titus Osuagwu, Sec           125 State Street, Suite 109, <u>Hackensack</u> 07601-5435           201-996-800908051 Fax: 201-996-8009           Essex/Union           Robert Maulano, VSO           Shelley Darby, Sec           20 Washington Place, Ron 431, <u>Newark</u> 07102-3174           973-297-3305 Fax: 973-642-0830				Burlington Matthew Still, VSO Mitchelina Guiliano, Sec 555 High Struet, Suite 6A, <u>Mt. Holly</u> 08060 609-518-2273274 Fax: 609-518-2275 <u>Hudson</u> Esther Chucaralao, VSO Michael Dorobis, Sec 678 Montgomery Struet, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, <u>Jersey City</u> 07306 ~ (Jersey City Armory) 201-536-3401 Fax: 201-536-3404 (closed atternate Fridays)		
S66-853-4184/4185/4186 Fax: 856-384-3781 (closed alternate Fridays)     Hercer     Mercer     William McDonnell, VSO     Theress Tomecheck, Sec     S60     The Generation Socies Road, Acom 136, Lawrenceville 08648 ~ (Lawrenceville Armory)     309-671-6697/6696 Fax: 609-671-6698     Newark Liaison/VA Regional Office     North Manes, VSO     Srad Christensen, VSO     Uvashington Place, Room 439 Newark 07102-3174		Middlesex/Somerset           Joseph Battlo, VSO           Vacant, Sec           1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset 08873 ~ (Somerset Armory)           732-937-6347/6348 Fax: 732-937-6417 (closed atternate Fridays)           Ocean           Paul Michtigre, VSO           Robin Mitchell, Sec           James J. Howard Outpatient Clinic           970 Route 70. Brick 08724-3550			Bits         Bits <th< td=""></th<>			
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Chris Phillips, USMC Assistant Vice President Diversity Recruiting Military & Disabilities

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Highlights submissions deadline 4 p.m. Wednesday: nicholas.p.young12.mil@mail.mil



Life doesn't have to be a battlefield



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