



Mercer County Veteran

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The County of Mercer, New Jersey

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"It isn't enough to talk about peace...One must believe in it...and it isn't enough to believe in it... One must work at it."

Eleanor Roosevelt

Dear Friends,

I would like to welcome all of our veterans and their friends and loved ones again as we issue this latest edition of our Mercer County Veteran newsletter. I hope the new year is off to a happy and healthy start for everyone.

Spring is a time of new beginning. With the recession affecting so many lives, I encourage our veterans to continue to look to the County for support. Whether you require help finding job fairs, assistance getting benefits, or obtaining counseling, our Veterans Services office remains dedicated to your needs now as fervently as ever. Please do not hesitate to utilize the staff and resources we have available to help you navigate this difficult economic period.

While the County is dealing with many issues surrounding the economy, we will not cease the traditions we have established to properly honor our veterans and their sacrifices.

This spring, like every spring, we will honor veterans here, across the United States, and around the world with ceremonies on Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day, both in May. I invite all our veterans, their loved ones, and their friends to join us at these important events.

If you have a U.S. flag, fly it proudly. I wish everyone a safe and eventful spring.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Hughes
County Executive



Mercer County Executive
Brian M. Hughes

Vets can now Salute the Flag

The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service. Veterans and service members continue to represent the military services even when not in uniform. Veterans have not been allowed to salute the U.S. flag during the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem until now.

New legislation sponsored by Senator James Inhofe now states that "all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headgear with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes."

A subsequent amendment sponsored by Sen. Inhofe addresses two other Codes, one which speaks to saluting the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance, and one for Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations, which includes conduct toward the flag during the National Anthem.

This amendment brings all three sections of the U.S. Code together to say the same thing—that veterans are now permitted to render a hand salute when the U.S. flag is raised and lowered, passes in review, during the Pledge of Allegiance, and during the playing of the National Anthem.

Still, while Congress has authorized this new legislation, the Marine Corps will continue its traditions. The Marine Corps takes great pride in its centuries of customs and traditions, one of the oldest being the hand salute.

According to Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, "Customs and traditions provide a link to the past. Any loss of tradition or improper observation of customs blurs our identity and weakens us as an institution. Faithful adherence by commanders and individual Marines preserves our identity and reputation as a unique and elite fighting organization."

Accordingly, Marines not in uniform will face the flag, stand attention, remove their headgear, and place their right hand over their heart. When the flag is not present, Marines will act in the same manner while facing the direction of the music. During indoor ceremonies when Marines are in uniform and uncovered, they will face the flag or the direction of the music if the flag is not present, and stand at attention.

Honoring our Military Service Personnel

On Saturday, May 16, 2009 the Hamilton Township Patriotic Committee will conduct an Armed Forces Day Ceremony in Hamilton Township's Veteran Park at 1 p.m.

The ceremony will take place at the East Entrance to Veterans Park on Yardville-Hamilton Square Road between Klockner and Kuser roads near the M60A3 Combat Army Tank. The ceremony is open to the public. Light refreshments will be available. If you have any questions concerning this event, please call (609) 890-3674.

Memorial Day Parades

Ewing

May 25, 11 a.m., General Betor Park

Hamilton

May 25, 11 a.m., Nottingham Way to Hughes Drive

Hightstown

May 25, 9 a.m., Main Street

Lawrence

May 23, 10 a.m., Princeton Pike and Stoniker Drive

Spirit of Princeton

May 23, 10 a.m., Princeton Avenue and Nassau Street

Dates to Remember

April 10	Good Friday
April 12	Easter
May	National Military Appreciation Month
May 8	V-E Day, 1945
May 9	Military Spouse Day
May 10	Mother's Day
May 10-16	National Nursing Home Week
May 16	Armed Forces Day
May 25	Memorial Day
June 14	Flag Day
June 14	U.S. Army Birthday
June 21	Father's Day
May 22	National Maritime Day, to honor U.S. Merchant Marine.
June 6	D-Day Anniversary, 1944
June 14	Flag Day U.S. Army Birthday, est. 1775
June 14-July 4	Honor America Days

Honoring Our Fallen Heroes

The Office of Mercer County Veteran Services in conjunction with the Mercer County Veterans Council will conduct a

Memorial Day Service

Sunday, May 24, 2009

11 a.m.

Greenwood Cemetery

"Old Field of Honor"

Buckingham Place Offers Veterans' Benefit

Buckingham Place Gallery Medical Adult Day Center is participating in the Veterans Benefit program. The Veterans benefit covers the cost for the adult day program, two five-hour days per week for eligible veterans.

The Gallery is a fully licensed medical adult day center that offers an enjoyable day of socialization, meals, recreational and therapeutic activities for the frail elderly and those with memory loss, or other health conditions. The Activities Department offers a full array of social, musical and other stimulating cognitive therapeutic related activities, designed to enhance the abilities of individual members with memory challenges or Alzheimer's disease.

A typical day includes breakfast, cards, trivia, movement to music, current events discussion, men's club, hot lunch, snacks, crossword, news and views, golf, volleyball, arts and crafts, pool, reminiscence, socialization, and more.

A full time RN, home health aides, and social services director provide support and health services such as medication administration, health monitoring and access to physical therapy and podiatry services.

Rehabilitation Center offers physical therapy. Adult day members may take advantage of short-term stays at Buckingham Place, in one of their comfortable furnished suites.

A social services director supports participants and their families through the admissions and discharge process and continually provides individual counseling and a monthly caregiver's support group.

The day program also provides the time for the caregiver to attend to other daily tasks while their loved one is being taken care of by a professionally trained and caring staff.

Transportation is available to and from the Gallery in wheel chair and walker accessible vans.

For a tour, or to arrange for a presentation/information session, please contact Sharon Hurley at (732) 329-8888 ext. 410. Buckingham Place is located at 155 Raymond Road in Princeton. For more information, please visit www.buckinghamplace.net Veterans benefits and Medicaid are accepted.

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.

The History of "Taps"

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the hills, from the lake,
From the sky.
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.

Go to sleep, peaceful sleep,
May the soldier or sailor,
God keep.
On the land or the deep,
Safe in sleep.

Love, good night, must thou go,
When the day, and the night
Need thee so?
All is well. Speedeth all
To their rest.

Fades the light; and afar
Goeth day, and the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare thee well; day has gone,
Night is on.

Thanks and praise, For our days,
'Neath the sun, Neath the stars,
'Neath the sky,
As we go, This we know,
God is nigh.

Of all the military bugle calls,
none is so easily recognized or more

apt to render emotion than Taps. Up to the Civil War, the traditional call at day's end was a tune, borrowed from the French, called Lights Out. In July of 1862, in the aftermath of the bloody Seven Days battles, hard on the loss of 600 men and wounded himself, Union General Daniel Adams Butterfield called the brigade bugler to his tent. He thought "Lights Out" was too formal and he wished to honor his men. Oliver Wilcox Norton, the bugler, tells the story, "...showing me some notes on a staff written in pencil on the back of an envelope, (he) asked me to sound them on my bugle. I did this several times, playing the music as written. He changed it somewhat, lengthening some notes and shortening others, but retaining the melody as he first gave it to me. After getting it to his satisfaction, he directed me to sound that call for Taps thereafter in place of the regulation call. The music was beautiful on that still summer night and was heard far beyond the limits of our Brigade. The next day I was visited by several buglers from neighboring Brigades, asking for copies of the music which I gladly furnished. The call was gradually taken up through the Army of the Potomac."

This more emotive and powerful Taps was soon adopted throughout the military.

In 1874 It was officially recognized by the U.S. Army. It became standard at military funeral ceremonies in 1891. There is something singularly beautiful and appropriate in the music of this wonderful call. Its strains are melancholy, yet full of rest and peace. Its echoes linger in the heart long after its tones have ceased to vibrate in the air.

Other stories of the origin of Taps exist. A popular one is that of a Northern boy who was killed fighting for the south. His father, Robert Ellicombe, a Captain in the Union Army, came upon his son's body on the battlefield and found the notes to Taps in a pocket of the dead boy's Confederate uniform. When Union General Daniel Sickles heard the story, he had the notes sounded at the boy's funeral. There is no evidence to back up this story or the existence of Captain Ellicombe. As with many other customs, this solemn tradition continues today.

Oliver Norton recalled Gen. Butterfield having revised an earlier bugle call, his role in producing those 24 notes gives him a place in the history of music as well as the history of war.



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 2009 issue is
June 1, 2009.

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

Anthony P. Carabelli, *Freeholder Chair*

Ann M. Cannon, *Freeholder Vice Chair*

Dan Benson • John A. Cimino • Pasquale "Pat" Colavita, Jr.

Keith V. Hamilton • Lucylle R.S. Walter

Edward Mazzeo

Chief, Mercer County Veteran Services

Graphic Services courtesy of Martha Runyon

WWW.MERCERCOUNTY.ORG

Attention All Veterans and Family Members

Once again, the office of Mercer County Veteran Services is reminding Veterans to make sure they have all of their military document (discharge documents) in their possession and to inform their family members as to where they are.

This issue is extremely important if the Veteran needs to file a claim for compensation benefits, long-term health care or if in the event of his or her death.

Far too often, when these precious documents are needed, they are nowhere to be found.

It is the responsibility of the Veteran to know where these documents are and to let your loved ones know as well. Do not leave your family in a state of confusion if and when these documents are needed.

If you do not have these documents, the office of Mercer County Veteran Services can assist you in retrieving them. The process is simple. Call our office; we'll do the work.

Mercer County Veteran Services
2280 Hamilton Ave.
Hamilton, New Jersey 08619
(609) 989-6120

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.

Wayne Carr/Vietnam Veterans United Inc.

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

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

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