



Mercer County Veteran

Volume 3 Issue 4

The County of Mercer, New Jersey

April 1, 2008

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"Real security lies in the prevention of war—and today that hope can come only through adequate preparedness."

General Omar N. Bradley, Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in recognition of the formation of Armed Forces Day.

Dear Friends,

Another winter has passed, and spring arrives with the spirit of rejuvenation and a renewed dedication to supporting our past and present American veterans here in Mercer County.

Our Veterans Services Office experienced its busiest year in recent memory in 2007 as it helped welcome home a record number of members of the U.S. Armed Forces who completed tours of duty abroad or who have finished their service. With more and more veterans returning to Mercer County and many still deployed, it is a priority of my Administration to continue to do all that we can to support them. I'm proud of the work our Veterans Services Office has accomplished on behalf of our veterans, from helping them navigate the health care system to filling out paperwork to helping them find living accommodations.

This spring, the County will again pay tribute to service members who gave their lives in the line of duty with a special ceremony on Memorial Day. This ceremony gives our communities an opportunity to come together in remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice and those who willingly choose to serve in the Armed Forces to protect our freedoms. I encourage everyone to attend



Mercer County Executive
Brian M. Hughes

with family and friends.

This is also a great time of year to visit outdoor veterans' memorial sites throughout the County. Our newest memorial site is a dogwood tree and bench outside the County Veterans Center in Hamilton dedicated to four soldiers from Mercer County who died

serving their country in the Middle East. This site—as well as a small display of medals from area veterans at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Mercer County Park, other municipal memorials, and veterans sections of area cemeteries—is a touching tribute and a visit there won't soon be forgotten.

Mercer County has a tradition of strong support for veterans and strives to provide them the most comprehensive services. I hope you have an enjoyable spring season.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

Celebrate Armed Forces Day, May 17

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force days. The celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense. Each of the military leagues and orders was asked to drop sponsorship of its specific service day in order to celebrate the newly announced Armed Forces Day. The Marine Corps League declined to drop their day, but does support Armed Forces Day. The Army, Navy and Air Force leagues adopted the newly formed day.

In his announcement of Armed Forces Day, President Truman "praised the work of the military services at home and across the seas" and said, "it is vital to the security of the nation and to the establishment of a desirable peace."

The theme of the first Armed Forces Day, "Teamed for Defense," was chosen to express the

unification of all the military forces under a single department of the government. Armed Forces Day is an educational program for civilians, one in which there is an increased awareness of the Armed Forces. It was designed to expand public understanding of the job and role of the military in civilian life. It was a day for the military to show "state-of-the-art" equipment to the civilians they were protecting, as well as a day to honor and acknowledge the people of the Armed Forces.

The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated by parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows. The Day continues to be celebrated annually on the third Saturday of May. Armed Forces Week is celebrated in May from the second Saturday to the third Sunday. Because of their unique training schedules, National Guard and Reserve units may celebrate Armed Forces Day/Week over any period in May.



Buckingham Place Adult Day Care Center

Buckingham Place is approved to participate in the Veteran's Administration adult day program benefit. Qualified Vets may be able to enjoy:

- Two days a week, funded by VA; small co-pay
- Transportation included, if in our area
- Two hot meals prepared on-site, with menu choice
- Mentally and physically stimulating recreation
- Trips to nearby activities; daily exercise
- Medication administration and blood pressure tests
- Registered nurses and social workers on staff
- Physical therapy, medical services available
- Meet new friends—vets and non, men & women
- Give your spouse or caregiver a respite
- VA determines eligibility (Intended for Elderly, Physically or Mentally Challenged Vets)

For more information, please call Sharon Hurley
The Gallery at Buckingham Place
155 Raymond Road, Princeton, NJ 08540
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

(732) 329-8888 ext. 410

Dates to Remember

May	National Military Appreciation Month
May 7-8	V-E Day, 1945
May 9	Military Spouse Day
May 11	Mother's Day, 1914
May 11-17	National Nursing Home Week
May 17	Armed Forces Day, 1947
May 22	National Maritime Day, to honor U.S. Merchant Marine.
May 26	Memorial Day, 1868
June 6	D-Day Anniversary, 1944
June 14	Flag Day U.S. Army Birthday, est. 1775
June 14-July 4	Honor America Days
June 15	Father's Day, 1924

Remembering our Fallen Comrades

Mercer County Office of Veteran Services,
in conjunction with the
Mercer County Veteran Council
will conduct a
Memorial Day Service
Sunday, May 25, 2008, 11:00 a.m.
Greenwood Cemetery
Old Field of Honor section
ample seating will be available

Veterans Appreciation Day at Waterfront Park

Thursday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.

Enjoy baseball at its best as Trenton Thunder battles New Britain Rockcats! Then stay for post-game 50/50 and fireworks. A portion of the ticket sales will support troops serving in the Middle East, and their families.

Sponsored by Mercer County Veterans Council. For more information and to purchase tickets, please call Col. Norman Mathews at (609) 838-0354 or John Tymash at (609) 499-3339.

Free Filing for Mercer County Military Discharge Papers

U.S. Military documents are very important. They contain information needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in veterans' organizations. They can get damaged or lost. The Mercer County Clerk's Office can record these documents for posterity.

A Certificate of Release–Discharge from Active Duty, or DD-214 Form for short, is generally issued when a service member is honorably discharged from active military duty. Any Mercer County veteran, an immediate family member or a legally recognized representative of their estate with proper identification may then obtain a copy of these documents.

DD-214 discharge papers can be mailed or brought to the Mercer County Clerk's Office, located in the Old Courthouse at 209 South Broad Street in Trenton, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For further information on filing or to obtain military discharge papers, please call the Mercer County Clerk's Office at (609) 989-6464.

Transportation Resources to Aid the Disadvantaged and Elderly



Trips to East Orange & Lyons VA Hospitals

In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA), T.R.A.D.E. offers free weekly roundtrip transportation to all Mercer County veterans to the Veteran Administration (VA) hospitals in East Orange and Lyons, NJ. Pick-up for the VA hospital in Lyons is Tuesday mornings at 162 West State Street, Trenton. Pick-up for transportation to the VA hospital in East Orange is Wednesday mornings at 162 West State Street, Trenton.

To Make A Reservation

Interested veterans can contact the Division of Veterans Programs at 609-292-5880 or 609-292-5881. The Division of Veterans Programs is located at 28 West State Street, Room 514, Trenton.

Services for Veterans Living in Mercer County

- Regular T.R.A.D.E. transportation service is available to all Mercer County residents who are senior citizens (60+) or persons with disabilities.
- Demand response service is available with advance notice for doctors' appointments, recreation, shopping or other trips.
- Subscription trips are available to travel to destinations on a regular basis (i.e., dialysis, employment, shopping).
- Customers should call T.R.A.D.E. at 609-530-1971, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - noon, up to 14 days prior to their scheduled appointment to request service.

History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Many cities and towns claim to have begun the tradition. As evidence of Southern beginnings during the Civil War, a hymn published in 1867, carries the dedication "To The Ladies of the South who are Decorating the Graves of the Confederate Dead."

Waterloo, N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, but it is more likely that the day had many separate beginnings. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. Southern states continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I when those honored included Americans who died fighting in any war. It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May, though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead.

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moina Michael conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She sold poppies to her friends and co-workers and used the money to benefit servicemen in need.

When Madam Guerin from France learned of this

custom, she began making artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widows. In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. When the League disbanded Madam Guerin enlisted the help of the VFW and in 1922 they became the first veterans' organization to sell Memorial Day poppies. Two years later disabled veterans were making the artificial poppies under the "Buddy" Poppy program. In 1948 the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael's founding of the National Poppy movement with her likeness on a red 3 cent postage stamp.

Many people commemorate this holiday by visiting cemeteries and memorials, flying the U.S. flag at half-staff from dawn until noon, or observing a national moment of remembrance at 3 p.m. Washington time. On the Thursday before Memorial Day, the Third U.S. Infantry Regiment places small American flags at more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. St. Louis Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts place flags on the 150,000 graves at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. On the Saturday before Memorial Day, the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts place candles at 15,300 grave sites of soldiers buried at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park on Marye's Heights.

Locally, the following observances are scheduled: Ceremony at General Betor Park in Ewing on May 26, 11:00 a.m.; Parade in Lawrence on May 24, 10:00 a.m., then service at Post 414; Spirit of Princeton Parade on May 24, 10:00 a.m.; Parade on May 26, 11:00 a.m. starts at West Windsor High School South.



Mercer County Veteran

The County of Mercer, New Jersey

A publication dedicated to Mercer County Veterans.

Articles are welcome for consideration.

Submission deadline for July 2008 issue is
June 1, 2008.

To receive your free copy of
Mercer County Veteran,
please call (609) 989-6120.

Mercer County Office of Veteran Services

2280 Hamilton Avenue
Hamilton, New Jersey 08619
(609) 989-6120

Brian M. Hughes, Mercer County Executive Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Lucille R.S. Walter, *Freeholder Chair*
Anthony P. Carabelli, *Freeholder Vice Chair*
Dan Benson • Ann M. Cannon • Tony Mack
Pasquale "Pat" Colavita, Jr. • Keith V. Hamilton

Edward Mazzeo

Chief, Mercer County Veteran Services

Graphic Services courtesy of Martha Runyon

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Women in the Army

Women have voluntarily served in the United States Army since 1775. They have nursed the ill and wounded, laundered and mended clothing, and cooked for the troops in camp on campaign; services that did not exist among the uniformed personnel within the Army until the Twentieth Century. Women are an invaluable and essential part of the Army.

There are almost 2 million women veterans. From the American Revolution to Panama, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, women have served in some way in every conflict. History tells us that 30,000 women served in World War I and almost 500,000 took part in World War II. During the Korean era 120,000 women were in uniform and 7,000 were deployed in theater during Vietnam. During Desert Storm 7 percent of the total U.S. forces deployed were women—over 40,000.

Dr. Mary Walker, a Civil War surgeon, was the only woman to receive the nation's highest honor. President Andrew Johnson awarded her the Civil War Medal of Honor on January 24, 1866. Dr. Walker was an early suffragette, one of the earliest women physicians, a pioneer and champion for more comfortable clothing for women.

Currently, women serve in 91 percent of all Army occupations and make up about 14 percent of the active Army. Women continue to play a crucial role in the War on Terrorism and their sacrifices in this noble effort underscore their dedication and willingness to share great sacrifices.

Mercer County Veterans Task Force Members

Mission Statement

We are a committee of representatives from County, State, Federal and Non-Profit agencies located in Mercer County. Our mission is to assist veterans with access to all services available, regardless of their need, through countywide collaboration.

Martin Denero/Director, T.R.A.D.E.

Linda Greenstein/State Assemblywoman

Anne Hamilton/Manager, TASK & Catholic Charities

Keith V. Hamilton/Mercer County Freeholder

Darryll Johnson/Trenton Veterans Center

Roseann Loforte/Mercer County Board of Social Services

Col. Norman Mathews (ret.)/Air Force Association

Edward Mazzeo/Chief, Mercer County Veteran Services

Lucille Pagano/Marine Corps League Det. 207

Patricia Richter/Chief, Veteran Benefits, NJDMAVA

Ivy Brown Rovner/Office of the 14th District

Albert Stahl/Mercer County One Stop Career Center

Marvin M. Trotman, Jr./Mercer County One-Stop Career Center

Wendy Sturgeon/Allies, Inc.

Ronald F. Wolff/S.V.P., Caliper Corporation

Mercer County Veteran Services

State Veterans Service Office

28 West State Street
5th Floor, Rm. 514
Trenton, NJ 08625-0671
(609) 292-5880/5881

Mercer County Veteran Services

2280 Hamilton Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08619
(609) 989-6120

Mercer County One-Stop Career Center/Veterans Unit

26 Yard Avenue, 1st Floor
P.O. Box 954
Trenton, NJ 08625
Supv., Veteran Services
(609) 292-6743

Trenton Vet Center/Readjustment Counseling Center

934 Parkway Avenue
Ewing, NJ 08618
(609) 882-5744
Fax (609) 882-5743
www.va.gov/rcs

Trenton Veteran Medical Clinic

171 Jersey Street, Building 36
Trenton, NJ 08611-2425
(609) 989-2355