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# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY 31, 2013



## GUARDING THE ROAD

TWO NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS SAVE LIVES ON THEIR WAY TO DRILL

**Story and photo by Army Spc. Michael Davis, 444th MPAD**

For Sgt. Alex Fontanez and Pfc. Ralph Bird, the early morning commute to the December drill began as so many before it; empty roads, groggy conversations and the soft hum of tires. It changed in a heartbeat when they saw flames shooting from a car traveling the opposite direction on the New Jersey Turnpike.

Neither said a word. Instead, Fontanez made a U-Turn and Bird dialed 9-1-1.

“We got to the car and it was engulfed in flames,” said Bird, a cook with Foxtrot Company of the 250th Brigade Support Battalion, which is based at the Teaneck Armory. Fontanez is his team leader.

They approached the burning car, which had pulled off to the shoulder, and parked a safe distance away. As they exited their vehicle they could already feel the heat radiating from the growing fire and knew they had to act quickly.

“Bird is my right hand and go-to guy on my team; he knew just what to do,” said Fontanez. The two soldiers acted in concert; moving swiftly to assess and control the situation. They

helped the passengers safely exit the burning vehicle and placed them in their car, which was parked far away from the scene.

Suddenly, they “heard tires blow out and then the whole car went up in flames,” said Fontanez. With each passing moment the burning vehicle posed an even greater threat, so they turned their attention to the safety of bystanders and traffic still traveling dangerously close to the fire.

“We had to keep everyone safe,” said Bird. “We kept control of traffic passing by, cordoned off the shoulder and kept control of the scene until the police and fire trucks arrived.”

The New Jersey State Police commended the two New Jersey National Guardsmen for their heroic actions and ability to control an extremely difficult situation. But, these two Soldiers don’t consider themselves to be heroes or even feel that they did anything extraordinary. They credited their National Guard training with giving them the ability to remain calm and do what has to be done in any situation.

“The training carries over into our lives,” said Fontanez. “Everybody has a job to do, and we did ours.”

## Veterans honored at history luncheon

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Amelia Thatcher, 444th MPAD

SEA GIRT, N.J. – The Manasquan Elks Lodge #2534 hosted Jan. 29, the National Guard Militia Museum’s Oral History Luncheon, honoring 43 Garden State veterans who sat down and recorded in 2012 their military experiences. The luncheon, held annually since 2001, was the first museum event since the facility sustained damage during Hurricane Sandy.

Lt. Col Tracey Phillips, administrative officer of the 254th Regiment, welcomed veteran participants, family members, museum volunteers, and professional staff. He stressed the importance of the program, a partner of the Library of Congress’ Veterans History Project.

“Being able to capture these moments, to hear from the actual person, reflects that special story,” Phillips said. “This is a memory we want to preserve for generations to come.”

Carol Fowler, the museum’s assistant curator for oral histories, said that despite the hurricane destruction, the program had a “banner year.”

“We lost our records, including everyone’s addresses, which made organizing the luncheon itself a challenge,” she said “But it was a record year for interviews.”

Participants were presented with a joint resolution of the New Jersey State



**Lt. Col. Tracey Phillips, left, and Chuck Robbins, right, veterans outreach coordinator, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, present Benjamin Stewart, center, with a resolution honoring his service and participation in the oral history program.**

Senate and Assembly, honoring them for their military service and thanking them for their participation in the oral history program.

Benjamin Stewart, a World War II veteran, attended the luncheon with his wife Mary. The Tinton Falls resident served 22 months as an Army sergeant in Europe, and was happy to be recognized for his service.

“A lot of the fellows have now passed on,” said Stewart. “I am terrifically proud

of the way soldiers conduct themselves these days.”

Presently, the National Guard Militia Museum at Sea Girt is closed for renovation. The museum’s artillery annex at Lawrenceville Armory remains open Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Those interested in participating in the oral history program are encouraged to contact Carol Fowler at 732-974-5966 or visit our website at [www.nj.gov/military/museum/](http://www.nj.gov/military/museum/).

A graphic titled "Serving Those Who Served" from the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. It features a collage of images including a soldier in uniform, a man in a suit, and various military medals and flags. The text "Division of Veterans Healthcare Services" and "Division of Veterans Services" is visible. At the bottom, there are several circular logos representing different military branches and organizations, including the National Guard.

### NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS Veterans Outreach Campaign

#### WOODBIDGE CENTER MALL

February \*19, 20 & 21

\* Medal Ceremony at 11:00a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19  
Kiosk hours 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
250 Woodbridge Center Drive, Woodbridge, NJ 07095  
(Middlesex County)

#### MONMOUTH MALL

March \*19, 20 & 21

\* Medal Ceremony at 11:00a.m. on Tuesday, March 19  
Kiosk hours 10 a.m. – 8p.m.  
180 Route 35 South, Eatontown, NJ 07724  
(Monmouth County)



**2013 Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair – Rider University**  
 Student Recreation Center  
 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
 March 21, 2013

**HIRING FAIR: 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**  
**WORKSHOPS FOR VETERANS START: 9:30 A.M.**  
**JOB FAIR WILL OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 11:00 A.M.**

This American Legion- and ESGR-sponsored hiring event is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS); New Jersey Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR); the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; NBC News; NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development; and other local partners.

<b>EMPLOYERS</b> Must have available jobs. Register for FREE at <a href="http://HOH.GreatJob.net">HOH.GreatJob.net</a>	<b>JOB SEEKERS</b> <i>Veterans, Active Duty Military, Members Of Guard And Reserve Components, Military Spouses</i> Register for FREE at <a href="http://HOH.GreatJob.net">HOH.GreatJob.net</a> <small>to guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.</small>
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A workshop for veterans and military focused on tips for successfully navigating hiring events will start at 8:30 A.M.; workshops on resume writing, military skill translation, federal job application processes, and interviewing will continue throughout the day.

For registration questions, please contact [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com) or call 202-463-5807.



[WWW.HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG](http://WWW.HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG)

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**2013 Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair – Somerville, NJ**  
 Stevenson - D'Alessio American Legion Post #12  
 232 Union Avenue - Somerville, NJ  
 February 21, 2013

**HIRING FAIR: 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**  
**MILITARY TRANSITION WORKSHOP: 8:30 A.M.**

This American Legion- and ESGR-sponsored hiring event is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS); New Jersey Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR); the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; NBC News; NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; the NJ State Parole Board; NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development; and other local partners.

<b>EMPLOYERS</b> Must have available jobs. Register for FREE at <a href="http://HOH.GreatJob.net">HOH.GreatJob.net</a>	<b>JOB SEEKERS</b> <i>Veterans, Active Duty Military, Members Of Guard And Reserve Components, Military Spouses</i> Register for FREE at <a href="http://HOH.GreatJob.net">HOH.GreatJob.net</a> <small>to guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.</small>
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[WWW.HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG](http://WWW.HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG)

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## PRESEASON MOTORCYCLE SAFETY BRIEF



**February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**1000 and 1400**

**March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**1000 and 1400**

**March 9<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**  
**0900**

All sessions will be held at  
the  
Timmermann Center  
8<sup>th</sup> and Delaware Avenue,  
Dix



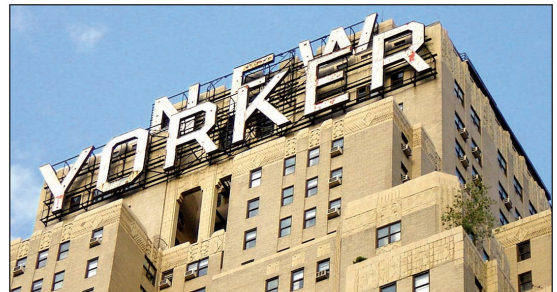
This is an opportunity for JB MDL riders to receive information on motorcycle safety, the upcoming 2013 course schedule, and review the JB MDL Motorcycle Policy to ensure compliance.

For additional information or questions please contact the 87<sup>th</sup> Wing Safety Office at 609-754-7233, 609-562-3082 or 732-323-2525.  
 No registration is required for these sessions.

## RECRUIT MILITARY® Job Fair for Veterans

**THIS FREE HIRING EVENT IS FOR:**

- ♦ men and women who are transitioning to civilian life
- ♦ veterans who already have civilian work experience
- ♦ members of the National Guard and reserve forces
- ♦ military spouses, other members of military families



Thursday, February 21 ♦ from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**New Yorker Hotel**  
 481 EIGHTH AVENUE  
**New York City**



- ♦ Job Opportunities - Companies are hiring!
- ♦ Continuing-Education Opportunities
- ♦ Business-Ownership Opportunities



Produced by **RecruitMilitary** in cooperation with **The American Legion**  
 For details and directions, visit <https://events.recruitmilitary.com>



Lt. Col. Thomas A. Hollowell, left, was one of the members from the New Jersey National Guard that participated in a Hurricane Sandy lessons-learned briefing at the NJNG's Homeland Security Center in Lawrenceville, N.J., Jan. 30, 2013. The briefing was held for representatives of the State of Israel Embassy, the Israel Defense Force Home Front Command, and the State of Israel Ministries of Public Security and Homefront Defense. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

*The William J. Hughes Technical Center Celebrates*  
**Black History Month**

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**"MOVING THE LEGACY FORWARD"**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>FEBRUARY 6, 2013</b> <b>10:00 AM - AUDITORIUM</b> <b>HONORING THE LEGENDS OF THE CORPS</b></p> <p>A SPECIAL CEREMONY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. WAS HELD TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL, THE HIGHEST HONOR FOR A CIVILIAN, TO THE MEN KNOWN AS MONTFORD POINT MARINES. THESE MEN TRAINED AT A FACILITY FOR BLACKS ONLY AT CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. AND WERE THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICANS TO SERVE IN THE MARINE CORPS. FOUR LOCAL SOUTH JERSEY RESIDENTS WHO WERE TRAINED AT THIS CAMP WILL SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES IN THE US MARINE CORPS.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THURSDAY</b> <b>FEBRUARY 14, 2013</b> <b>1:00 PM - AUDITORIUM</b> <b>HEALTHY LIVING</b></p> <p>DR. THOMAS MILLER, A SOUTH JERSEY RESIDENT AND PHYSICIAN, WILL BE UTILIZING THE "LET'S MOVE" CAMPAIGN TO PRESENT INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES FOR HEALTHY LIVING AND EATING TO BUILD HEALTHY FAMILIES. THE "LET'S MOVE" CAMPAIGN IS PROMOTED BY FIRST LADY MICHELE OBAMA IN AN EFFORT TO REVERSE THE CHILDHOOD OBESITY EPIDEMIC BY 2030.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RSVP NO LATER THAN COB FEBRUARY 8TH</b> <b>TO JENNELLE DERRICKSON: (609) 485-5096</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>FEBRUARY 20, 2013</b> <b>1:00 PM - AUDITORIUM</b> <b>EXPRESSION THROUGH DANCE AND MUSIC</b></p> <p>PATTIE HARRIS, AN ATLANTIC CITY DANCE LEGEND, FOUNDED THE ATLANTIC CITY DANCE THEATRE FOR THE LOCAL YOUTH. MS. HARRIS HAS PROVIDED LESSONS IN JAZZ, TAP, BALLET, AND AFRICAN DANCE WHICH HAS ENABLED STUDENTS TO PURSUE CAREERS IN DANCE AND THEATRE. SHE WILL PRESENT AN INTERPRETATION OF DANCE AND MUSIC.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>FEBRUARY 27, 2013</b> <b>10:00 AM - AUDITORIUM</b> <b>365 BLACK - QUIZ BOWL</b></p> <p>THE 365 BLACK - QUIZ BOWL IS BASED ON THE TELEVISION GAME SHOW, ARE YOU ARE SMARTER THAN A 5TH GRADER. AN AUDIENCE OF STUDENTS AND ADULTS WILL RESPOND TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING BLACK HISTORY FACTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.</p>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ATTEND AN EVENT**  
**PLEASE CONTACT JENNELLE DERRICKSON: (609) 485-5096**

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY — DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY DIVISION OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

### ONLINE GUIDE TO RETIREMENT

*Thinking about retirement? Get the information you need and save time and travel by using the Division of Pensions and Benefits' Online Guide to Retirement*

- Direct, easy access on the Division of Pensions and Benefits Web site.
- New video presentations with the important information you need to know before you retire.
- Easy navigation for viewing the entire guide — or browse by individual topic.
- Links to fact sheets, forms, and to other retirement resources to provide you with in depth information.

To find out everything you need to know about retirement go to:  
[www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/retirement/](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/retirement/)

DMAVA Highlights is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. e-mail at [pao@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:pao@njdmava.state.nj.us).

**New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**  
Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff – The Adjutant General  
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff  
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer  
Air Force Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist  
Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist