

DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



FEBRUARY 24, 2011



Jersey woman's gift to veterans more than just a blanket

By: Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez / NJDMAVA/PA

While some people quilt to pass time and others quilt to make a decorative item as a gift for a loved one, Janice Jamison, 57, quilts as a way to give back to military veterans.

"I saw that the military hands the family of a fallen Soldier a flag," said Jamison. "I wanted to make something for the Soldiers that were just for them. So I started handing them quilts."

"Quilting is addictive and it feels good afterwards," said Jamison as she set up her display of a green, black, and red quilt with the many decorations dedicated to African-American military service members at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo

Park on Feb. 23.

In cooperation with Operation Jersey Cares, an organization of dedicated people and veterans that provide support for wounded military service members, Jamison has handed out several hand-made quilts to New Jersey war veterans.

Consequently, she wanted to give a quilt to a Tuskegee Airmen, just as she had done for veterans of the Navajo Code Talkers several months back.

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QUILT

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So she set out on her quest to find a living one here in New Jersey by sending letters to veterans groups, searching the Internet, and by asking people on the streets, said Jamison.

She knew that time was not on her side, as there are only a few number of living Tuskegee Airmen in the country, let alone in New Jersey.

But with luck and the help from a friend, Jamison was able to locate Lt. Charles Nolley.

"I used to bowl with him," said Delores Dorsey. "But I never knew he was a Tuskegee Airman."

Dorsey, a retired pharmaceutical employee from East Orange, contacted Nolley and set up a meeting for Jamison to hand deliver the quilt to Nolley.

Nolley, a Menlo Park resident, was an aviator with the 99th Pursuit Squadron, an African-American unit, and of the Tuskegee Institute training program.

"It's the thrill of the chase," said Jamison, a Union, N.J. resident, as she prepared to hand a specially crafted quilt to Nolley at the NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park.

"It's not about the media attention or about the recognition," said Jamison. "I just want to give something back for their sacrifice."

They keep us safe at home, she said.



Janice Jamison, a self-employed quilter from Union, N.J., stands next to Lt. Charles Nolley, a Menlo Park resident and a former aviator with the Tuskegee Airmen, as he displays the hand-made quilt given to him on Feb. 23 at the Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, N.J. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, NJDMAVA/PA)

Veterans Outreach Schedule

March 1-3

Jersey Gardens Mall

651 Kapowski Road, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Medal Ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1

Kiosk hours 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily

April 7

New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home

524 North West Boulevard, Vineland, NJ 08360

Medal ceremony only in Auditorium starting at 1:30 p.m.

Email your Highlights submissions to
wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us OR armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us

Career fair for veterans at Newark

With unemployment rates at an all time-high here in New Jersey, any opportunity to show case your talent is a welcomed opportunity.

Consequently, the G.I. Go Fund has teamed up with the Rutgers-Newark Student Veterans Organization to bring you the 3rd Annual Year of the Vet Career Fair in Newark, N.J., on Tuesday, March 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Rutgers-Newark's Paul Robeson Campus Center.

The purpose of the Career Fair is to connect veterans to jobs, as well as benefits, job training opportunities and colleges.

Register for this free event and meet with employers, colleges, and support services and benefit providers by visiting the G.I. Go Fund's Website at: <http://www.gigofund.org/veteransjobfairvets.html>, or contact Alexander Manis, deputy director for G.I. Go Veterans Transition Center of Newark, at 973-802-1614 or via email at manias@ci.newark.nj.us.

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JPMorgan Chase Announces New Programs for Military and Veterans Homeowners

Commits to lower SCRA rates, increasing modifications, jobs, training, and home ownership help

While bankruptcy is stressful for all of us, it may be more so for military service members and their families. Compounding the added strains of financial difficulty may be the fact of being stationed far from home and the added stress on family members that are left behind while struggling to maintain a household. To give the service member some piece of mind and allow them to concentrate on his or her job, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) was signed into law on December of 2003.

This legislation was an update of the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act of 1940 and expanded many of that law's protections. Before these revisions, the SSCRA had remained virtually unchanged since 1940 and no updates had been added to reflect the changes in American life since that time.

Further improving these benefits, JPMorgan Chase announced Feb. 15 it will significantly enhance its programs to help military and veteran customers.

"The programs we are announcing today are a start, but in no way a finish," said Jamie Dimon, chairman and chief executive officer of JPMorgan Chase.

The bank will introduce a reduced SCRA pricing effective April 11, 2011, subject to any required approvals. Also, Chase will put in place a rebate or similar program for SCRA-protected military personnel, which will lower eligible borrowers' effective mortgage interest rate to four percent while on active duty and for a year thereafter. That maximum rate is two percent lower than the six percent rate currently required by SCRA.

As part of a Military Modification Program, which begins April 11, Chase will introduce an enhanced modification program for all members of the military who have served on active duty as far back as Sept. 11, 2001. The program will be offered to those who are delinquent or having trouble making their mortgage payments. Subject to the required regulatory and investor approvals, the program will go beyond the government's Home Affordable Modifica-

tion Program (HAMP) requirements. In addition, in cases when Chase modifies any Chase-owned or Chase-serviced primary residential mortgage, if there is a second mortgage on the same property that is also owned by Chase, Chase will modify the interest rate on the second mortgage to one percent.

Furthermore, as part of Chase's Home Ownership Assistance program, Chase will not foreclose on any currently deployed active military personnel. This change goes beyond current SCRA requirements, which protects military borrowers against foreclosure only if they took out their loans prior to going on active duty.

Chase believes they now have the systems and controls in place to avoid wrongful foreclosure proceedings on any military service member covered by SCRA. In cases where Chase has mistakenly foreclosed on military borrowers who should have been covered by SCRA, in addition to rescinding the sale, Chase will forgive all of the military service member's remaining mortgage debt. Going forward, if Chase ever has a wrongful foreclosure sale on an SCRA covered military service member, Chase will forgive all of their remaining mortgage debt, as well.

Chase will donate 1,000 homes to military and veterans over the next five years through Chase's non-profit partners.

By the end of 2011, Chase will open five new Chase Homeownership Centers in cities near the following large military bases.

1. Fort Hood, Texas
2. Naval Station Norfolk, Va.
3. Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, N.C.
4. Camp Lejeune, N.C.
5. Fort Campbell, Ky.

In 2011, Chase will host 10 borrower outreach events near large military bases.

Chase will staff all of its Homeownership Centers with employees specifically trained in SCRA, military issues and Chase special military programs.

In addition, as part of a jobs initiative program, JPMorgan Chase will take sig-

nificant measurable steps to offer jobs and training to veterans by forming an alliance with other major corporate employers that commit to hire 100,000 military and veterans in total over the next ten years. Chase has already received commitments from several corporate partners and has reached out to many others. Chase will announce full details of the alliance in the coming weeks.

Chase will require all of its vendors to disclose its military hiring practices and will make contract decisions in part based on how strong are those programs. This is in addition to Chase's current practice of requiring vendors to disclose their diversity practices.

Chase's Education and Training program through its groundbreaking collaboration with Syracuse University, will now offer a Technology Education certificate exclusively for veterans to prepare them for technology careers. The program will be free to all military service members who have served on active duty since Sept. 01, 2001. It will be delivered online, so students can complete the coursework from any location. JPMorgan Chase employs 20,000 technology employees in the United States and will actively recruit graduates of the school to fill open roles.

For more information about the program, go to www.veterans.syr.edu. Further details on enrollment will be available on www.chasemilitary.com in the coming weeks.

Chase is also dedicated to forming a Veterans Advisory Council to advise the firm on these programs and other ways Chase can help the military and veteran community. The council will be chaired by Tom Higgins, JPMorgan Chase's head of Operational Control and Veterans Affairs. Higgins recently joined the firm after 24 years with the U.S. government. During his career in public service, he worked closely with all branches of the armed forces and served in the U.S. Navy.

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NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park hosts events celebrating Black History Month

Tuskegee Airman profiled at one event

By: Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez / NJD-MAVA/PA

One of the first things Shade Lee noticed after joining the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II was that racial segregation hurt the morale and efficiency of his storied unit, he told residents of the Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park on Feb. 23.

Lee, whose letter-writing campaign was credited with President Harry Truman's executive order ending racial segregation in the military, spoke to 30 residents as part of a month-long observation of Black History Month there.

The military career of a man who helped bring about Executive Order 9981 in 1948 began with him being barred to join the Army's Air Corps as an aviator, even though he had already taught himself to fly crop-dusting airplanes when he was a teenager. He was forced to enlist instead in the regular Army.

When the all-black 553rd Replacement Training Squadron was formed in 1943 at Walterboro, S.C., Lee joined the outfit as a training-aircraft repairman and immediately recognized how segregation hurt the unit's soldiers.

Lee went to work immediately looking for ways to demonstrate the ways segregation hurt the effectiveness of his unit.

"I felt strongly that assigning personnel should be based on the needs of the mission and what an individual can contribute," said Lee. "Not based on the color of their skin."

Lee said his suggestions to the military in the form of well-documented letters ultimately led to the end of segregation after the war.

Aside from being a pioneer in the concept of an integrated military, Lee also became an engineer after his military career and was instrumental in the toy, fashion, computer, and television industry.

"You are looking at the man who engineered the Easy Bake Oven," Lee announced to the gathered visitors at the veteran's home.

In addition, the veteran's home has held several events in February to commemorate Black History Month.

"We had several good events and guests at the center," said Joseph Brandspiegel, chief executive officer at the NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park.



Top left and right, Shade M. Lee, a Tuskegee Airman from Elizabeth, N.J., recounts his military past and life accomplishments to residents at NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park on Feb. 23. Bottom photo, Lt. Charles Nolley, a Menlo Park resident and also a Tuskegee Airman, poses for a photo with Lee at the veteran's home event. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, DMAVA/PA)

"The veteran's home also hosted this month a Caribbean heritage event, the Duke Ellington Legacy Band, and the famous 555th Parachute Infantry unit, which was nicknamed 'Triple Nickels,'" said Christine McNulty, supervisor of recreation for NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park.

Candidates needed for NJESGR State Chair

The New Jersey Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NJESGR) will be conducting a candidate search for the position of State Chair within the organization.

Current State Chair, Col. (Ret) Carmen Venticinque, has announced that he will be stepping down as the current State Chair for NJESGR.

Chairs are responsible for all aspects of State's ESGR operations. Chairs organize, lead, direct, supervise, and motivate ESGR members with various backgrounds, abilities and interests. Chairs must have excellent leadership and communication skills, as they frequently address influential people, or groups of influential people, including governors, State's Adjutant General, Guard/Reserve general/flag officers, federal, state, and local officials, legislators, mayors, chief financial officers, business and industry leaders, Chambers of Commerce, and civic groups. Chairs also develop and execute the State's Annual Spending Plan and budget.

Any candidate interested in this position should provide to the selection committee a copy of their resume or biography; a letter stating his/her willingness to accept the position, reason(s) for interest serving, and thoughts and plans for leading the State ESGR; other supporting material as appropriate (letters of recommendation, photos, etc.)

The material must be submitted to Carol Beske via mail to ACT Engineers Inc., 1 Washington Boulevard, Robbinsville, NJ 08691 or Email at clbeske@actengineers.com no later than March 16.

Anyone with questions regarding the process should call Carol at 609-918-0200.

Discounted hockey tickets

The New Jersey Devils are offering special discounted tickets to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Services as part of their Military Nights promotions.

Get a game ticket plus a \$10 food and beverage card for only \$30 when you purchase online at www.newjerseydevils.com/military and enter the special offer code: DEVILS at checkout. Tickets can also be purchased on day of game at the Prudential Center box office and showing your military ID.

Food and beverage cards can be picked up at the Group Sales Redemption table located at the main concourse level across from the Fire Lounge.

The following dates are scheduled as part of the New Jersey Devils' military night promotion:

Wednesday, Mar. 2 against the Tampa Bay Lightning; Tuesday, Mar. 8 against the Ottawa Senators; and Wednesday, Apr. 6 against the Toronto Maple Leafs. All games begin at 7 p.m.

The New Jersey Devils play their home games at the Prudential Center located in Newark, N.J.

Tickets are based on availability. For questions, please call Samantha Davis, representative for Group Sales New Jersey Devils, at 973-757-6168.

National Guard Militia Museum Celebrates Women's History Month

Exhibits at Sea Girt, Lawrenceville focus on pioneering role

SEA GIRT, N.J. - The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey (NGMMNJ) will open two Women's History Month exhibits celebrating the service of New Jersey's female soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen. From the American Revolution forward, "Volunteering for Service: New Jersey Women in War" will highlight more than two centuries of service through photographs, primary source correspondence, period uniforms, and video excerpts from the museum's award-winning Center for U.S. Veterans' Oral Histories. The free exhibit opens on Mar. 1 and closes Mar. 31.

"Be it on the battlefield or the home front, the contributions of women in the major conflicts of American history must not be underestimated," said 1st Lt. Vincent Solomeno, museum curator and historian of the New Jersey National Guard. "In many ways, they are the unsung heroines whose dedication and bravery are examples to us all."

The museum at Sea Girt presents a chronological account of the contributions of New Jersey women to the U.S. Armed Forces. From the Battle of Monmouth Court House to female soldiers deployed in Iraq, the exhibit focuses on, among others, New Jerseyans Clara Barton, Clara Maass, and Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, current commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard. Falca-Dodson holds the distinction of being the first woman promoted to the rank of general officer in the New Jersey National Guard.

The Lawrenceville Field Artillery Annex exhibit focuses on the ground breaking career of Col. Christine Haycock, who in 1952 became the first woman officer to serve as a physician in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Following the Korean War, she became the first woman to hold a major command in New Jersey, with responsibility for the Army's 322nd General Hospital. The exhibit features photographs, memorabilia, and uniforms from Haycock's 38 years in military service.

"Volunteering for Service: New Jersey Women in War" opens Mar. 1 and runs until Mar. 31 at the National Guard Militia Museums in Sea Girt and Lawrenceville. The museum in Sea Girt is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the first, second, and third weekends of the month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Lawrenceville Field Artillery Annex is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, please visit the NGMMNJ web site at <http://www.state.nj.us/military/museum/> or call 1st Lt. Vincent Solomeno at 732-974-5966.

Retirement made easy

Looking to add certainty to an uncertain future? Then you are in luck.

The Division of Pensions and Benefits has created a presentation called "Retirement Made Easy". This presentation is provided on their website and it is an overview of the planning and application process for retirement from the Public Employees' Retirement System or the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund.

The presentation is hosted by GoToMeeting® and requires an Internet connected PC with Windows® 7, Vista, XP or 2000; or a Mac with OS® X v10.4 (Tiger®) or newer, as well as a web browser of Internet Explorer® 6.0 or newer; Mozilla® Firefox® 3.0 or newer; or Safari™ 3.0 or newer. Also, you will need speakers for the VoIP audio part of the presentation.

Note: The recorded presentation is a summary of the benefits available to most PERS and TPAF members. Specific benefits may vary based on a member's individual circumstances.

To find forms, publications and useful links referenced in the presentation, go to:

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/retirement-made-easy-links.shtml>

To view the Retirement Made Easy Presentation, click on the link below and enter your email address and complete your registration.

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/405050984>

Tickets to Blue Man Group show

The Soldiers', Sailors', Marines', Coast Guard & Airmen's Club, Inc. has complimentary tickets available for the Blue Man Group theatrical show on Friday, Feb. 18 at Astor Place Theatre in New York City, located at 434 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y.

Blue Man Group is best known for its widely popular theatrical shows and concerts that combine music, comedy and multimedia theatrics to produce a totally unique form of entertainment. The blissful party atmosphere created at the live events has become the trademark of a Blue Man Group experience.

For more information and reservations, please call Hazel at 212-683-4353.

CHASE

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Moreover, Chase has committed to enhanced SCRA controls. Chase has already made several changes to their services and products for military customers, including a dedicated hotline for military customers staffed by a unit of experts that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They have greatly enhanced controls to ensure that loans are properly categorized, SCRA protection periods are identified, and multiple verifications are done and documented prior to confirm that borrowers are not SCRA-eligible.

Consequently, Chase is pleased to announce that Maggie Belknap has been named head of SCRA oversight across the firm. Ms. Belknap is a retired colonel and the former head of Economics and Finance on the faculty at West Point, N.Y. She is also a West Point graduate and served in the Army from 1981 to 2008, including a tour of combat duty in Operation Desert Storm. Belknap joined JP-Morgan Chase in 2008 and is currently head of Global Operations Control Management for Treasury Services here.

"We will continue to monitor vigilantly how we serve military and veteran customers and will not be satisfied until we are 100 percent convinced that we are doing the right thing in every case," said Charlie Scharf, chief executive officer of Retail Financial Services. "We understand we have breached the trust of some of our military customers and we know we need to work hard to earn it back, and we are deeply committed to doing that."

"Our men and women in the military protect this country and our way of life every day," said Frank Bisignano, chief administrative officer of JPMorgan Chase, responsible for Chase Home Lending.

Any military borrower who has a question about a Chase loan should call Chase's hotline numbers at:

Mortgage questions: 877-469-0110; Credit Card questions: 888-520-3863; and all other consumer product questions: 800-242-7399.

For more information on the JPMorgan Chase's current programs available to military and veterans, visit their Website at www.chasemilitary.com.

Division of Pensions & Benefits supports "America Saves Week"

It's no secret that this tough economy has Americans struggling to cope financially. That's why now is a critical time to reduce debt and save money for the future. And the ideal time to start is during America Saves Week, which runs from Feb. 20 to Feb. 27.

Spearheaded by the American Savings Education Council, America Saves Week is a nationwide event in which individuals are encouraged to take action to begin saving or to save more efficiently.

Similar to National Save for Retirement Week, this event is a great opportunity for state employees to learn more about positive financial habits.

If your New Jersey State Employees Deferred Compensation Plan (NJSEDCP) education consultant has not yet contacted you regarding this event, please reach out to your consultant to obtain materials and schedule seminars at your location.

Region	Education Consultant	Cell Phone	Email address
North Jersey	Rocco Attanasio	609-571-5532	rocco.attanasio@prudential.com
Statehouse/Mercer County	Michael McConnell	609-334-5202	michael.mcconnell@prudential.com
Central Jersey	Susan McAleavey	609-472-1634	susan.mcaleavey@prudential.com
South Jersey	Patricia Scherer	609-462-1239	patricia.scherer@prudential.com