

# DMAVA Highlights



Oct. 8, 2009 Volume 9 Number 37

## Family Readiness Group recognizes volunteers

By Spc. Pablo Vizcaino, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

For Linda Pagan, spending a weekend outside a ShopRite collecting money to buy Valentine's Day cards for deployed Soldiers is just part of life as a Family Readiness Group volunteer.

Pagan was among 30 volunteers recognized at the Family Programs Awards luncheon on Oct. 3 for exemplary service in support of the National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployment.

Of those recognized, Pagan and Nancy Lacorte stood out. Each logged more than 600 volunteer hours. Both have sons who deployed to Iraq with the brigade.

Although both Pagan and Lacorte said supporting deployed Soldiers is the most important mission of the Family Readiness Groups, they believe the organization is obligated to help people with no military or veteran connections understand there are still New Jersey National Guard troops being sent into harm's way.

Lacorte recalled a woman who watched the 50th Chemical Company homecoming in Somerset and then asked: "Is the war over?"

"People need to understand that we are still deploying Soldiers and still have families left at home," Lacorte said.

Although volunteering involves long hours and hard work – think five-hour visits to the post office to mail hundreds of holiday cards – there are some fringe benefits.

Pagan's efforts to get celebrities behind the support effort led to a recent special package from her favorite New York Giant: quarterback Eli Manning.

"He sent an autographed picture and everything," she said.



At the Family Programs Awards luncheon held in Green Brook on Sunday, volunteers Nancy Lacorte and Linda Pagan, get together for a photo after receiving Presidential Service awards for providing more than 600 hours volunteering to the Soldiers and families of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Both women had sons who deployed to Iraq with the 50th IBCT, which prompted them to volunteer.

## Final step in post deployment takes place this month

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

The 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team finished their historic deployment to Iraq in May. But the tour won't really end until the brigade's nearly 3,000 Soldiers have readjusted to the lives they left behind.

A final, formal step on that journey is taking place this month as the brigade's Soldiers undergo the last of its Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program sessions. The third and final session is the 90-day post deployment health assessment. More than 1,000 Soldiers went through a three-day health screening at Fort Dix this past weekend and the rest are scheduled for later this month.

To Pfc. Peter Polo of the 102nd RSTA, the health screening meant a symbolic end to the deployment.

"Now that we're doing this, we know it's the last step before we go back to our regular drill schedule," he said. "We're all just happy to be home."

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General, addressed the Soldiers gathered at Fort Dix on Saturday and told them the health screening was crucial.

"This is an opportunity to medically reset you," Rieth said. "If you have a medical issue, take care of it now. Get it documented. I challenge you to ensure that the system works for you ... Your decision to serve puts you in an elite one percent of the population, I guarantee that the rest of America owes you something."

The health screening followed a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration program at 60 days that focused on mental health. The first Yellow Ribbon event involved the Soldiers and their families and focused on veterans benefits and a job fair.

Rieth told the Soldiers that while overseas deployments remain certain in the face of ongoing conflicts, the New Jersey National Guard should be able to focus its efforts on domestic missions, at least for now.

## Swine Flu talk on Tuesday at DMAVA

Suzanne Miro, MPH, from the Department of Health and Senior Services will be here on Tuesday, Oct. 13, 10-11 a.m. in Conference Room A to discuss Seasonal Flu and H1N1 (Swine) Flu. She will talk about: What it is, how it is spread, and how to protect yourself and your family from it.

*I have often wanted to drown my troubles, but I can't get my wife to go swimming.*

--Jimmy Carter, 39th president of United States

## DMAVA Highlights

# Jersey Guard run in 25th Army 10

By Lt. Col. Jemal J. Beale

The 25th annual Army Ten Miler took place in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 4, with a record-setting 30,000 registered runners. Proceeds from this event are donated to the Morale Welfare and Recreation funds that support troops and their families all over the world. More than 50 Soldiers and Airmen represented the New Jersey Guard. Congratulations to the New Jersey Army Guard (Male) Competitive Running Team of Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Christy (1:10:30), 50th BCT; Master Sgt. Robert Cuff (1:11:08), J2TDC; Master Sgt. Alex Estrada (1:11:14), 254th Regiment (CA); and 1st Sgt. Gary Davidson (1:21:13), 254th Regiment (CA). "The Jersey Blues" placed 7th out of 14 teams in the Male National Guard Division. Other personnel who completed the race were from a variety of commands throughout the state:

**JFHQ-NJ:** Capt. Mehdi Kohanbani (NGB), Warrant Officer Gerald O'Rourke, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Adkins, 1st Sgt. Anthony Ortiz, Master Sgt. Matthew Krug, Sgts. 1st Class Louis Tuck and Jerome Grant

**N.J. Air Guard:** Maj. Yvonne Mays

**50th BCT:** Maj. Jonathan Tango and Robert Martinez, Capt. Ian Cairns and Fran Remo, 1st Lts. Reid Caster and Sarah Bernal, 2nd Lt. Lillian Bernal, Cadets Taigunov (RU SMP), Coates (RU SMP), and Conte (RU SMP), and Sgt. 1st Class Eric Weltner

**42nd RSG:** Capt. Monica Marin, Felix Delacruz, and Patrick Cramer, retired Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Perron, 1st Sgt. Hicks, Master Sgt. Joseph Prieto, Sgts. 1st Class Joseph Thorpe and Philip Faustino, Staff Sgt. Daniela Talharim, Sgts. Salomon Aparicio and John King, and Spc. Ivannah Ortiz

**57th Troop Command:** Lt. Col. Todd Berger, Maj. Charles McDonald, Capt. George Fedorczyk, and Master Sgt. Juan Acevedo

**J2TDC:** Master Sgts. Rene Sales, Joe Bostina, and Ramon Morales, Sgts. 1st Class Geraldine McDaniels, Robert Simms, and Louis Gonzalez

**254th Regiment (CA):** Capt. James A. Tom, and Sgt. 1st Class Dan Coleman

**Recruiting and Retention Command:** Lt. Col. Jemal Beale, Maj. Joseph Gagnon, Capt. Lonell Jenkins and Michel Blachowski, Master Sgt. Robert Huster, Sgt. 1st Class William Steele Nugent, and Sgt. Jacqueline Rivera-Buie

**NJ Counter Drug:** Master Sgt. J. Prieto, Sgt. 1st Class Thorpe

Note: Some runners may not be listed due to an external registration process.

Special thanks to our support personnel: Sgt. 1st Class Luis Gonzalez, 254th Regt. and Spc. Marcus Celestin, JFHQ-NJ.

If you are interested in N.J. Guard Athletics or our running team, contact our team captains: Maj. Jon Lapidow at [jonathan.lapidow@us.army.mil](mailto:jonathan.lapidow@us.army.mil) or Master Sgt. Alex Estrada at [Alexandro.estrada@us.army.mil](mailto:Alexandro.estrada@us.army.mil).

## DMAVA Green

By Tech Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs Office

Do you know the little triangle with a number in it on the bottom of the plastic container? Here is a list of the seven categories of plastics, what is commonly made from each group and what they can be recycled into for their next life. Please check your local recycling rules for what you can put out at the curb on recycling day.

**1 PET (polyethylene terephthalate):** Soda bottles; recycled into pillow fill.

**2 HDPE (high-density polyethylene):** Plastic milk bottles, detergent bottles; recycled into new detergent bottles.

**3 PVC (polyvinyl chloride):** Take-out boxes, shampoo; recycled into drainage and irrigation pipes.

**4 LDPE (low-density polyethylene):** Grocery bags, shrink wrap; recycled into new bags.

**5 PP (polypropylene):** Yogurt containers, bottle caps; recycled into plastic lumber.

**6 PS (polystyrene):** Packing peanuts; recycled into plastic lumber, cassette-tape boxes.

**7 Other:** Includes squeezable ketchup bottles and microwavable dishes; these items can't be recycled.

As the days get shorter, those electric and heating bills can start to rise. Here is a note that may help you save on your electric bill. Up to 10 percent of your electricity bill comes from powering appliances and home electronics that are turned off. Known as "phantom load," or "vampire power," it is the power used to keep your TV, stereo and other remote-control-operated devices in standby mode; run the digital clock on your microwave; and illuminate the little LED light on your cell-phone charger. One way to reduce vampire power is to plug these items into a power strip that can be switched off when they're not in use.

Keep green!

## Quotes

*I didn't fail the test, I just found 100 ways to do it wrong.*

--Benjamin Franklin

*If A equals success, then the formula is: A=X+Y+Z, where X is work, Y is play, and Z is keep your mouth shut.*

--Albert Einstein

*Once in seven years I burn all my sermons; for it is a shame if I cannot write better sermons now than I did seven years ago.*

--John Wesley

*There is a devil in every berry of the grape.*

--The Koran

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**New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth – The Adjutant General

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff

Retired Col. Stephen G. Abel – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Maj. Yvonne Mays – Public Affairs Officer

Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison – Public Affairs Specialist

Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist

Wounded Soldier and Family  
Hotline  
1-800-984-8523

# Families

## *Walk for the Wounded scheduled for Oct. 17 at Ocean City, NJ*

On Oct. 17, Operation First Response, a nonprofit organization that provides financial assistance to wounded soldiers and their families, will host Walk for the Wounded on the Ocean City Boardwalk. Registration for the walk takes place at the Ocean City Music Pier at noon, and the three-mile walk begins at 1:30 p.m.

“For the past two years, Operation First Response has hosted Walk for the Wounded in Pennsylvania, drawing attention to the plight of more than 35,000 returning soldiers and their families, while raising funds to help meet the critical needs of these families,” said Steven Brady, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ocean City Home Bank. “After hearing just a few of the stories of the heroes whose lives have been impacted forever by war, I pledged Ocean City Home Bank’s help to bring Walk for the Wounded to the Jersey Shore.”

There is no fee to participate in Walk for the Wounded. Walkers are encouraged to solicit donations for Operation First Response, and a pledge of \$20 entitles the walker to receive a commemorative Walk for the Wounded T-shirt. Walkers may register as individuals or form walking teams with friends, family members or coworkers.

All proceeds from Walk for the Wounded will benefit Operation First Response, a national 501 C(3) nonprofit organization. Of every dollar raised for Operation First Response, 90 cents is donated to wounded soldiers and their families in times of crisis.

To learn more about Walk for the Wounded sponsorships or to register to walk in the event, please contact Tricia Ciliberto, Vice President of Marketing for Ocean City Home Bank, at 1-800-771-7990, extension 1106, or visit [www.ochome.com](http://www.ochome.com).

## **Next Marriage Enrichment weekend coming in February**

*From Marie Durling, Family Programs Specialist*

The next Marriage Enrichment weekend will be in February 2010. As soon as information is available on location and date, the applications will be available in the Family Support newsletter. There is only space for 25 couples, so keep your eyes open for the notice. Contact Marie at 609-530-6884 or [marie.durling@us.army.mil](mailto:marie.durling@us.army.mil) to receive the e-newsletter.

### **State Family Programs**

101 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville  
Toll-free number 1-888-859-0352  
Family Assistance – 609-530-6834/6884  
State Youth Coordinator – 609-530-6836  
Military Family Life consultants – 609-530-6835/6886  
Yellow Ribbon Program – 609-530-6846/6853/6859  
Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647; NJ 609-530-6867  
Fax – 609-530-6871

## **Military-friendly college fair in Woodbridge Oct. 21**

The organizers of a college fair at Woodbridge High School 25 Kelly Street, Woodbridge, on Oct. 21 are inviting all members of the military and their families to attend. More than 75 higher learning institutions will be represented at the fair, which opens to the military at noon. Woodbridge Mayor John E. McCormac has also invited several local corporations to send recruiting representatives.



## **First Tee program comes to Picatinny Arsenal**

*From Scott Nordland, Picatinny Arsenal*

It is with great pleasure to announce a new FREE program that the Picatinny Arsenal SKIESUnlimited Program will be offering! The First Tee program serves young people by offering them a unique perspective toward learning golf while appreciating the positive personal and social values associated with a lifelong game and physical fitness activity. Life skills programs that incorporate The First Tee Nine Core Values are delivered through a network of community-based chapters and elementary schools. Children ages 7-18 are able to participate in this free program that is being offered by the SKIESUnlimited Program beginning in October. Please visit the Children and Youth School Services Web page <http://www.pica.army.mil/mwr/cys/SKIES/SKIES%20Webpage.htm> for more details!

To register contact Scott Nordland, 973-724-7183 or e-mail [scott.nordland@us.army.mil](mailto:scott.nordland@us.army.mil).

## **Free tutoring, homework assistance to Army families**

Tutor.com is available to ALL Army-affiliated families – military, civilian and contractor – regardless of deployment status or component. The Web site is 24/7 real-time, individualized, one-to-one tutoring and homework assistance with a qualified and screened tutor.

Spanish speaking tutors are available from 2 p.m.-1 a.m.

Adult assistance college coursework and resume/job search/citizenship/standardized testing is also available.

If you have questions, contact Nadine Moore at the National Guard Bureau, 703-607-9817 or visit [www.myarmyonesource.com/cyss\\_tutor](http://www.myarmyonesource.com/cyss_tutor).

# State Employees

## Employees charitable campaign begins

By Paul Serdiuk, DMAVA Campaign Chairperson

The New Jersey State Employees Charitable Campaign (ECC) has officially kicked off its 2009/2010 Campaign which will run through December 2009. Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth's letter expressed his commitment to this very worthwhile activity.

The ECC provides each of us with an annual opportunity to voluntarily help others and ourselves by donating to any of the 1,500 participating agencies and organizations listed in the ECC Code Book. Contributions may be made by payroll deductions each year or by cash, or check.

Over the years, our Department has been most successful in this endeavor because of your personal generosity and concern. **We urge every employee to support this worthy cause.**

To reduce the cost of printing extra code books we have been asked to share books. If you did not receive one, go to [www.njsecc.org](http://www.njsecc.org). This year the organizations are listed alphabetically by county.

Please remember, your contribution today means a lot to the people in need tomorrow.

Thank you. For more information, contact Paul Serdiuk at 609-530-6878.

## New retirement applications, procedures

The Division of Pensions and Benefits is implementing significant changes to retirement application procedures for members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF), Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS), and State Police Retirement System (SPRS).

There will be a new section listing "Terms and Conditions of Retirement" that employees will now need to review and sign off on, in order for their application to be accepted. If a member is applying through MBOS, there will be a check box the employee must check off, stating they have read, understood and agree to the terms and conditions.

Also, for retirements other than Deferred Retirement\* the Division of Pensions and Benefits will no longer accept an application more than one year prior to the retirement date. For more information on these changes, a copy of the certified letter from Pensions and Benefits is available as a file attachment with an announcement on the DMAVA.net site under Human Resources. If you wish to obtain a copy of the *New Application for Retirement Allowance* form, please visit the DMAVA.net site under *Human Resources > Benefit Forms, and Helpful Forms*, as well as on the Pensions and Benefits website.

## "Save for Retirement Week" designated for October 18-24

Congress has again passed a resolution to designate national "Save for Retirement Week" October 18-24. In New Jersey, the Division of Pensions and Benefits supports this effort to encourage Americans to save more for retirement. This year, we're using this opportunity to remind employees to save the environment as they save for retirement.

The New Jersey State Employees Deferred Compensation Plan (NJSEDCP) is a great way for employees to save for retirement. It also gives them opportunities to save the environment, through actions such as opting for online account statements.

Employees can also get "Save the environment, Save for your retirement" reusable bags from NJSEDCP Education Consultants during National Save for Retirement Week.

## Open enrollment for state health plan 2010 begins Oct. 1

It's that time of year again! The State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) Open Enrollment period for all State employees will begin on Oct. 1 and end on Oct. 30, 2009. All changes to coverage made during this open enrollment will be effective on January 2, 2010, for State employees paid through the State Centralized Payroll Unit.

There are new documentation requirements if a member is enrolling a dependent for coverage (spouse, partner, or child). Along with the employer-certified *Health Benefit Applications* and/or *Dental Plan Application* the following documents are required to verify the dependent's relationship to the member and eligibility for coverage.

- Employees who are enrolling a spouse as a dependent in the SHBP for the first time are required to provide a photocopy of the marriage certificate and a copy of the top half of the front page of the employee's most recently filed federal tax return (Form 1040\*) that lists the spouse.

- Employees who are enrolling a child as a dependent in the SHBP for the first time are required to provide a photocopy of the child's birth certificate showing the employee's name as a parent.

If the employee's name is not on the birth certificate, the birth certificate and a copy of the top half of the front page of the employee's most recently filed federal tax return (Form 1040\*) that lists the child may be submitted.

*\*Employees may black out all financial information shown on the form but the last 4 digits of any Social Security numbers.*

Note: Additional documentation requirement information can be found on the SHBP Web site at: [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/shbp.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/shbp.htm). If you wish to enroll any dependents in the SHBP, and are not sure what documentation is required, please contact Benefits Administrator, Lisa J. Dandrea in Human Resources at 609-530-6888.

The State Health Benefits Commission has approved health, dental, and prescription drug plan rates for the 2010 plan year. The cost for health and prescription remains the same at 1.5 percent of the employee's salary. There will be a slight increase to the dental plan rates for state employees. Rate increases will be effective Jan. 2, 2010. These rates may be found on the SHBP Web site at: [http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/hb\\_open\\_enrollment\\_2009/dental-state-biweekly.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/hb_open_enrollment_2009/dental-state-biweekly.pdf).

# Veterans & Military

## NJ Vietnam Memorial Foundation to hold gala on Oct. 22 at Holmdel

Those who were so generous with their time and resources to help make the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial a reality will be honored on Oct. 22 during the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation's 7th annual "A Salute to Patriotism" gala.

The event will feature a 6 p.m. reception at the Vietnam Era Educational Center and a 7 p.m. dinner and program at the Robert B. Meyner Reception Center located on the grounds of the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel.

Michael A. Fedorko, Vietnam Veteran and superintendent of police/director of public safety of the Port Authority Police Department will be the evening's featured speaker and honoree.

The foundation will also recognize the men and women who supported the initial concept for the Memorial and its subsequent building on the eve of the 15th anniversary of its dedication.

Hien Nguyen, designer of the Memorial and Thomas Jay Warren, sculptor of the statue that stands prominently in the center of the Memorial, are slated to attend.

The Memorial was dedicated on May 7, 1995, the 20th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. It consists of a 200-foot diameter open-air pavilion containing 366 black granite panels. Each panel represents one day of the year. The panels are engraved with the name, date of birth and the date the New Jersey resident was killed or went missing.

There are presently 1,562 names on the Memorial.

For more information about the gala or the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial please visit <http://www.njvvmf.org> or call (732) 335-0033.

## Come join the Army Warrant Officer Association

The United States Army Warrant Officer Association, Fort Dix Doughboy Chapter, is looking for members. For membership information, contact Chief Warrant Officer Nancy E. Rowbotham at [nancy.rowbotham@us.army.mil](mailto:nancy.rowbotham@us.army.mil).



## Pictures for your "wall"

If your armory needs photos for the Chain of Command "wall," contact Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison at [barbara.harbison@njdmva.state.nj.us](mailto:barbara.harbison@njdmva.state.nj.us) or call 609-530-7088. Tell us which photos you need and we will mail them to you or get them ready for pick-up.

## North Jersey Stand Down will be held on Oct. 17

The Northern New Jersey Stand Down, a one day outreach to assist homeless veterans and their dependents, will be held on Saturday, October 17, 8:30a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Pool and Recreation Center, 211 West Kinney Street, Newark.

Services offered will include: employment services, veterans benefits information, medical benefits information, social services, employment services, substance abuse programs, recovery programs, PTSD counseling, legal services, photo ID, clothing, vocational rehabilitation services and refreshments.



## VA warns Veterans of telephone prescription scam

WASHINGTON (Sept. 17, 2009) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is warning Veterans not to give credit card numbers over the phone to callers claiming to update VA prescription information.

"America's Veterans have become targets in an inexcusable scam that dishonors their service and misrepresents the Department built for them," said Dr. Gerald Cross, VA's Under Secretary for Health. "VA simply does not call Veterans and ask them to disclose personal financial information over the phone."

Veteran Service Organizations have brought to VA's attention that callers are misrepresenting the VA to gain personal information over the phone. They say VA recently changed procedures for dispensing prescriptions and ask for the Veteran's credit card number.

"VA has not changed its processes for dispensing prescription medicines," Cross said. "Nor has VA changed its long-standing commitment to protect the personal information of this nation's Veterans."

Veterans with questions about VA services should contact the nearest VA medical center or call, toll-free, 1-877-222-8387.

### Veterans Organizations contact information

State Veterans Service Council  
 Richard Clark, [RJClark21@msn.com](mailto:RJClark21@msn.com)  
 BG William C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council  
 William Rakestraw, [warjrj@msn.com](mailto:warjrj@msn.com)  
 Veterans Hotlines  
 Benefits and Entitlements  
 1-888-8NJ-VETS (1-888-865-8387)  
 Mental Health  
 1-866-VETS-NJ4 (1-866-838-7654)

# Calendar

When – Oct 17, 6 p.m..

What – Col . Ronald Cefalone retirement dinner

Where – NJARNG Armory, Lawrenceville,

More info – Call Lucy Brogle, 609-562-0264, [lucy.brogle@us.army.mil](mailto:lucy.brogle@us.army.mil)

## ***Picatinny Haunted House is set to scare one and all***

Bring the family to Picatinny Arsenal's "Fear of the Unknown" haunted house on Oct. 23, 24 and 30, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Ticket cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6-12.

Children 6-12 must be accompanied by an adult; not recommended for children under 6 years old.

Proceeds benefit the Picatinny Youth Program, Military Unit Fund and Civil Air Patrol. There will be graveside dining at the Cemetery Café with hamburgers, hot dogs and chili. Seating is available.

Entrance to the Picatinny Haunted House will be through the Navy Hill gate off Lake Denmark Road in Rockaway Township. Detailed directions can be found at <http://www.pica.army.mil/mwr/cys/cyshomepage.htm>. The entrance gate to Picatinny will be closed to incoming cars at 9 p.m. No backpacks, large purses or cameras.

## **108th Airman singing for AMC Icon show at Scott AFB**

Master Sgt. Lisel White of the 108th Air Refueling Wing will be traveling to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., later this month to take part in the AMC Icon Show.

Several months ago she competed in the local AMC Icon Show at McGuire Air Force Base and was named top Airman in the competition. She will be competing against 12 other Airmen from the Air Mobility Command at Scott.

The AMC Icon is loosely based on American Idol and designed to showcase the vocal talents of the AMCE communities. Each of the installations held contests during the July/August timeframe and were open to authorized participants 18 years old and above. Everyone – spouses, kids and Airmen themselves – were eligible to win the base-level contests, but only the AMCE Air Force members were permitted to represent their base in the competition.

Participants are competing for \$2,000 in cash prizes and the winner receives a special invitation to audition with the Air Force Tops in Blue – the Air Force's premier entertainment showcase, according to Scott Black of the AMC Icon Program Marketing.

White has had lots of practice singing the national anthem at the many 108th functions and sings regularly at her church and other events. We wish her luck at the AMC Icon Show.



## **Veterans Outreach Campaign schedule**

The DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign has kiosk displays at malls throughout the state and other special events to help veterans and their family members discover and apply for the benefits they are eligible to receive.

**Oct. 20\*\*, 21, 22** Jersey Gardens Mall

**Nov. 9\*, 10** Woodbridge Center Mall

**January 5\*, 6, 7** Cherry Hill Mall

**February 2\*, 3, 4** Monmouth Mall

\*Medal ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

\*\*Medal ceremony at 1 p.m.

## **Comedy show with a twist coming to Fort Monmouth**

Coming to the Expo Theater at Fort Monmouth on Oct. 16 at 3 p.m., is comedian Bernie McGrenahan as part of his Happy Hour comedy tour. He will be performing his live stand-up comedy show with a twist – a powerful and inspirational message.

The performance is free and there will be preferred seating for military families. The show is presented by Army Community Services. For questions, call 732-532-2077 or e-mail [Monm-USA-GACS@conus.army.mil](mailto:Monm-USA-GACS@conus.army.mil).

To see more about McGrenahan, visit [www.HappyHourComedy.com](http://www.HappyHourComedy.com).

### **Deadline**

Want to place an event or article in DMAVA Highlights?

Deadline for articles is noon Wednesday.

Send submissions to [barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us).